

Grafton SEPAC Meeting Minutes January 24, 2019

There was discussion about related service providers.

It was mentioned that there was a DESE advisory to fade the use of 1:1 paraprofessionals. Referencing the recent June 2018 SWEC report, what can we do w/existing resources? SEPAC members asked; Can we have staff going in and observe the classroom environment? Like an OT looking for sensory needs or speech lang. pathologists looking for behavioral changes? What can minimize needs globally?

SEPAC members note there is a concern that there a Child Find issue in the district. One SEPAC member noted that there were lots of kids at the high school/middle school that have social/emotional (SEL) needs.

There was a question: could it be done quarterly? (have OT/SLP ect.) going into gen. ed classrooms?

Melissa Lackey, Grafton SEPAC chair asked: Can a survey be sent to teachers about child find? What do teachers need to help meet the (Child Find) obligation?

Dan Gale (Grafton Public Schools finance director) said that they added an adjustment counselor for FY 20

It was asked can we get professional development for teachers?

Mr. Lundwall said that: "All 6 1/2 days of professional development are for SEL and they they are working towards identifying trauma

Mr. Lundwall said that he like the idea last time (at the SEPAC meeting) of doing something proactively.

Melissa Lackey asked: "Can you look at other districts? Do they have data?"

Mr. Lundwall mentioned UDL. He said that he didn't have this in mind when he presented his budget.

Dan Gale said Mr. Lundwall had a group email with other SPED directors.

Mr. Lundwall said that he had a DESE meeting in Marlborough coming up and the other 1/2 day. That he put it as an agenda item for the Collaborative.

Dan Gale: Let's talk next steps. Getting feedback from other districts. They would talk to Tracy Calo and Superintendent Cummings about a survey for next year.

Dan Gale mentioned getting an adjustment counselor at the middle school

It was asked: what is the average age kids are identified for special education needs? What disability categories are they when they are being identified? Can Mr. Lundwall provide this information to the SEPAC? At what ages are kids identified for what disability category?

Mr. Lundwall has said that he has been tracking just disability category for years.

A parent asked: where is the historical data for kids that had an IEP then were exited from special education then it was an issue in high school?

Mr. Lundwall said in Grafton: "Almost 20% of kids are in special education."

Regarding the budget, the expense side

All staffing is done by Supt. Cummings and Kristen Gasper.
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Dane Gale said that it is not done per school. And that is the new report all positions will be listed per school.

Melissa Lacke (ML)y asked: "What leads to decisions to add staff?"

Dane Gale said " A student moves into district or qualifies (for SPED). He said that the budget for aides is what we currently have, there is NO built in buffer.

ML asked: "Is a program assessment happening when a student needs an out of district placement?" " Is that predetermination if money is already in the budget for ODD?"

Dan Gale said that they: "trying their best to keep every student in district."

ML asked: "Who does a full review of a child's IEP history when a child needs an ODD?"

Mr. Lundwall said in some regards - an outside agency will be looking at life skills - looking at the middle school because of a new middle school classroom

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Dan Gale said: "Mr. Lundwall and Ms. Boisvert (Out of District Coordinator) fully review if the child needs to go ODD"

Mr. Lundwall said: "What has been tried and what has not before ODD."

Discussion about professional development for staff

Dan Gale said that for the "last 3 years there has been training for teachers in READING."

Mr. Lundwall mentioned training in Linda-mood Bell and WILSON and EdMark

Dan Gale said some kids are going out of district.

ML and a parent asked: "How many teachers have been trained?"

2357 Three years ago \$30,000 from the budget to put teachers out to certification programs.

Mr. Lundwall said that 3-4 teachers were finishing up their Level 1 WILSON reading certification. That it could be 4-5 it could be low but some had to ask for extensions. A student has to make progress for the teacher to complete their WILSON reading certification.

A parent asked could a monthly newsletter happen from the district special education department? To include specialists and teachers?

There was a question: why do we have so many 1:1 in the district?

Mr. Lundwall said there are 27 kids in the high school that have 1:1 aides

And that there are 100 (1:1) in the middle and elementary grades.

Mr. Lundwall said that he want to research UDL and the consultive idea (proposed by the SEPAC) in order to address the budget.

Dan Gale said that the biggest increase is 1:1 aides and that he and Supt. Cummings has several meetings in order to analyze that."

Mr. Lundwall said in 2012 it was 15% and now it's 20% (referring to kids in special education)

ML asked: "What about a full program review?"

A parent asked: "Who do paras report to?"

Mr. Lundwall replied: "the building coordinator" Paras for behavior. He also said that there is "one BCBA for the whole district."

Dan Gale said that "kids with learning disabilities get an instructional aide."

Presentation on Challenger Baseball Jeff Savage

It's a multi-town program. Last year was the first year for Challenger Baseball. They finished in July. They enrolled 18 kids from Grafton, Foxboro, Rutland, Whitinsville. They almost doubled players in overall group. They have a buddy program with 50 volunteers and 3 coaches. The point of the program is to participate in baseball. They have a 6 game schedule. The games are on Sundays for 2 hours. They have one practice a week. Registration is open now.

We are looking at scheduling a basic rights workshop.

The Abilities Expo in Boston is coming up.

Every Day Heros Erin Griffin 11th year doing it. The ceremony is May 14th. She reserved the facilities. The fees are usually waived. One year it was over 80 people. There are perpetually plaques. Last years they did a slid show. Week of 2/25 press release. 3/25 nomination forms due. Request for \$20 for each nomination that goes toward the award. They also get donations and sponsorships.