

**Billerica Parent Advisory Council for Special Education  
Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2008 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Location: Billerica High School Lecture Hall

Present: Sue Hopkins, BPAC Chair, Priscilla Aufiero (Secretary), Michele DeParasis (Treasurer), Carol Rose (Webmaster)

7 People in Attendance

- Fundraising

Sue Hopkins gave a brief overview of the Got Books fundraising to the attendees. The School PTO's receive 70% of the profits and the BPAC gets 30%. Michele DeParasis mentioned that this fundraiser started in June of 2007 and runs throughout the academic/summer year. Michele reported that at present, the PAC is running at a deficit. Spacing out the payments to the PTO's (i.e. quarterly in stead of monthly) should help alleviate the deficit.

Cricket's Flowers – Sue announced that Cricket's Flowers offered to donate \$5 to the BPAC for every order over \$35 when the customer mentions the PAC.

One parent recommended that the PAC could distribute a vendor flyer to parents asking them to please patronize these businesses because they have offered to donate a percentage of their profits to our organization. He also mentioned that he may be able to send the PAC a mailing list of vendors that we may be able to solicit. He will also try to spread the word through his contacts.

Another parent recommended that we include this vendor flyer in community events to boost our fund raising activities.

Applebee's – Dining to Donate. Applebee's has agreed to give the BPAC a percentage of their profits for Tuesday evening diners.

Barnes and Noble – Gina Maniscalco is trying to schedule a meeting with representatives from Barnes and Noble to discuss a fundraising activity. This may include an author's book signing night; the BPAC would market this event and receive a percentage of the profits.

- Guest Speakers

Sue announced that Dr. Stephen Shore will be the Guest Speaker for the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and Charlie Applestein is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>. The location is at the Marshall Middle School. Flyers will be distributed to the local newspaper, BATV, local SPED PACs and SPED Directors.

Another potential speaker will be Matt MacAvoy a Special Education Attorney.

- MassPac membership

Carol Rose reported that our MassPac membership has expired and that the SpecEd Dept. usually pays for this. Can Dr. German pay for this? Should this be renewed? The cost is about \$150. Sue Hopkins will check with Dr. German. Carol will find out how much the cost is for a Group vs. Individual. There may be a cost savings with an individual membership.

- Search Committee

Sue announced that Dr. German, the SPED Director, is leaving in August and the School Department is in the process of establishing a Search Committee (made up of Parents, Teachers and Community Members) to conduct preliminary interviews.

- School Committee

Sue recommended that we, as a PAC, should start attending the school committee meetings (or at least send one or two reps). As an organization we can ask questions at the meeting vs. a community member who can only speak at the beginning of each meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Dutile.

- Other

Michele DeParasis distributed the Treasurer's Report.

Sue reported that the Alan Blume report is done but a written report is unavailable at this time.

She also mentioned that the DOE Q.A. report is not complete as yet. She will contact the DOE.

Bulletin Boards – Sue asked that the BPAC bulletin boards may need updating. Let Sue know if any one sees a board that needs news or updating.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.