



Groton Dunstable Special Education Parents Advisory Council

BUSINESS MEETING Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 8, 2009
7:00 pm, GD Regional High School - Library

Officers Present: Nancy Bugbee, President
Maryanne Squeglia, Vice President & Treasurer
Cyndy Premru, Secretary

Nancy Bugbee, President, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

I. Booth For Grotonfest

Maryanne Squeglia, Vice President and Treasurer, reported that Jason Squeglia's company, Bright Horizons, has donated most of the materials needed to run our French Fry Booth this year. Mr. Squeglia had 2 banners/signs made which say, 'Groton-Dunstable Special Education Parent's Advisory Council.' Ms. Squeglia also reported that the fry-o-lators we are renting are all set, the shopping is all done – she purchased 200 lbs of potatoes – and that the potato cutters are purchased.

Ms. Squeglia suggested that we charge \$3/order for the French Fries. She requested that we all wear baseball caps during Grotonfest to keep our hair out of the food. She and Mr. Squeglia will try to start setting up the booth with tables and the canopy Friday night. Nancy Bugbee, President, and Cyndy Premru, Secretary, will arrive at 8:45am on the day of Grotonfest to help set up.

Ms. Bugbee will bring cash to use for making change at the beginning of the day.

II. Finalizing Calendar – Lecture Series/Meeting schedules

Changes were made to the calendar that Ms. Bugbee distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Below is the updated calendar of events for the 2009-2010 school year:

Thursday, October 22, 2009, 9:30am

- Florence Roche Roundtable in Flo Ro Cafeteria.

Tuesday, Nov 3, 2009, 7:00pm

- Basic Rights Workshop with FCSN, cohosted with Littleton and Tyngsboro SpedPAC's, location – HS Library

Tuesday, Nov 17, 2009 7:00pm

- Family Matters: Raising Happy and Healthy Children in Challenging Times with Dr. Robert Evans, location - MS PAC

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, 7:00pm

- Business Meeting in MS North Library

Tuesday, Jan 14, 2010, 7:00pm

- Anatomy of an IEP with Lori B. Tucker, Esq. Location HS Library

Wednesday, Jan 20, 2010 9:00am

- MS Roundtable, location MS North Conference Room

Tuesday, Feb 9, 2010 6:30pm

- Business Meeting, location HS Library

Tuesday, Feb 9, 2010 7:00pm

- Executive Functioning in the Classroom: Middle School, High School, and Beyond with Dr. Joseph Moldover, location HS Library

Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 7:00pm

- Building the Skills that Build Social Capital: Putting Your Best Foot Forward in the Real World with Teresa Bolick, Ph.D. location HS Library

Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 9:00am

- MS Roundtable, location MS North Conference Room

Ms. Bugbee asked everyone whom we should try to line up for a lecture in April and what the topic should be about. As a group, we recalled that the Anxiety and Mathematics were high on the list of topics when parents were polled last year. We will discuss this in more detail at our next business meeting.

III. Manned Hours for PRC

Ms. Squeglia will volunteer at the PRC on Tuesday's from 10:30 – 11:30.

Ms. Bugbee will volunteer at the PRC on Wednesday's from 12:30 – 1:30.

IV. Roundtables

Middle School Roundtable was on October 7th. It wasn't very well attended. Ms. Squeglia, who was there, reported that the parents who were there seemed to be happy with their child's services and with how the school year was starting. Ms. Squeglia suggested canceling the January roundtable and keeping the March date since it was poorly attended and parents seem to be happy for the most part. She also proposed hosting a MS Roundtable at night to accommodate working parents. Ms. Bugbee will check with Steve Silverman, the principal, to see what he thinks of the proposed suggestions.

Florence Roche Roundtable is scheduled for October 22nd. Liz Podsiadlo has volunteered to be SpedPAC's host since Cyndy Premru, the school's Parent Liaison, is unable to attend.

V. Goals for Upcoming Year

This agenda item was not discussed at this time.

VI. Miscellaneous

Ms. Bugbee reported that the MS did not make Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) on MCAS in the special education category last year. It was speculated that maybe the AYP formula is "off" and that other school districts are in the same situation as Groton-Dunstable.

Ms. Squeglia reported that the High School did not reach out to SpedPAC regarding the event that they are hosting concerning college information. She reported that the Guidance Department is coordinating it.

Ms. Bugbee reported that the Littleton PAC contacted her for advice regarding the advantages of becoming a 5013c. Ms. Bugbee pointed out that donations are tax deductible and that the organization has more credibility when it is a 5013c. There is some extra work, however – there are tax forms to fill out and you have to keep excellent financial records for tax purposes.

Ms. Bugbee reported that the School Committee is holding Focus Groups within the community to help guide them in their search for a new Superintendent. She posed the question – what are our expectations, as a SpedPAC, for the new Superintendent? And what are our expectations for being included in the hiring process? She reported that there is a timeline regarding the search process on the District's website.

Ms. Squeglia reported that our current account balance in the SpedPAC checking account is \$ 201.17.

The business meeting concluded at 7:40pm.