



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** November 18, 2015 8:44PM
- Meeting Place:** Tahanto Multi Purpose Room
- In attendance:** Karen Groccia, Rochelle Peret, Karen Molnar, Jessica Meltzer, Kerry Lavallee, Janelle Fitzpatrick, Amy Gaspari, Chris Gould, Loren Gould, Jeffrey Perro, Deena Perro, Cynthia Moore, Kathy Lohnes
- Membership:** 97 members, 54 Yahoo! Group members, Facebook has approximately 46.
Rochelle Peret We should match who is on the Yahoo! group to who is on the Facebook group.
- Financial:** Current balance is \$1081.62, a pie check for \$16 still has to be deposited.
Kerry Lavallee There were 59 orders and a total of 127 pies. Our net profit was \$544.59.
- Communications:** We were invited to promote a couple of other talks that coincided with our presentation tonight. We received an email regarding countyoffices.org but did not see the connection to SEPAC.
- PR Report:** Our December, February and May meetings will be held at BMS. The Banner picked up tonight's presentation as a highlighted activity. Northboro-Southboro PAC promoted tonight's presentation as well. The Kindergarten info night will be held tomorrow, 11/19, at both BES and BMS, Kerry and Jess are covering, respectively. The yearbook ad was voted on for approval; we will go with a quarter-page ad. Karen created the National Inclusive Schools Week (NISW) flyer for school staff. The Hope club is doing a poster contest for Tahanto during NISW: "What does inclusion look like at Tahanto?" Copies of signatures of officers for form letters needed. Karen is tracking down prices for brochures, cards, and such. Survey questions are outstanding, will try to get them done in the beginning of 2016.
- PPS**
Karen Molnar The budget is taking a huge hit because we need to pay out a large sum of money for children in the district who have intensive needs the schools can't meet, and are therefore placed in a therapeutic school. State support is available but it doesn't come until two years down the road. The number of children moving in to the district and needing services is significant. Boylston has had quite a bit of building going on. Special education will likely come up a fair bit during budget discussions.

OLD BUSINESS

Lyman Pie Fundraiser

We sold 127 pies this year, down from 154 last year. Our net profit was \$544.59. Is the pie fundraiser something we should do every other year (as we did in the past) as it requires many extra hours of volunteer work, and do some smaller fundraiser the alternate year? Will we lose our market share on pie sales if we don't do it every year? Fundraising in the schools is competitive and everyone is looking for a new idea. We should compile ideas for other fundraisers. Possibly a fundraising event instead of something people just purchase, such as a paint night. It's a challenge because there are so many different groups that need to fundraise. It makes it hard to be successful. Other ideas include a restaurant fundraiser, Papa Ginos, Bertuccis and the Wings place in Shrewsbury all do one, and they are minimal effort. We could find something with a social aspect that would be enjoyable for parents.

NISW

Rochelle and Jessica spoke with the staff at the two elementary schools earlier this week. After every classroom's project is on display we should organize pictures with the principals and some children and teachers for us and the newspapers. Jay Groccia took great pictures the last time, and this will be a lot less effort. At Tahanto, the Hope Club is doing a poster contest and some activity (unspecified) at lunchtime.

Professionals list

There has been discussion of having a listing of professionals on our resources page, but this needs someone to take it on. How do we pick and choose professionals? It's not our role to endorse any of them, and we need to make sure anyone included in the list does not look as an endorsement. Another option is a general resource page with local groups pertaining to specific specialties which may be more generic but still be helpful. Groups like the Central MA Autism Resource Center, and the Parent/Professional Advisory League (PPAL) would be appropriate. We also should add "if you need more information on finding providers email us at info@."

Tahanto Yearbook Cost for a quarter page ad is \$65. Motion set forth and approved expense.

Parent survey questions

Possibility of working on this via email. Also, between our December and January meetings is a long stretch. That might be a good time to kick the questions around internally then present it to the members to get their input.

Cookie Swap

Our December meeting will start with a cookie swap before the general meeting, held at Berlin Memorial School. Label your cookies if they have allergens.

NEW BUSINESS

Karen Molnar will present Basic Rights at our January 27, 2016 meeting.

Scholarship Form

Karen will provide for the December meeting so we can vote on the money at the December meeting.

Kindergarten Orientation

Tomorrow night both elementary schools will be holding their Kindergarten information sessions. Jessica and Kerry will be presenting. We missed the preschool information night; it's normally in November.

School Meeting Reports:

BES School Council:

No SpEd issues to report

BMS School Council:

Literacy night was discussed.

Regional School Committee:

Rochelle gave report at November meeting. No SpEd issues to report

BMS School Committee:

BMS elevator has been out of order. Tracey F. will follow up

BES School Committee:

No SpEd issues to report

Tahanto STAAGS PTO:

No SpEd issues to report

Berlin LINK:

No SpEd issues to report

Boylston PTO:

No SpEd issues to report

M/s/p to adjourn Kerry and Karen

Meeting adjourned 9:41 pm

Approved:

Electronic approvals on file.

_____ Jessica Meltzer, Berlin Co-President

_____ Rochelle Peret, Boylston Co-President

_____ Karen Groccia, Vice President

_____ Kerry Lavallee, Treasurer

Submitted by:



Jessica Meltzer, Recorder



Rochelle Peret, Transcriber