Concord Public and Concord-Carlisle Regional SEPAC Open Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2015

Board Members in attendance:
Mary Tambor Co-Chair
Becky Robichaud Co-Chair
Aiyana Currie Technology Coordinator

Others in attendance:
Jessica Hsu
Heather Tunnicliffe
Jan Lamberg advocate - visitor from Western Mass

Action items:
- Modify September meeting minutes - Jessica
- Request Jessica’s presentation - Becky
- Post Jessica’s presentation from the coffee to the website - Jessica
- Modify SEPAC board members on website - Jessica
- Modify Concord SEPAC google group to include new members - Becky
- Check webpage form to ensure emails are going to proper email group - Jessica
- Ensure Jessica has B/W printouts of the SEPAC flyer for all IEP meetings - Becky
- Aiyana/Becky to perform Secretary tasks for upcoming meetings - Aiyana/Becky
- Write a letter to school committee to request that SEPAC have presence on the upcoming superintendent search - Becky
- Find out whether CMS after school programs are PTG vs school run - Becky
- Put SEPAC goals into chart/grid - Mary
- Determine whether SEPAC goals should be on the website - Board at next meeting
- Add “Till” to the website (per Carlisle group home information provided by Becky) - Jessica
- Follow-up on blackbox theatre for Basic Rights - Joanne
- Coordinate meeting w Carlisle SEPAC - Mary
- Update Projected Budget for Jessica’s meeting – ideally by Oct 15 - Aiyana
- Research mail chimp - Jessica
- Answer the question: What are we using our email list for? - Tali & agenda next meeting
- Update/research Town clerk/open meeting laws - Mary
- Contact Acton/Boxborough regarding details for their teacher gifts - Becky
- Determine costs for budget – Aiyana
- Email support for the Carlisle group home – all (if desired), Becky please forward sample to the board

Open Meeting
Mary opened meeting at 7:05 pm and introduced the agenda
Reviewed and approved September minutes
Action: Modify minutes from September meeting: Survey Monkey will be used to determine “areas of concern” and then brought to Jessica.

New topics
Special Education Director/ Parent coffee - mostly new faces, mostly people who’ve recently moved to Concord, many good questions. There were several offers to volunteer

*Action:* Jessica will provide updated slide show to post on the website

Heather Mahoney transition person for CCHS was in attendance with Tom Keane CCHS Special Education Chair

Board position nominations:
- Jessica Hsu - elected to Technology
- Aiyana Currie - elected to Treasurer
- Donna ? – elected to Publicity
- *Action:* Aiyana/Becky to tag-team Secretary for next few meetings until a secretary is nominated

Mary and Becky will meet with elementary school principals. They are planning the agenda and asked for suggestions from the board. Items suggested:
- Site based management
- How do we open communication between SEPAC?
- Do we need to redefine/recreate/eliminate the existing “liaison” positions at each PTG?
- How can the SEPAC be a part of the advisory counsel for the elementary schools?
- Note: Heather Mahoney will be meeting with Jessica and SEPAC presidents

Awareness campaign for SEPAC
- Ensure that SEPAC flyer is being given at all IEP meetings
- Ensure teachers are aware of the SEPAC resources inclusive of the website

SEPAC presence on the new superintendent search
- Interest for someone to represent SEPAC as part of superintendent search. Mike Robichaud volunteered to take this role on SEPAC behalf

**Chair Reports/Updates**

Publicity
- Process for posting for publicity - on hold

Co-Presidents
- Meeting with Jessica Murphy
  - OOD participation in after school
  - Brian Miller at CCHS new point person
  - SEPAC has an open item to understand what process may/may not be in place for elementary & CMS for before/after school programs for OOD
- Review goals created June 2015
- Proposed group home in Carlisle
  - Becky presented information from Carlisle SEPAC meeting
  - Carlisle is only at 4% affordable housing and needs to be at 10%
  - There is a proposal for a group home for special needs individuals who are active in their home community. The name of the group who will run the facility is called “Till”.
  - The proposal includes two 3000 sq ft homes. Because the requirement of
group homes in the state is so high, the state is allowing that each bedroom is allowed as a “home”

Membership/Networking
- Networking groups sub-committee to meet in October, first topic will be OOD parents
- Networking group to review parent survey

Events
- Joanne has been working with Federation about a possible Transition presentation. Possibly combine with Heather Mahoney for an upcoming talk. Note that Heather will also attend one of our upcoming business meeting. This is ON HOLD until Mary and Becky can coordinate with Heather. Also Janet Sauer and Joanne spoke about her goals for a transition workshop and the idea of a panel evolved.
- Playscape/family event can be in conjunction with playscape itself, however playscape currently do not have one planned, but they are open to us using their space
- Basic rights is planned, but location still needed
- Resource fair - need to review our own resourcing for this
- Joanne attended the recent Carlisle SEPAC meeting - discussed common goals, collaborating on adult social, planned on ways to mix parents & children before they get to HS (notes from Joanne provided below in abstention)
  - I met with Zahava and we discussed our common goals to re-frame the way SEPAC is viewed in our respective communities. We also discussed ideas for collaborating on a spring adult social, holding a joint meeting to give board members a chance to meet and ways to mix the parents and children from both towns at an earlier age (before HS).
  - both SEPACs have a lot of the same goals & same problems
  - both have small attendance and always same people
  - Carlisle SEPAC tie events together - board meetings + events
  - They are working on changing the perception of definition of special ed
  - Their PTG is funding them
  - Carlisle SEPAC would love to collaborate with our board, however we need to do this as part of one our board meetings due to open meeting laws
  - There is a concern that parents have is the stress of moving from one district to another town
  - Some discussion on raising money using a raffle
  - Carlisle SEPAC are trying to figure out to include regular ed parents - what we’re doing for kids on IEP will benefit kids not on IEP
    - Suggestion on advertising EVENT with “sponsored by SEPAC at the bottom” of the advert rather than the headline message
  - Principals attending SEPAC board meeting, example co-teachers w Sped teacher with regular ed teacher each teaching entire class
  - Director of Sped in Carlisle offered to meeting with us
  - Carlisle has a large piece of paper that lists famous people with disabilities for to engage parents at events
  - They also have Collide-scope idea as hand-outs for parents with the wording “everyone learns differently..”
- Request that we include our own resources in our planned events – speakers to include school OT, PT, ST, etc

Budget/Fundraising
- Review handout and discussion of possible expenses and income, request from Becky to return with real numbers by October 15

Open questions from attendees:
- Western Mass advocate is interested in getting the Adams/Cheshire SEPAC group up and running & appreciates our resources

Open questions/discussion
The board members discussed the rationale behind keeping an email list of our “members” and asked openly what value this can add beyond the mails being sent to all parents of children on IEP from Jessica. We brainstormed a few ideas including:
- Ensuring this is a value add for parents who sign up
- Sending our blog posts to this audience

We also discussed the need to allocate specific time for our transition workshop as well as thoughts around perception/stigma of “special education”

Mary summarized the town clerk communication with updates to be provided at the next meeting

Heather Tunnicliffe is interested in volunteering to help with SEPAC, wherever she is most vital.