



SPECIAL EDUCATION
PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

HANOVER SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

January 15, 2021
VIA ZOOM
11:00 AM

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: 11:04

Attendees:

Diane King Co-Chair
Kate Sullivan Co-Chair
Adriana Mason
Caitlin Melone
Keith Guyette
Stephen Ryerson
Donna Hilary
Annmarie Hassan
Cindy Stella
Diane Ditullio
Jane Degrenier
Jessica Busa
Keri Morrison
Lori Murphy
Mike Oates
Stephanie Murphy
Dan Birolini

Action Items

- The board unanimously approved the November 20, 2020 meeting minutes
- The board unanimously approved the creation of a working group to address Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Programming for grades 5-12 in the District (please see the attached description for details). The first meeting is planned for 1/19/21 at 7pm via zoom.

Update from SEPAC

- Upcoming board meetings:
 - 2/8/2021**- Evening Parent Group 7pm
Focus Topic: Literacy
Including Literacy Working Group Update & READ2700 with Deb St. Ives
 - 3/19/2021**- District Meeting 11am
 - 4/12/2021**- Evening Parent Group 7pm
Focus Topic: TBD

5/14/2021- District Meeting 11am

6/11/2021- District Meeting 11am

- The Sarah Ward presentation was a huge success with over 100 participants and parent feedback was extremely positive. SEPAC is excited HPS teachers will have an opportunity to learn from Sarah Ward through upcoming scheduled professional development.
- SEPAC is looking into future speakers to offer to families. Keith Guyette offered to reach out to south shore special education directors to see if they know of a speaker on the topic of anxiety. Jane Degrenier offered to pass on the info from Riverside Counseling for potential speaker opportunities.
- The Literacy working group is meeting on 1/25/21 at 9am via zoom and plans to present their findings to the school committee in May

Update from Director of Student Services and/or Building Representatives

- Staff Vacancies: Center School is down 1 tutor, HHS has a Special Education teacher who has gone out on leave and they are currently interviewing for a replacement. HMS has hired a LTS SLP through August and has contracted with a SLP to assist with testing.
- Center and HMS are working to get through their outstanding evaluations. The district has hired a Psychologist for the month of January to help complete testing.
- Families were given information on their child's progress reports about covid compensatory services and their child's eligibility.
- The district is tracking lost service time due to Covid related factors and will communicate with parents appropriately to develop an individual plan to move forward.
- 3 SLPs from the district were recently trained in LiPS: The Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing®

Questions/Comments

A question was raised about whether the district had plans to keep Cohort C in school if the schools had to move to a remote model due to Covid-19. Dan Birolini said while health and safety are the top priority, the district will work hard to keep as many students in person as possible in any given situation, prioritizing students using DESE guidelines as appropriate.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:45

ASD Programming for Grades 5-12

Proposed by: Adriana Mason

Several Hanover Parents – including some current Hanover SEPAC Board members – would like to request that SEPAC vote to approve the creation of a working group to address Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Programming for grades 5-12 in the District. We have had great success in the past with this method of collaboration and have seen positive changes within the District specifically to the programming for elementary grades K-4.

Parent concerns are generally focused on how well students with ASD are accessing the curriculum in grades 5-12 and more specifically but not limited to whether the classroom and instructional models are targeted toward optimizing effective long-term progress in these grades.

It is the intent of this working group to work collaboratively and respectfully with the District experts toward a positive outcome that will address parent concerns. In addition, the intent is to learn about and evaluate the district's current and proposed methods of classroom structure and targeted instruction for students who are currently in grades 5-12 including those who will enter grade 5 starting in the fall of 2021, particularly those students who participate in the STARS program in elementary grades K-4. For students to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and to make effective progress it is imperative that the academic setting be structured to meet the goals outlined in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and for there to be a continuation of structured settings and instruction models that are known to support these students.

SEPAC approval for the creation of a working group at its January 15, 2021 board meeting would allow parents to work in collaboration with the District to look at current classroom/instructional models and interventions and to ultimately propose changes to the current model(s). Consistent with past working groups, this group will endeavor to create a workable scope, assign tasks, gather information, and communicate with subject matter experts in the District on these topics. The working group will report back to the SEPAC Board regularly on its progress.