

Minutes SBRSD SEPAC

Monday, May 8, 2017

Meeting called to order: 3:00 pm

Mt. Everett Eagles Loft
491 Berkshire School Road
Sheffield, MA 01257

Attendance: Joanne Duval, Ginevra Bull, Isidra Santos-Cruz, Maria Lopez, Sarah B Binger James, H. Dennis Sears

1. Approve minutes from last meeting
 - Sarah motioned to accept the minutes from the last Meeting
 - Isidra seconded
 - The minutes were approved unanimously

2. Discussion about voting.
 - Since only two votes were cast we decided to have everyone at the meeting eligible to vote cast a vote
 - We will leave the box in the special education office for two weeks then count the votes (May 22nd)

3. Meeting guest, H. Dennis Sears, from the SBRSD school committee and chair of the Finance Committee wanted to make the SEPAC aware and encourage us to give out information about the possible effects of the health care legislation that just past the house in Washington. The legislation includes language that would eliminate Medicaid reimbursements for public schools. Currently, our district is reimbursed about \$200,000.00 annually for services we provide eligible students. These services include speech, OT, PT etc. Mr. Sears has written a letter to the Berkshire Eagle entitled Building the Wall on the backs of Special Education

students and would like us to read it and use it (we can copy it) and send it out to parents, teachers, other schools and over social media. He is worried that this will impact our school in a profound way if it passes the senate without being changed. He encourages everyone to get involved. We need to get the message out! He plans to bring this up at the Finance Committee on May 10 and the notes will be on the SBRSD website.

4. Next, we worked on the upcoming SEPAC yearly calendar (bring ideas to share). The ideas we shared included the following:
 - a. Technology and Special Education
 - b. Testing
 - c. Autism
 - d. ADHD
 - e. Anxiety
 - f. A “Dad’s Only” workshop
 - g. Having a night like literacy night with different stations- maybe including the ones above
 - h. Volunteers in schools- how can you help?
 - i. “I think something might be off...” What do I do? Workshop
 - j. Planning for your child thru College
 - k. Fun night.... Paint and Sip
5. We also discussed the need for a Resource Guide for available community services...Where can you turn for help?
6. Communication of meetings- we tabled this discussion for the next meeting but touched on:
 - a. Having a rolling calendar for the school system on the website...new items added and old drop off.
 - b. Choice menu for announcements
7. **Date of next Meeting:** June 12th 3:00 pm Babysitting/Translator provided

