



## Berlin/Boylston Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council

2011-2012 Year End Report

September 18, 2012

Dear School Committee Members,

The Berlin-Boylston SEPAC is proud to share our activities in this summary from this past school year with you. The 2011-12 school year was a very busy and successful one for our members.

We are fortunate to have a full Board of officers for this year! Our current Board members are as follows:

Berlin Co-President :	Jill Mollica (2 yr. term expires 2013)
Boylston Co-President:	Christi Stille ( 2 yr. term expires 2014)
Co-Vice-Presidents:	Karen Groccia and Deanna King (1 yr. term expires 2013)
Secretary:	Angela Allred (1 yr. term expires 2013)
Treasurer:	Lori Michalak (2 yr. term expires 2013)

SEPAC members continue to serve on various groups in the districts and attend School Committee Meetings. We had members participate in the interview and screening process for both a new superintendent and new PPS Director.

SEPAC sent representatives who presented information at Open Houses at the elementary schools, Kindergarten Orientations, and Preschool Info Night to introduce ourselves and to inform parents about our role in the district. We thank the school administrators for their continued support in inviting SEPAC to speak to parents and raise awareness of the group.

SEPAC once again hosted National Inclusive Schools week in December. We sponsored a poster contest for students in grades K-3 and an essay contest for students in grades 4-6. Students submitted 10 entries from Boylston Elementary. All students received Certificates of Participation in a school assembly ceremony! The students work was then donated to the central office where they remain on display.

SEPAC assisted the PPS Director with a new Student Observation Policy.

We had several guest speakers throughout the year come and speak regarding various educational topics. Our guest speakers this year included:

1. Federation of Children with Special Needs presented "Suspension and Discipline in Special Education" in October.
2. Carla Mason presented the Annual Parent's Rights and Responsibilities in February
3. Dr. Joseph Moldover spoke about Executive Functioning in March
4. We also had a meeting to discuss the many ways Assistive Technology is currently being used in Special Education. Betsy Trudeau spoke about the many applications and software programs currently being used in the elementary schools and parents also shared their resources and ideas.
5. Sam Brown came to a meeting to tell us about Tahanto Buddies.

Our membership grew from 79 to 83 members by the end of the year.

Excellent Educator Awards have become an annual event for SEPAC. We were so pleased to honor 13 teachers and staff who have significantly impacted the education of our children with the award; 8 from Boylston Elementary and 5 from Berlin Memorial received a certificate from SEPAC and an anonymous letter from the parent(s) who nominated them. The awards were presented by the SEPAC Officers in a school ceremony and all teachers names were published in a press release to local newspapers. A copy of the award was also given to the administration to place into their permanent records and a press release.

SEPAC also once again awarded a graduating senior a Scholarship of \$300 to continue their education. Ashley Prunier of Boylston was the recipient this year.

We also said good-bye to our PPS Director, Judith Vaillancourt at the end of the year. We greatly enjoyed working with Judy during her years at the Berlin-Boylston districts and her guidance and support was always appreciated. SEPAC has grown and become a greater presence in the districts in part because of her consistent support of the group. We will miss Judy, and we are looking forward to establishing the same good working relationship with Karen Molnar.

SEPAC was successful in achieving many of our goals for the past school year, and continue to strive to increase our presence and awareness in the districts.

We will continue to:

- Communicate with Director of Pupil Personnel Services and the school committees.
- Attend district school meetings and give input to programs and policies
- Provide useful workshops for parents
- Work with all three principals to increase their awareness of our mission and activities, as well as promote our group to teachers and staff.
- Provide an ongoing resource to parents on the special education process and laws.

Our goals for the 2012-2013 School Year are:

1. Revamp and improve SEPAC website
2. Continue to expand National Inclusive Schools Week events
3. Invite staff and administrators to our events and presentations that may be related specifically to their field
4. Continue Excellent Educator Awards and Senior Scholarship recipient
5. Hold a Lyman Pie fundraiser in the fall to raise funds to support our scholarship and website improvement goals

SEPAC's board would like to sincerely thank the Berlin-Boylston School Committee and the school administration for their continued support of our activities. It is gratifying as a parent to know that your voice is listened to and your opinion is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Christina Stille  
Jill Mollica  
Karen Groccia  
Deanna King  
Angela Allred

Lori Michalak