

Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Spring 2023 Update to the ABRSC

Co-Chairs Abe Gutierrez, Amanda Bailey & Kara Lafferty



Our Mission

**To ensure understanding, respect, support,
and the appropriate education of all children
in our community.**

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council's
duties under state law include:

“advising the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities and meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the school district’s special education programs.”

The SEPAC's Role



Content inspired by Family Voices, "Assessing Family Engagement in Systems-Level Initiatives"

Outreach & Community Building

- Attended all open houses
- Hosted special education coordinators; connected with coordinators and principals
- Outreach to new School Committee members
- Ongoing participation with joint PTO/PTF/PTSO
- Presented to the Early Childhood Program PTO
- Met with ABRHS Accessibility Alliance
- Acton-Boxborough Family Network kindergarten social



ABRHS Accessibility Alliance



@accessibility_alliance

- Topics included the need for
 - Consistent accommodation implementation
 - Support when advocating
 - Coordination of post-secondary transition planning
 - Disability representation in curriculum
 - Anti-ableist practices
- Will meet in the fall to coordinate advocacy

Autism Listening Session

- Public listening session for caregivers to follow up on issues
- Feedback form for those unable to attend
- Goals are to establish:
 - 1) What is currently working well
 - 2) What would help to improve programming and services
- List of recommendations to be drafted and shared with the district in the fall



Community Education



- Annual Basic Rights presentation on Post-Secondary Transition Planning
- ADHD Essentials workshop
- Presentation to McCarthy-Towne PTO on continuum of student supports
- Resource sharing via newsletter and social media with emphasis on no-cost opportunities, languages other than English
- Information on new IEP form pending

Other Accomplishments

- Participated in State Tiered Focus Monitoring Process
- Tracked the FY24 budget process
- Advocacy regarding progress reporting and information sharing
- Drafting post-IEP meeting feedback form with Director
- Extensive discussion of School Resource Officers
- Assistant Special Education Director search
- Served on panel for new SEPAC officer orientation workshop through MassPAC

Looking Ahead

- Finalizing autism recommendations
- Policies and procedures regarding gen ed progress reporting
- Parent/guardian communication and engagement with MTSS
- Looking at post-secondary transition planning practices
- Relationship building with new Assistant Director, principals
- Engagement with Accessibility Alliance and other DEI groups
- Survey



Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting & Officer Elections

June 14, 2023

RJ Grey Junior High Library

6:30 p.m. Parent/Guardian Social

7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

Thanks & Contact Information

Our thanks to
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