

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPEDPAC)

GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUSINESS MEETING Wednesday, April 16, 2008

MEETING MINUTES

Officers Present: Nancy Bugbee, President
(sign in attached) Sarah Campbell, Vice President
Maryanne Squeglia, Treasurer
Melissa Sweeny, Secretary

Members Present: Lisa McLaughlin, GD SpedPAC web site administrator

Staff Present: None

Meeting Location: Middle School North Library, Groton, MA

Nancy Bugbee, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

I. Acceptance of Minutes from March 11, 2008 Meeting

The minutes were reviewed. Maryanne Squeglia made a motion to accept the minutes from the 3/11/08 meeting. Nancy Bugbee seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Groton Dunstable Education Foundation (GDEF)

Sarah Campbell reported that all the books for Florence Roche, Swallow Union and the Middle School have been purchased and received. A press release will be created. The SpedPAC will schedule a book presentation at an upcoming Administrative Council (AC) meeting, likely to be May 6th. Ms. Campbell has volunteered to make a presentation to the Middle School if needed.

Ms. Squeglia asks that GDEF be reminded to make the check out to: Groton Dunstable SpedPAC.

III. SpedPAC Account Update

Ms. Squeglia reports that the account balance is currently: \$ 929.16. This is the balance after the donation and reimbursements outlined below.

The GD SpedPAC learned of the recent death of Melody Orfei's son. Ms. Orfei is the creator of the ConcordSpedPAC.org website, widely used by parents in the area. In

recognition of her contribution to the SpedPAC community, the GD SpedPAC discussed making a donation to one of her son's favorite organizations. Melissa Sweeny made a motion to donate \$ 50.00 to the Concord Carlisle High School Radio Station. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. The donation was approved with a unanimous vote.

Lisa McLaughlin and Ms. Squeglia submitted office supply costs for reimbursement.

IV. 2007-08 & 2008-09 Lecture Series

Ms. Bugbee has scheduled Dr. Stephen Shore to speak on Thursday, May 8th at the Black Box Theatre from 7:00-9:00 PM. The lecture is titled: *Life on and Slightly to the Right of the Autism Spectrum: An Inside View Towards Success*. The fee for his lecture will be \$ 1,850.00, coming out of the 2007-08 Lecture Series Fund.

Ms. McLaughlin will produce the flyer for the Shore lecture by this Friday, April 18th. This will allow time for Aine Bellafatto, Sped Administrator, to mail to out-of-district parents. Ms. McLaughlin will also update the GD SpedPAC website with the lecture details. Ms. Squeglia will make sure information is supplied to the High School for distribution in their upcoming newsletter.

Ms. Bugbee shared her desire to get school staff to the Dr. Shore lecture. To help boost attendance, Ms. Bugbee will contact PPS Director, Cam Huston, to see if the staff can receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for attending.

Preliminary Schedule for 2008-09 Lecture Series:

- September: Evening With Dr. Genovese *(Evening Business Meeting)*
- October: "Yelling Doesn't Help" (Federation Workshop)
College Night at the High School
- November: New Directions in Reading at GDRSD – Dr. Sandy Jones
- December: Psychopharmacologist (12/9/08)
- January: Basic Rights (Federation Workshop) *(Evening Business Meeting)*
- February: IEP Workshop (Federation)
- March: Understanding Test Scores – Joan Axelrod
- April: "Breaking Through" musical *(Middle School assembly)*
- May: (Open) (Possibly – Cognitive Interventions in Math, Dr. David Stevens)

V. SpedPAC Spring Newsletter

The plan is to have the spring newsletter ready to go home in backpacks on Friday, May 23rd (prior to the Memorial Day weekend). This will require a DRAFT be ready for Monday, May 12th and final version by Friday, May 16th.

The initial plan includes:

- Front Page: *Transition, End of Year Events* and the *Summer Program*

- *Articles:*

TITLE:	SIZE:	AUTHOR:
Transition (Facts & Events)	Large	Ms. McLaughlin
Recap of Dr. Shore lecture	Large	Ms. McLaughlin
Guidance/Transition	Large	Ms. Sweeny/Guidance
IEP Workshop	Small	Ms. Bugbee
Recap of Cynthia Haddad lecture	Small	Ms. Campbell
LD Podcast & other resources	Small	Ms. Sweeny
Summer Program	Small	Ms. McLaughlin
Roundtable/HS & MS	Small	Ms. Squeglia
Annual Meeting	Small	TBD
Calendar – Upcoming Events	Small	TBD

VI. SpedPAC/School Roundtables - Update

The first High School/SpedPAC Roundtable took place on Tuesday, April 15th. Attendance was good with about 5 staff members including: Lynn Jarvis (MS Team Chair); Shelly Cohen (HS Principal); Chris Jones (Asst Principal/HS Team Chair); Linda Prince (SP/L Therapist); 8th grade teacher; and 6 parents.

Mr. Jones gave a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the High School Learning Centers and the teachers' responsibilities. Mr. Jones and Ms. Jarvis shared their team approach to writing the IEPs for next year's incoming freshmen.

Concerns discussed included:

- need for more teacher training in the two learning centers
- need for students on IEPs to spend more time in the classrooms
- need for improved communication among teachers
- need for behavioral management training in the Alternative Learning Center (ALC)
- need for guidance support in the ALC

SpedPAC is going to try and schedule another Florence Roche Roundtable before the end of the year.

VII. PAC By-laws

This topic was not discussed at this meeting. It will be moved to the agenda for the next business meeting.

VIII. Annual SpedPAC Presentation – School Committee Meeting – May 21, 2008

This topic was not discussed at this meeting. It will be moved to the agenda for the next business meeting.

IX. Transition Plans for Prescott, Florence Roche, Swallow Union

Ms. Sweeny attended the Transition Planning Meeting on Tuesday, April 15th. Dr. Genovese and the school principals from Prescott, Florence Roche and Swallow Union facilitated an open forum of attending parents (approximately 30) to brainstorm ideas and events to help students and their families make a smooth transition to their new school in the fall. The ideas generated will be helpful for all students. However, SpedPAC should make sure they continue to have representation at the “combined PTA/PPO/ATP” transition planning event meetings. This is where the ideas generated at the Transition Meeting will be assigned and carried out. Ms. Bugbee should follow up with Ruthann Goguen, Florence Roche Principal, who will be in charge of scheduling this next planning meeting.

SpedPAC has a meeting set up with Ms. Huston, PPS Director, on Wednesday, April 30th at 9:30 AM at Tarbell to review specifics for children on education plans. Concerns to be discussed include: scheduling transition meetings for all transitioning students; letter to parents of children on IEPs; assignment of Sped teachers and paraprofessionals; what “extra” support is to be provided in the spring and fall.

X. Next Meeting Date with District Administration

- Letter (from District) to parents of transitioning students on IEPs
- Summer School
- Melmark parent training
- High School Roundtable concerns

Meeting ended at 12:35 PM.