

Billerica Parent Advisory Council for Special Education
Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2007
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Present: PAC Officers: Priscilla Aufiero (Secretary), Joanne Barry (Vice-Chair), Michelle DeParasis (Treasurer), Sue Hopkins (Chair), Gina Maniscalco (Public Relations), Carol Rose (Webmaster); Parents

Location: Billerica High School Lecture Hall

16 People in Attendance

Sue Hopkins introduced the Board Members and welcomed the attendees. She discussed several goals for this year:

Fundraising Ideas

- Community/family events solicit funding from school PACs and tapping in the school resources to cover clerical-type costs, solicit community vendors, etc.

Establishing a mentoring program

- Provide opportunities for Compass students to get involved in community service programs; involve all elementary school children in a mentoring program to increase their awareness about diversity in the school community.

Completing the Parent Handbook

- Funds were presented to the PAC in 2004 to cover the printing costs of a Parent's Guide to Special Education Handbook. A discussion took place regarding the use of the Federation for Children with Special Need's Parent Handbook instead of spending the money on creating and printing our own version. This way, the PAC could use the grant funds to purchase the "already printed version" of the handbook from the Federation. If there are any unused funds, that money could be used to fund other PAC activities or needs (i.e., supplies, guest speakers, workshops, etc.). (Note that we could reserve this money to be used exclusively for purchasing copies of the Federation's Parent Handbook as needed if the grant allows us to do that.) Sue will carefully review the grant award to be certain that this is an acceptable use of the funds and then put together an amended proposal for the Board of Selectman's review.

Sue introduced Lisa Puccia, Chair of the Tewksbury PAC. Lisa shared her ideas on expanding our PAC image within the School System and the Community. To make the BPAC more visible, she suggested sponsoring parent training

workshops, participating in community events, establishing a presence at Back-to-School nights, and tapping into resources available through the public school system. She also gave some of her ideas about fundraising.

Joanne Barry announced that the Town Meeting members have petitioned the state to get the financial support that was approved for the Special Education programs. She mentioned that legislators are passing laws but not providing the school system the necessary funding to carry out the mandates.

Michele DeParasis distributed the Treasurer's Report. She reported that the "Got Books" fundraising checks are ready to be distributed to the School PTOs. Susan asked Michele to wait until Donna Gadbois is able to review the vendor's activity summary and then, if acceptable, prepare the checks to be presented at the next school PTO meetings. In addition, Joanne questioned the activity fees being posted to the summary. Sue will talk to Donna and contact the vendor to see why these charges are appearing.

Michele also reported that the Non-Profit Annual Report is due on November 1st. She mentioned that there is a \$15 filing fee to be submitted with the report. Joanne Barry made a motion to approve the \$15 filing fee for the State non-profit annual report. All in favor.

Joanne asked Gina Maniscalco to contact BATV and confirm that the BPAC meetings are being posted for this school year.

Sue Hopkins reported that there is a guest speaker scheduled for the November 8th meeting. The topic will be on 504 Plans. Tom Woodbury will be an invited guest, since he is responsible for the 504 Plans within our public school system.

Sue also reported that a tentative date has been lined up for December's meeting with an Estate Lawyer as a speaker. To date, no other speakers have been scheduled.

Sue will poll the board members to determine when the next BPAC Business Meeting will take place.

Meeting adjourned.