



Natick Special Education Parent Advisory Council

December 9, 2019 Presentation to School Committee

AGENDA AND PRESENTERS

- **Who We Are**
- **Goals**
- **Programming**
- **Current Concerns**

Presenters:
Dani Newland and Elise Gorseth
SEPAC Board Co Chairs

WHO WE ARE: SEPAC Responsibilities

Responsibilities (per MA law)

- **Advise the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities**
- Meet regularly with School Officials
- Establish Bylaws
- Receive assistance from School Committee (as needed)
- In cooperation with the district, provide an annual workshop on the rights of students and their parents and guardians under state and federal special education laws (Basic Rights Training)

Additional Focus

- Build awareness of SEPAC with parents in the district
- Support parents through the IEP process
- Offer workshops and speakers
- Work to build a community for Special Education parents, caregivers, and families

What we don't do

- Offer legal, medical, professional advice
- Resolve specific IEP issues
- Attend IEP meetings with parents

MA law: [603 CMR 28.07\(4\)](#) and [603 CMR 28. 03\(1\)\(a\)\(4\)](#)

WHO WE ARE: Parent Volunteers

The Natick Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a volunteer organization of parents and caregivers dedicated to building a network for families whose children receive or are requesting support services through an IEP/504. **SEPAC provides a parent's perspective of information, support and recommendations.**

Board Members

- Chair
- Secretary
- Communications Coordinator
- Programs Coordinator

School and Out of District Liaisons

- Act as liaison between his/her school and SEPAC
- Connect with school's PTO and share SEPAC info
- Build awareness at his/her school of SEPAC and SEPAC events
- Attend SEPAC meetings and provide status updates and feedback to SEPAC Board

GOALS

1. **Raise awareness of special education**
2. **Maintain consistent outreach efforts**
3. **Support new Student Services staffing model**

PROGRAMMING

- **Natick Parent Connections**
 - Meets monthly
 - Continuous influx of new parents
- **Autism Support Group**
 - Meets monthly
- **Basic Rights Training**
 - Feb 6. 2020
- **Joint Event with SPARK Kindness**
 - In planning stages

CURRENT CONCERNS - what people are talking about

- Desire for consistency between schools
 - ▷ RTI practices and the language used to describe them
 - ▷ Inconsistency leads to lack of confidence that 1) RTI is in fact being executed in the same way at all schools and 2) that there is a clear path from participation in RTI to evaluation for special education for students who continue to struggle after prolonged participation in RTI
 - ▷ When is an intervention SEL RTI and when is it discipline?

CURRENT CONCERNS - what people are talking about

- State dyslexia screening guidelines
 - ▷ Intense interest in what upcoming guidelines could they mean for Natick, e.g., will schools be able to diagnose dyslexia?
 - ▷ Hope that new state guidelines will result in changes to NPS practices that will identify students with dyslexia earlier
 - ▷ Hope that new guidelines will lead to changes in available approaches and interventions for students with dyslexia

CURRENT CONCERNS - what people are talking about

■ Title 1

- ▷ Continued questions about the changes in deployment of Title 1 resources across elementary schools, frustration with the way changes were communicated
- ▷ What happens to kids who qualified for and received Title 1 reading and math tutoring and now receive no supports?
- ▷ How are students identified for Title 1 supports?
- ▷ Is there a difference between Title 1 and RTI?

THANK YOU!

??? QUESTIONS ???



Contact Us

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