



# Groton Dunstable Special Education Parents Advisory Council

## BUSINESS MEETING Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

7:00pm, High School library

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Officers Present: Melissa Sweeny, President  
(sign-in sheet attached) Nancy Bugbee, Vice President  
Maryanne Squeglia, Treasurer  
Cyndy Premru, Secretary

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Melissa Sweeny, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

### I. SpedPAC Presentation to School Committee Review

The presentation that Ms. Sweeny gave in front of the School Committee on May 6, 2009 went very well. One of our goals for next year focuses on raising disability awareness on multiple levels throughout the district. They include -

Student population - helping 1) students with special needs raise their self-awareness and 2) helping typical peers raise their awareness level.

Teacher awareness and

Community awareness.

We discussed several ways that we might accomplish this goal and raise disability awareness. They include:

- The importance of working closely with school principals, guidance counselors, special education staff and nursing staff on this goal.
- promoting Inclusive Schools Week next December.
- working collaboratively with GDAY (Groton-Dunstable Alliance for Youth) and GDEF (Groton-Dunstable Education Foundation).
- Purchasing books for the individual schools that pertain to lesser known disabilities such as NVLS (Nonverbal Learning Disorder)

Cyndy Premru, Secretary, reported that there is a DVD called, *Including Samuel*, which also has a website with several resources at <http://www.includingsamuel.com>.

Maryanne Squeglia, Treasurer, reported that the college speaker we hosted this past spring, Monica Andrews was very helpful. She also reported that we are going to host a college night geared to Special Education students and colleges in spring 2010 and will model it after a similar event hosted by another local PAC.

## **II. Updates**

### **Account Balance**

Ms. Squeglia reports that the current account balance in the SpedPAC checking account is: \$ 235.11.

### **Grant Balance**

Ms. Squeglia reports that we currently have \$200 left in our Grant Fund balance. For the past 6 weeks, she has tried to find another lecturer and has had no luck. Ms. Sweeny will talk to Karen Tuomi to see what the process is since we have money left over. As an organization, we are glad that the Trust can keep the money.

### **Website**

Ms. Sweeny is researching other options for web software. She reported that WordPress is a good option. It is easy to update and make design changes.

Ms. Sweeny announced that she would probably be getting involved with the web site, as her officer responsibilities will be ending.

We discussed minor updates to the website for the summer:

- Adding the bylaws, fundraising policy, and Meeting Minutes
- Adding the message, "Happy Summer!" on the homepage
- Posting the names and contact information of the new officers for 2009/2010
- Listing the new summer hours for the PRC

### **Parent Resource Center Library**

Ms. Premru reported that the Resource Library currently has over 165 books! We are in the process of cataloguing all books, DVD's, and video's into an online library catalogue at [www.librarything.com](http://www.librarything.com). Next fall, we hope to have a lending library set up where parents and community members can borrow books for a week or two. Until we have the lending library set up, the community is invited to stop by the Resource Center to look through the books onsite. Next fall, we will also have a link from our website. [www.gdspedpac.org](http://www.gdspedpac.org), to the online catalogue (for viewing purposes only) so community members can peruse the books and materials that we have before stopping by.

The Resource Library also has over 50 resources from the U.S. Department of Education on topics such as Mathematics and Science Education, Art Education, History Education, Reading Instruction, Child Development, Educational Reform, NCLB (No child Left Behind), IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act), Literacy, and much more.

### **Parent Resource Center – Summer Hours**

Ms. Bugbee announced that the Parent Resource Center would be open by appointment only during the summer. Ms. Premru will be the contact person. This information will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the Resource Center.

## **III. Volunteer Opportunities**

Ms. Sweeny suggested that we meet over the summer to brainstorm ways how to recruit new members.

#### **IV. Fundraising Policy**

Ms. Bugbee distributed copies of her draft for the fundraising policy. The draft was reviewed at the meeting.

#### **V. Vote to approve Fundraising Policy**

Ms. Sweeny made a motion to adopt the fundraising policy to become part of our bylaws. The motion was seconded and the fundraising policy was unanimously approved. The policy will now be incorporated into our bylaws.

#### **VI. Vote to approve meeting minutes from May 13, 2009 meeting**

The minutes from the March 11, 2009 Business Meeting were reviewed. Ms. Squeglia made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved. The minutes will be posted on the website at <http://www.gdspedpac.org>.

Ms. Premru will forward a copy of the minutes to Ms. Sweeny to be converted into a .pdf file and then forward the .pdf to Lisa McLaughlin for posting on the website.

#### **VII. Vote to approve meeting minutes from May 13, 2009 meeting**

Ms. Sweeny announced that we would be electing new officers for the 2009/2010 school year. She made the motion to nominate Nancy Bugbee as President of GDSpecPAC. Ms. Bugbee accepted the nomination. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Ms. Sweeny made the motion to nominate Maryanne Squeglia for both the Vice President and Treasurer positions of GDSpedPAC. Ms. Squeglia accepted the nominations. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Ms. Sweeny made the motion to nominate Cyndy Premru as Secretary of GDSpedPAC. Ms. Premru accepted the nomination. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

#### **Miscellaneous**

Ms. Sweeny brought up the fact that there will be a search committee for the new Superintendent starting next fall. She mentioned that member Sarah Campbell, would like to be on the committee.

Ms. Sweeny brought up the fact that we need to schedule a meeting with the administration over the summer, including Cam Huston, Dr. Genovese, and Kim Cochrane. One of the topics for discussion at this meeting will be what SpedPAC can include in PPS's August mailing.

As a group, we discussed hosting evening discussion groups where we might invite one of the school principals and their Team Chair, maybe focus on a particular disability.

Ms. Premru reported that the momentum at the last Florence Roche Parent Roundtable was lacking as it was poorly attended and that its focus was, again, on the data/results behind the school's reading initiatives. It was very informative but again, seemed to be news that had already been shared at previous Roundtables.

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**The business meeting concluded at 9:00pm.**