

Grafton Special Education Parent Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2018

Topics Discussed:

Discussion of the SWCEC report on the use of BLAs and IAs

Mr. Lundwall stated that there are 141 paras , 3,100 students, and 600 IEPs in the district  
The was a question of whether or not the collaborative (SWCEC) is really independent if Grafton pays to be a member of it. Questions of what the large number of paras in the district means-is this a symptom of something else going on in the district?

Mr. Lundwall said in the past Futures Education had a done a review of special education in the district. He said that he could share the report with the SEPAC. He also said that Grafton enjoys number of lower out-of-district placements compared to other districts. It was also said that there is not a lot of training for teachers on how to manage IAs and BLAs. There are 84 IAs and 64 BLAs in the district. It was noted that higher education is not preparing teachers to manage aides.  
SEPAC member asked when will the district have an idea about actions regarding the conclusions of the report, noting the district had already had the report for 5 months. There was also a question as to discuss the report in components/sections?

Discussion of RTI

Mr. Lundwall said that RTI looks at things that can be done prior to requesting an evaluation or enrout to an evaluation. He said that Tier 2 looks at title1 and remedial reading and tier 3 is an intensive level , that is the special education department. He said that if a student gets referred to SST they will identify the students, the general education teacher will not the special educator or it could be a consult w/a reading specialist. They say let's do 6-8 weeks and look at this student.

SEPAC member noted that a pamphlet from south Grafton elementary school (SGES) went home (is this happening in other schools?) It was asked if there was a better way of ensuring communication ?  
SEPAC chair, M. Lackey asked what are the guidelines for RTI, what about SST paperwork and RTI paperwork?

SEPAC member asked MR. Lundwall if can we have copies of the paperwork for next meeting?  
Mr. Lundwall then said the designee or school principal is responsible for SST.

Discussion of At Risk Program at Grafton High School

Mr. Lundwall said that Rita Haley was hired, an adjustment counselor w/At Risk. He said it was all 2 easy to blossom in to too many kids. In essence it should look like a learning center.

Mr. Lundwall said that SST is a vehicle for getting to At Risk.

A SEPAC member noted that there are pre-cursors that existed and had started in early elementary. The schools have a methodology for there to be a minimum of 2 adults that a student can go to. It was noted that social-emotional is the theme of professional development this school year. It was asked if Mr. Lundwall could describe how SEL PD will apply to being able to identify when the student is in distress or trauma?

Mr. Lundwall said that they want to give the teachers the tools to help. The district did allow paraprofessionals to attend but the district did not require they attendance at the professional development.

It was asked how is RTI and At Risk communicated?

Mr. Lundwall said that it needs to be defined. At the High School the At Risk program is specialized and therapeutic.

Approved

SEPAC member asked if there could be a presentation in Jan/Feb at the HS of all of the programming available in the district by Mr. Lundwall. The presentation should include what a typical day looks like and the expectations for progress.

One of the programs is the cochlear program at North Grafton Elementary School but they do not have it at South Grafton Elementary School.

It was noted that the Grafton School committee has struggled to create program parity among the schools. That they want the same programming and opportunities at all schools. Are the services the same?

It was asked for parity between schools to be put on a future SEPAC agenda.

There was a question about an anti-bullying program only at North Grafton Elementary. Mr. Lundwall said there were two kids with trach support at the same school, do they need to be at different schools? That it would be fiscally irresponsible to do that. He said that it all depends on numbers of kids and money. Mr. Lundwall said that he has to be responsible with taxpayer money.

A SEPAC member said that there is no Grafton school committee policy on ESY. And that ESY should be discussed at the next SEPAC meeting. It was noted that parents should be made aware of changes to the ESY document. The SEPAC member asked if Mr. Lundwall would do videos explain the ESY policy?