

# Hanover Special Education Parent Advisory Council

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Bi-Annual Report to the School Committee  
November 15, 2017

# Status Summary

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- Workshops and Events
- Board Meetings with Special Education Staff
- SEPAC Website and Communications
- District and Community Involvement
- Planning for 2017/2018

# 2017/2018 Workshops and Events

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- Meet the Administrators Night (Oct)
- “Swim Team” Screening during Inclusive Schools Week (Oct)
- Maria Trozzi on Strategies for Resiliency in Families (Nov)
- Basic Rights in Special Education (Feb)
- Sarah Ward on Executive Functioning (March)
- Panel of Experienced Parents Offering Guidance (April)
- Staff Appreciation Awards (June)
  
- Additional events include social events (Jan), a possible event in May focused on friendship and soon to be announced monthly parent coffee times

# Board Meetings

- Per Bylaws, Executive Committee of SEPAC sets meeting schedule for each year
  - For 2017/2018, SEPAC Board to hold 8 meetings (\*as planned thus far)
- SEPAC Board Meetings
  - Director of Student Services, Special Education Staff from each school regularly attend, with additional participation as appropriate by other staff and administrators
- Agenda distributed in advance and meeting minutes recorded
  - Planning updates, topics of concern (e.g., Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum, Parent Notifications, Recess, Summer Programming, etc.)
- Upcoming dates
  - November 17, December 15, January 19, February 16, March 16, April 27, May 25, June 8

# SEPAC Website and Communications

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- Works continues to update and refine the SEPAC website, available on the Hanover Schools website:
  - <http://www.hanoverschools.org/community/pac/>
- Also communicate through our Facebook Page
  - <http://www.facebook.com/HanoverPAC>
- Maintain an informal email distribution list of attendees and interested persons – send reminders out of events
- Also communicate with MassPAC ListServ, other local SEPACs, Around Town to communicate of events

# SEPAC Inclusion Statement

(Approved by the Board in June 2017)

Hanover Special Education Parent Advisory Council believes that establishing a successful inclusive environment is in the best interest of all. Successful inclusion varies in complexity, based upon the challenges created by the particular disability/ies. Parents, teachers, community members/leaders and students should work to include, as meaningfully as possible, every individual while acknowledging differing abilities.

The term inclusion refers to an overarching societal ideology, philosophy, and culture. Although each person is unique, individuals with disabilities shall be an equally valued member of our community.

Inclusion allows every member of a community to fully participate and not be left out, pushed to the side, or separated into groups solely based on their disability or perceived limitations. All students shall have the opportunity to learn, play and socialize alongside and together with their peers, regardless of diagnosis or placement, including out-of-district placement.

The school community must foster and communicate a culture with established norms. Our community will not exclude, rather we will cultivate safe learning, playing and social environments with appropriate support and supervision. Our community teaches and practices social skills and acceptance to all students in the least restrictive environment.

# Planning for 2017/2018

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- Continue to build on prior policy work including inclusion opportunities across district settings, such as afterschool programming, and a renewed focus on bullying
- Parent Surveys on District Special Education Services
  - Starting process of researching options, interest in creating a baseline of data that can be used every year or every other year to provide information
- Major focus on outreach to parents and the community, making sure folks are aware of the resources SEPAC can offer (e.g., monthly parent coffees)
- Soliciting for Speaker Topics

# Our Thanks

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- We look forward to continuing the collaborative effort of ensuring district curricular and programming access for all students.
- We are grateful for this opportunity to report.