SEPAC Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 19, 2018
Tahanto High School, Boylston

In attendance: Jessica Meltzer, Karen Groccia, Rochelle Peret, Karen Molnar, Mary Whamond-Fortier, Linda Checola, Hilary Johnston, Jannel Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Trudeau, Kathy Derdarian, Wendy Shepard, Karen Perry, Kerry Lavallee, Mollee Langelier, Esther Rhatigan

Meet & Greet (7:11pm)

Introductions

Items discussed:
- New Bridges program for children with more severe needs
- Chrome workstations
- Mr. Erle
- Berlin has new preschool special ed teacher – Kayla Donahue
- Berlin has new kindergarten special ed teacher – Liz McNally
- Refresh Day at Tahanto 10/4 (½ day of school)
  o High school only
  o First annual
  o Funded through Shine Foundation
  o Looking to do Middle School in Spring (maybe March)
  o Suggestions were offered to have such events around exam times
- Reminder of opioid talk 9/20
- Upcoming SEPAC events:
  o Person-Centered Planning in spring
  o Basic Rights
  o James Groccia’s experiences with Special Olympics
  o Molly
  o Joint meeting with W.Boylston
- Potential informational resources
  o AANE
  o Transition web sites from kadadarian@bbrds.org and Matt’s page too

General Meeting (7:49pm)

Discussions
- Next year’s first meeting
  o Less formal
- Less sitting
- More conversation
- Suggestion to have prizes for attracting more parents as Wachusett does
- Parent population seems to have more trouble getting out
- More behavioral talks may have draw
- Possibly start meeting earlier
  - Educators might prefer 6
  - Possibly take a poll on Facebook or elsewhere
- Places to possibly post about SEPAC and meetings
  - Tahanto’s information sign
  - Ace’s blog
  - PTOs
  - Berlin Old Home Day

**General Meeting**

**Minutes** - Rochelle Peret
- June minutes updated.
- What is the state of the May minutes?

**Membership** - Esther Rhatigan
- No current count update

**Financial Report** - Kerry Lavallee
- Current balance is $474.89.
- $150 to FCSN

**Communications** – Kerry Lavallee
- From Brittany re: Town Common show
  - Recording soon for October on 9/26
  - Kerry going to discuss Texas Roadhouse fundraiser

**Old Business**
- Election Results – Esther Rhatigan
  - Berlin Co-President - Jessica Meltzer
  - Vice President – Karen Groccia
  - Treasurer – Kerry Lavallee
  - Secretary – Esther Rhatigan
    - As Esther was not on the ballot, an appointment was necessary.
    - Motion made, seconded. With no requirement for discussion, as she had volunteered in addition to getting write-in votes, a vote was taken which made the appointment official.
- Open Houses at Berlin and Boylston and Tahanto
  - Berlin – 9/29 – 6-7:30pm
  - Boylston – 9/27 – 6-7:30pm
  - Tahanto – 10/4 – 12:30-2:30pm and 6:30-8:30pm
  - Open houses don’t need the box, just the green bag. (Karen consolidated everything.)
- Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser
  o Suggestion for future fundraisers – try to get folks to promote with paper forms
  o Texas Roadhouse will have a 20% Dine In night in addition to the gift card 20%
    • Have gift baskets to raffle
  o Sales at Berlin = $175 of cards, which means $35 to SEPAC
  o Discussion over whether or not to mail purchased cards
    • Large #s should be delivered
    • Small numbers can be considered
    • Need to decide

Public Relations - Karen Groccia
- HMEA added to resource links
- All 2018-19 meetings scheduled between Tahanto and BMS
- Google calendar updated
- Site updated with link to Square store
- Google docs minutes/agenda all set
- Created fundraiser flyer
- Sold gift cards at Boylston open house
- Needs to know how to change email address forwarding from Matt
- Transitioning from Berlin/Boylston to Berlin-Boylston and setting off-side (will be final by October)
- Kerry and Matt paid for a year of hosting/server coverage – Thank you!
- Karen suggested Jay’s server as a possible future solution

Pupil Personnel Services – Karen Molnar
- New staff at Berlin preschool and kindergarten as noted earlier
- The Bridges program is being used at BES for kids with more severe needs
- New 6th grade special ed teacher

New Business
- Representative search for the BES School Council
  o Ace looking to find someone
  o Kara Ekstrom will represent
    • Need to touch base with her for updates
- Yearbook ad – go/no-go
  o Go with a ¼ page ad
  o Question asked about history of scholarship amounts during discussion
    • Last 4 years - $300/$300, $500, $300, $300
- MassPac membership
  o Went out last week - renewed
- Mollee Langelier, Berlin SLP piloting new program for 8 weeks
- Special Olympics October or November talk? October
- No pie fundraiser this year
- Request has been made for the sheet fundraiser again
- Jessica suggested combining with W.Boylston for Person-Centered Planning in March
Swap location from Berlin to Tahanto, if possible
- Future thoughts
  - Add EI transition and early ed talks to draw in more parents
  - When is next preschool open house?
- Quick discussion about TEMPO music program in high school

School Meeting Reports
BES School Council
BMS School Council -
BES PTO
LINK
Boylston/Regional School Committee
Tahanto PTO

M/S/P to adjourn 9:13 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Esther Rhatigan

Approved:

_RP_ Rochelle Peret, Co-President
____JM__ Jessica Meltzer, Co-President

____Karen Groccia, Vice President
____Kerry Lavallee, Treasurer

____Esther Rhatigan, Secretary