

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPEDPAC)

GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

MEETING MINUTES

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

Members Present: See attached sign in sheet

Staff Present: Cam Huston, PPS Director

Meeting Location: High School Library, Groton, MA

Nancy Bugbee, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

I. Acceptance of Minutes from May 7, 2008 Meeting

The minutes were reviewed. Maryanne Squeglia made a motion to accept the minutes from the 5/7/08 meeting. Sarah Campbell seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved. The minutes will be posted on the website (gdspedpac.org).

II. SpedPAC Account Update

Ms. Squeglia reports that the account balance is currently: \$ 783.17.

Ms Squeglia was asked what expenses might be coming up. She reported that she will be filing the taxes for the SpedPAC (\$0 cost) and the website will continue to be maintained at no cost. Fundraising may need to be considered for 2009-2010.

The awarded funds from the 2007-08 grant have all been allotted, with the final \$150 being sent to the Federation of Children with Special Needs.

The Groton Trust Funds confirmed that we have been awarded \$2,500 for our 2008-09 Lecture Series. A thank you letter will be sent by the GD SpedPAC President to Karen Tuomi, Commissioner of the Trust Funds.

Melissa Sweeny requested reimbursement for printing supplies and paper used to produce the SpedPAC Annual Presentation to the School Committee. Ms. Squeglia

made a motion to reimburse Ms. Sweeny for the cost of supplies. Ms. Bugbee seconded the motion. The decision was unanimous to reimburse. Ms. Sweeny will provide Ms. Squeglia with receipts.

Ms. Bugbee reported that we received a thank you letter for our donation to the CCHS radio station in memory of Melody Orfei's son.

III. Appreciation Gift for High School Custodial Staff

Ms. Bugbee proposed presenting thank you gifts to the custodial staff at the High School who have been responsible for preparing for and cleaning up after our evening meetings. Ms. Bugbee made a motion to expend \$10.00 per custodial staff for a total not to exceed \$60.00. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. Ms. Bugbee will follow up and determine the exact number of staff members (5 or 6) and distribute the gift cards.

IV. Annual SpedPAC Elections

Ms. Bugbee made a motion to nominate Melissa Sweeny as President. Ms. Squeglia seconded the motion. Ms. Sweeny accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimous to elect Ms. Sweeny President of the GD SpedPAC for the 2008-09 year.

Ms. Squeglia made a motion to nominate Nancy Bugbee as Vice President. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. Ms. Bugbee accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimous to elect Ms. Bugbee Vice President of the GD SpedPAC for the 2008-09 year.

Ms. Sweeny made a motion to nominate Maryanne Squeglia as Treasurer. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. Ms. Squeglia accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimous to elect Ms. Squeglia Treasurer of the GD SpedPAC for the 2008-09 year.

Ms. Sweeny made a motion to nominate Cyndy Premru as Secretary. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. Ms. Premru accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimous to elect Ms. Premru Secretary of the GD SpedPAC for the 2008-09 year.

Ms. Squeglia reported that she will need to have the new officers sign a certificate of change of officers for the non-profit business status.

As the new President, Ms. Sweeny will gain check writing privileges. Ms. Squeglia will get the appropriate paperwork.

The website and SpedPAC Brochure will need to be updated to list the new officers.

Ms. Bugbee reported that she has the Masspac membership application and will fill it out with Ms. Sweeny as the new President. As was done last year, the \$200 Masspac membership fee will be paid for by the District.

V. GD SpedPAC Annual Presentation

The SpedPAC Officers presented their annual presentation to the SpedPAC members based on the Annual Presentation given at the School Committee in May. This included a recap of goals and accomplishments for the past year, goals for the upcoming year, and a preview of the upcoming lecture series.

Highlights of the ensuing discussion with members & staff included:

- Desire to carry over Open Circle curriculum to Middle School
- Desire to learn more about Turning Points 2000
- Desire for comprehensive reading comprehension and written expression programs
- Desire to see Principal SpedPAC Roundtables take place at all schools
- How does the Principal/School Council represent Sped interests?

VI. Overview – Cam Huston’s First Year as PPS Director

Reading Program

- Kathy McCarthy, Literacy Coordinator, leaving the District
- Ruthann Goguen will be guiding a (pilot) phonetic-based reading program at Florence Roche next year
- There will be training and professional development for staff

Needs Assessment

- Program will be up and running this fall at Florence Roche and the Middle School
- Position has been posted to hire
- The District has received a plan/recommendation from Melmark

Other

- Cam, Lynn Jarvis and Doris Sorois will be attending the DOE Summer Institute’s Essential Facilitation for IEP Meetings
- Attorney will be coming in to train staff on the topic of “harassment”
- Disciplining Sped students needs to be reviewed and a consistent plan put in place

VII. Special Recognition of Years of SpedPAC Service – Sarah Campbell

Ms. Bugbee read aloud a card thanking Sarah Campbell for her years of service as a GD SpedPAC officer and parent volunteer.

Other Items Discussed:

- Get member input on new book suggestions for the High School
- DCAP – “Curriculum” responsibility, but affects Sped

Meeting ended at 9:20 PM.