

Billerica Parent Advisory Council for Special Education
Minutes for Meeting with SPED Directors
October 10, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.

Four in attendance (Dr. German's office): Two SPED administrators, Dr. Steven German and Thomas Walsh. Two PAC officers, Joanne Barry and Carol Rose

Dr. German talked about our PAC meetings with regard to the Open Meeting Laws. Joanne stated that the PAC meeting schedule is posted at the Billerica Town Hall and that this should be sufficient.

Dr. German thanked Joanne for working with Maureen O'Hara in regards to our old PAC meeting minutes. We discussed that the PAC minutes should have an outline format in the future.

Joanne asked Dr. German and Tom what they thought of our first PAC meeting. They both thought it was a great turn out and was very positive. We told them that we had received a lot of positive feedback from parents and staff.

Joanne wants to let the Special Education staff know that she got a lot of positive feedback about the summer program. Kudos to Jen Naylor and the entire summer staff.

Tom Walsh will be attending the Apple Project along with six parents. We are very excited about this collaborative leadership learning opportunity.

Agenda

1. Monthly CAP (corrective action plan) meetings.
Tuesdays at 3:30 do not work well with Dr. German's schedule. We will try to come up with a better day for these meetings. We also want to be able to go over the evaluations of current programs in the Cleo Ferdette and Mike Kissler reports.

2. Town-wide community book recycling project.
Dr. Serio approved the project for the PAC to move forward with. Dr. German expressed the positive results that could come from this project. PAC board members will discuss what amount will be shared with each PTO in our district.

3. Need for Speech and Language Pathologists

The PAC thanked Dr. German for his letter dated September 25th to all parents of students affected by the lack of Speech-and-Language pathologists. The PAC is very grateful to him for keeping the lines of communication open to all interested parties. Dr. German stated that they are working with three agencies. The need is for one day a week at the Dutile and two days a week at the Hajjar. Currently, two staff members are willing to do a clinic at the Hajjar.

4. Need for Behavioral Specialist

The Special Education department is working to get a Behavioral Specialist for one elementary and one middle school.

5. Middle School Resource room Social Studies and Science classes at the Middle School level

Dr. German has a copy of our PAC letter to Karen dated October 11, 2004. He will get in touch with both Middle School principals and set up a meeting to discuss this need.

6. Special Education Program Evaluations

Dr. German has a copy of a letter from Karen Malio to Mike Kissler dated February 13, 2006 and another updated letter dated June 5, 2006 to Dr. Burnett in regard to Raymond Bohn's evaluation for the 2005/06 school year. The letter stated that Mr. Bohn would complete this evaluation by June 30, 2006. We did not receive this evaluation. The plan was to have Mike Kissler, along with the Special Education Director and PAC members, return the plan in the fall of 2006. The evaluation was supposed to provide a thorough evaluation of the Learning Adaptive Behavior (LAB) and Compass (Autism Spectrum Disorders) programs at the Kindergarten through 8th grade levels. Dr. German will get in touch with both Raymond Bohn and Michael Kissler for an update to share with the PAC.

7. Kindergarten screening update – consent forms

Tom spoke about this agenda item. He stated that there are three categories: (1) – no concern; (2) – monitor the student; (3) – further testing is needed. He stated that if the child's screening results in category 3, a parent should receive a "Consent to Test" form within five days so that the process can start. (The same rule of thumb applies if this occurs at any other grade levels.) Someone stated concerns and asked if the proper protocol was implemented. Tom stated that he will bring this concern to the principals and also to the IEP chair people that the consent form is mailed to the parents in category 3 now, so that any further testing can start as soon as possible.

Meeting Adjourned.