

# **SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPEDPAC)**

## **GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 11, 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 10:15 AM.

#### **I. Acceptance of Minutes from January 24, 2008 Meeting**

The minutes were reviewed. Maryanne Squeglia made a motion to accept the minutes from the 1/24/08 meeting, which included some information from the January 15, 2008 meeting. Melissa Sweeny seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **II. Groton Dunstable Education Foundation (GDEF)**

The grant money awarded to the GD SpedPAC for additional books for the Elementary Resource Library included books designated for Prescott School. Since Prescott will be closing, Ms. Bugbee sent a letter to the GDEF asking how this affects our awarded grant money. Ms. Bugbee was told that the GDEF would be meeting later in the week and will make a determination. It is likely the money will be allocated to another grant seeker. At this time, Sarah Campbell can begin ordering the books for the Middle School Resource Library.

#### **III. SpedPAC Account Update**

Ms. Squeglia reports that the account balance is currently: \$ 1,097.64.

The 2007 taxes have been filed and all information is up to date. No fees are expected until the next fiscal year. Ms. Squeglia shared that she is researching local

banking options. She will only move the SpedPAC account to a local bank if the new account has no fees and offers interest.

Ms. Squeglia has asked all SpedPAC officers and the website administrator to submit a detailed list of supplies (i.e. paper, printer cartridges) with purchase price that require reimbursement. She asks that this list be prepared for the next SpedPAC business meeting scheduled for April.

Ms. Bugbee will follow up with Mark Branco at the Middle School for a letter stating what they purchased with the SpedPAC's \$100 donation. Ms. Bugbee will send a copy of Prescott Principal Betty Lavin's letter to Ms. Sweeny and Ms. Squeglia to place in the SpedPAC files.

#### **IV. 2007-2008 Lecture Series**

Cynthia Haddad is scheduled to speak on March 18, 2008. The lecture is titled *Finance/Estate Planning for Your Special Needs Child*. Ms. Campbell will produce the flyer to be distributed to parents and staff. Ms. Bugbee will ask Aine Bellafatto, PPS Administrative Assistant, to mail the flyer to parents with children who attend school out-of-district.

Linda Price is scheduled to speak on April 2, 2008. The lecture is titled *A Parent's Guide to Social Skills for Grades K-6*. Lisa McLaughlin will add the specifics of this lecture to the GD SpedPAC web site. Ms. McLaughlin will also produce the lecture flyer. Ms. Bugbee will take care of copying for backpack distribution.

Ms. Bugbee will contact the Federation of Children with Special Needs to schedule a Basic Rights workshop for this spring.

The SpedPAC still has some grant money left to spend. Discussion continues regarding additional speakers and lectures that can be scheduled before the end of this academic year. Ms. Campbell is going to continue pursuing her contact for a psychopharmacologist to speak to the SpedPAC.

#### **V. Preparation/Discussion of 2008-2009 Lecture Series**

An initial look at the 2008-09 Lecture Series included the following speakers & topics:

- Robert Brooks
- Stephen Shore
- Becky Bingham – Neurofeedback
- Psychopharmacologist
- Options for college-bound LD students
- Ben Mitchell, Landmark College
- “Breaking Through” musical about being dyslexic
- Nancy Sullivan – “Taking Care of Self”
- Joan Axelrod - interpreting test scores

- Dr. Imber
- David Stevens – cognitive learning strategies for math

March 15, 2008 is the deadline to submit our request for grant money for the 2008/09 lecture series. Ms. Sweeny will be taking a first pass at writing the grant this year. Ms. Campbell will supervise.

Ms. Squeglia introduced the idea of organizing a “college night” next fall at the high school geared towards students with disabilities. The idea includes: keynote speaker; college representatives/information tables; and ADHD/Life Coach (i.e. Caroline Maguire). Shelley Marcus Cohen, HS Principal, supports this idea.

## **VI. Update from School SpedPAC Liaisons/Roundtables**

The first Middle School SpedPAC Roundtable is scheduled for tomorrow, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Campbell has been asked by MS sped parents to bring up the need for an additional substantially separate classroom. Questions to be asked include: if there is a second classroom created, how will the children be placed?; will there be an “autism” classroom? Other issues to be raised to the MS staff include: current disconnect in transition between the Middle School and the High School; no male guidance counselor at the Middle School; need for a “buddy/peer” set up within the Middle School and MS/HS transition.

Due to a schedule conflict, Ms. Squeglia will be contacting Chris Jones, High School Team Chair/Assistant Principal, to reschedule the date of the HS SpedPAC Roundtable to the week of April 14<sup>th</sup>.

An additional SpedPAC Roundtable will be scheduled at Florence Roche this spring. Plans to have one at Swallow Union and Prescott are on hold until student re-allocation transition planning begins in April. It has been determined that at this time there is no need for a SpedPAC Roundtable at Boutwell due to “coffees” already existing.

## **VII. PAC By-laws**

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

## **VIII. SpedPAC Website**

It is suggested that an officer of the SpedPAC have access to updating the SpedPAC website. To do this, the SpedPAC will need to purchase a copy of Microsoft Publisher software. Ms. Sweeny made a motion that the SpedPAC purchase a copy of Microsoft Publisher for the purpose of producing, editing and maintaining the SpedPAC website ([www.gdspedpac.org](http://www.gdspedpac.org)). Ms. Squeglia seconded the motion. The decision to purchase a copy of the software was approved unanimously. Ms. Sweeny will research the best price and purchase a copy for the GD SpedPAC.

## **IX. District Reading Programs**

In a meeting with the SpedPAC yesterday, Cam Huston, PPS Director, reported that she is scheduled to meet with Dr. Sandy Jones the week of March 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **X. SpedPAC Presentation to the School Committee, April 2, 2008**

The SpedPAC officers plan to meet with Ms. Huston the last week in March to prepare for the presentation. The presentation will include: current year (lecture series); 2007/08 goals (reading); new initiatives (roundtables); and 2008/09 Lecture Series and goals.

The SpedPAC officers also discussed using the meeting with the School Committee as an opportunity to “go on the record” supporting the new administration. The SpedPAC wants to acknowledge that the new administrative team brings with them a positive, forward thinking, collaborative approach to fulfilling special education needs in the district.

## **XI. Prescott – SpedPAC Role in Re-Allocation of Students to New Schools**

SpedPAC met with Ms. Huston on March 10<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting she stated that she needs to know where the IEP students are going to be before she can determine a plan to transition the students. At this meeting, Dr. Genovese shared his view on how he sees the decisions will be made. After the street assignments are made for Florence Roche and Swallow Union, teacher assignments will be made and then students will be assigned to classrooms. After a child is assigned to a classroom/school, the necessary support staff can be assigned.

SpedPAC’s biggest concern is how the district will be able to schedule all the required transition meetings for the re-allocated students as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student transitions. Also, for the “at risk” students, will the staff move with the student?

## **XII. District Staff – Attendance at Workshops – SpedPAC Sponsorship**

Idea on hold for discussion at another time.

---

Meeting ended at 12:45 PM.