

BILLERICA PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2010

Opening:

The first regular meeting of the Billerica Parent Advisory Council for Special Education (further known as BPACSE) was called to order at 7:06 pm on , Thursday, September 23, 2010 in the Maureen Collins –Rea Lecture Hall (formerly known as Billerica Memorial High School Lecture Hall), 35 River Street, Billerica, MA 01821 by Susan Hopkin, Meeting Chair.

Board Members Present:

Sue Hopkins, Chairperson, Kerri Papetti, Vice Chair, Michele DeParasis, Treasurer, Cindy Moran, Secretary

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed. – N/A first meeting of school year

C. Open Discussion/Issue Agenda Items

- 1) Welcome Back – Susan Hopkins welcomed members back. Introduced new members from Elections held last Spring. Susan stated the meeting minutes [of our first meeting](#) with Mr. Ponti, [Director of Special Education](#) would be forthcoming. The Group raved about the new web site and creator, Mike Papetti.
- 2) UPCOMING SPEAKERS
 - a. BPACSE presented the following future meetings in hard copy. (Invites also on Facebook and distributed to all school post boards by Kerri and Sue H.)
 - i. Basic Rights in Special Education, Lillian E. Wong, Esq. October 21, 2010, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm at Maureen Collins-Rea Lecture Hall, 35 River Street, Billerica, MA
 - ii. Special Education Law and Advocacy Training, Pete Wright, sponsored by PICNH, Concord, NH, October 28, 2010 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Nashua, NH (www.picnh.org for detail)

iii. The Anxiety Generation, Leslie S. Goldberg, CEP, November 4, 2010, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm at Project Support, 35 River St. Billerica, MA

- b) Michele and Susan met with Home Schooling [Association Chair persons](#), Jennifer [Croce and Amber Moody](#) who [are scheduled to present in January](#). [Home Schooling is an option for Special Needs Students](#). Program is beneficial to all children, Special Needs, gifted, etc. For example, you have a child who excels in Math and Science but falls short in English. Home School is K-12 with accelerated programs for Math & Science, but English at a different level. This is a great viable option for Special Needs Kids (ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder) and families, as the child can still receive OT, Speech, any IEP services needed with a lesson plan provided. This program has a great support system for parents and children.
- c) SH/MD requested Heather Geary, School Psychologist, Michael Ponti, Director of SE to come and talk to the Compass Parents. Geary's role is to rework and develop the program in High School. [Heather replaces David Cook in a newly created administrative position of Assistant Special Education Director for Secondary Education](#). [She is evaluating and reworking programs at the Secondary \(High School\) level](#). SH requested bios three weeks prior to this meeting but has not received from Mr. Ponti to date. Compass Coordinator Diane Trueblood Preschool to High School. [New Programs are being developed for](#), intensive and higher functioning [ASD students](#).
- d) FUTURE SPEAKER discussion – SH/MD Spoke on OT Sensory Integration Disorder presentation done last year. Would like to have again. Teachers came as well as OT from the schools. SH will set up. It was interactive and responded positively to. MD requested Ann Guay from Mass Advocates on Bullying to present. MD will look into.

3) FUNDRAISING

- a. Got Books – Purple Bins should be [producing](#) more [revenue](#) than we currently are. Presently the Locke School is very supportive of this fundraiser; however, we need to get collaboration and support from the schools on all other bins. Kennedy School Bin vandalized. Project Support Bin losing between \$65 and \$100 per year. Ditson has shown resistance and little support. It has taken three years for some PTO's to become supportive. BPACSE receives 30% -Schools receive 70% of proceeds SH suggested we make flyers and refresh on Facebook for awareness. Reach out to owner of Got Books as resident of Billerica. Made \$3,043 last year, BPACSE received approx. \$1000.
- b. Flower Power Fundraiser – Proceeds of \$395 last year. Promotion is online bulbs and plants shipped directly to customer's house for \$5. May be too late for Fall request. MD will look into.

D. New Business

- 1) Fundraisers for new year -
 - a. GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com produces one penny with every search [plus a percentage of all purchases](#). MD to distribute flyer
 - b. Wendys/McDonalds – MD/SH
 - c. Bake Sales – Sporting Events? Work with Billerica Recreation Department – Committee – SS, CM & KP
 - d. Calendars – SH has colleague who can make them again. Restaurants giving Gift Certificates
- 2) Scholarship – MD proposed a Billerica Special Education PAC Scholarship be created. Funding will allow two \$500 scholarships. Motion passed by all members. MD will begin creation of Scholarship funds.
- 3) Art Logo Creation for Website – MD proposed Special Ed Student create artwork for Facebook. [Program will be open, not just special needs](#). Special Needs at Middle School [often](#) do not have Art Class. The art Program in Compass Program [at the Locke School](#) allowed students to draw current murals.
- 4) Principal visits - BPACSE to send email to all nine Principals requesting date they will appear at BPACSE meeting. SH doing this.
- 5) SH and MD creating BPACSE Parent Handbook. To be distributed to group for review prior to distribution. No cost to parents. Will appear on link on website.

E. Agenda for Next Meeting

Items to be discussed at the next meeting –

- 1) Number of calls/emails inquiries to SPAC members – discussion of inquiries
- 2) Art Logo
- 3) Principal Visits
- 4) Relationship building with SPED departments
- 5) Increased Fundraising
- 6) Scholarship progress
- 7) Parent Handbook

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm by Susan Hopkins. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 pm on October 21, 2010 in Maureen Collins-Rea Lecture Hall, 35 River Street, Billerica, MA.

Minutes submitted by:

Cindy Moran, Secretary BPACSE

Approved by:

Susan Hopkins, Chairperson BPACSE