
6:35 pm, PGF calls meeting to order.

Discussion of SEPAC meeting minutes. Motion made by KL to accept November 2016 minutes as written, VH seconded, 4 in favor one abstention. Motion made by KL to accept February 2017 minutes as written, VH seconds, three in favor two abstentions. KL moves that going forward, minutes should provide a summary not a transcript and in include all information necessary to meet requirements of Open Meeting format. RF seconds the motion, all in favor.

Discussion of Parent Concerns. RF moves that SEPAC make a report to Director of Student Services, Superintendent and School Committee regarding State of Special Education from SEPAC perspective, in particular parent concerns around department culture and communication. Parent survey discussed. One SEPAC goal is to improve culture and communication. PGF seconds RF motion to make a report, all in favor.

Discussion of FCSN/DESE Parent’s Guide for Special Education. RF moves that a) parent guide be posted on SEPAC website in all languages available, b) that it be sent by the district to parents with initial info packet sent after request for evaluation, and c) that it is printed and available for all parents/guardians at Open House and in school main offices. PGF seconds, all in favor.

Discussion of officers for the 2017-2018 academic year. VH moves to keep same slate of officers for next year, KL seconds the motion. All in favor.

Discussion of meeting dates for 2017-2018 academic year. September meeting suggested for Parent’s Rights workshop with concurrent presentation in Spanish a possibility (and open to other districts). FCSN workshop on Effective Communication could also be offered in 2017. SEPAC suggests that Special Education teachers and school administrators be encouraged to attend presentations as a show of support for families. Discussion of state requirement last year for teachers to attend course and take exam on teaching ELL students. Is there a similar training offered for accommodations for students with special needs? PGF moves that workshops on Parent’s Rights and Effective Communication be held, and that a workshop on accommodations (perhaps offered during Professional Development day) be explored, RF seconds, all in favor.

Discussion of Parent’s Rights Workshop. Why were more parents not in attendance? School Principals? Special Ed teachers? Discussion tabled until next meeting due to time.

Agenda items for next meeting:

Review Basic Parent’s Rights Workshop held February 2017 and discuss ideas to boost attendance by parents/staff at September 2017 workshop.
Review of draft report on State of Special Education from SEPAC to administration and school committee.

Vote on slate of officers for 2017-2018 academic year.

Next meeting May 23rd at LMMHS.

RF moves to adjourn at 7:25, KL seconds, all in favor.