

Grafton Special Education Parent Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2018

Topics discussed:

Mission Statement: SEPAC wants to do more outreach to parents + the community

Including sharing info about the Child Find Mandate

It was suggested that Grafton Community TV would be a good resource + social media, use of hashtags like #GHSCCommunity

ESY Procedure/Policy: discussion of recent versions of changes by the Grafton Special Education Director, Arnold Lundwall. Who should this information be shared with and how? Should it include all parents/guardians in the district? All parents of students that used to have IEPs or 504s before the ESY procedure/policy change? Would like Principals of all schools to share this information. It was suggested that perhaps that ESY info should be shared quarterly in Principal's Updates. "If it smells like a policy, looks like a policy, it is a policy."

Historically ESY, parents were told it was for maintenance of skills only!

Parents could be asking for compensatory services.

Some changes have recently been made to the ESY procedure/policy.

There were some concerns that even after the changes were made parents were told that ESY was only for maintenance.

It was discussed that all ESY criteria have equal prominence in the ESY document.

One suggestion was that the ESY criteria document be given out at all IEP TEAM meetings, 1 page, clear and concise.

There often is heavy reliance on regression/recoupment of skills when discussion of ESY at meetings.

There was discussion about lack of typical peers in the ESY program in Grafton. This is only done at the integrated preschool level currently. Why?

Connecting with School Committee: they should be informed of the role of a SEPAC
SEPAC board should present to SC regularly, what would this look like?

SWCEC Special Education Program Evaluation: Report dated June 2018 Paper copies provided to SEPAC attendees by Arnold Lundwall. No link available on line. School Committee has not reviewed it. Arnold Lundwall and Superintendent Cumming had just begun to review it. Needed to dive deeper into it.

Questions on the qualifications of the person who did the evaluation. What is their background?
Will review at next SEPAC meeting in October 2018.

In the past a different reviewer was used: "Futures of Education". In the past there was a review completed of social/emotional learning (our capacity of that)- the district has since expanded their counseling services. The district does not have adjustment counselors in all school buildings. The district does not have guidance counselors in all buildings.

There was question about the cost of these reviews including internal reviews and transparency in the budget.

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Arnold Lundwall said the collaborative (SWCEC) is an extension of the public school district. Grafton pays to be part of the SWCEC collaborative. The district can then buy at a cheaper rate the professional development from collaboratives.

Grafton SEPAC outreach ideas: want to be more visible. Want to connect with PTG and PTO, to be put on their agenda. Want to present at school conference nights (to include brief information of the different types of disabilities including learning disabilities). The SEPAC would like to build relationships. We would like the contact information for the different school groups.

Programs Currently Available at all schools in the Grafton Public School District: Arnold Lundwall provided Grafton SEPAC members with a handout on the different current programs available at each school. There are 2 programs at each of the elementary schools and 3 at the high school including a new At Risk Program which currently has 3 students in it.

North Street School, very much medical needs. There were 4 students at the NSES program last year- the most intensive needs kids with a dedicated nurse. From Millbury Street School 7 students went to the Middle School. The Middle School program has a new teacher this year.

There was a question about the requirements of new At Risk Program at the High School. Arnold Lundwall said that they were 'still defining that.' He said that "At Risk is not a classroom, that students are devoted to one counselor".

RTI, 504s, and IEPs: Arnold Lundwall provided paper copies of a handout titled: RTI, Section 504 of the ADA, IDEA. Mr. Lundwall said RTI looks at what support is available for general education students. Mr. Lundwall said that the idea of RTI is to "not have them come into SPED and try and remediate them as soon as possible." Mr. Lundwall also said that: RTI "Tier 3 is special education." RTI lasts 4-6 weeks and that there is always a SST (student support team) before a referral to RTI. And that the SST will take a look at it and there will be outreach to the parent. Some parents at the meeting said that their child had been placed in RTI but that had not been notified when it happened. Mr. Lundwall said that he would "run it by Principals" and that he would get back to the SEPAC about RTI. He also said that for RTI: "actual documents for RTI it says that parents should be notified".

At the end of the meeting there was discussion about what can be done for people who can not attend in person. There was a question about remote participation. Maybe there could be a call in feature? There was also mention of the SEPAC wanting to put together a packet of information for parents by the end of this November.