

Wayland SEPAC Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2022

Wayland Town Building
School Committee Meeting Room
41 Cochituate Road, Wayland, MA

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5290339939?pwd=K2RjZHZjZmxiZkZlVUcGdKTzZFUT09>
Meeting ID: 529 033 9939
Passcode: SEPAC22

SEPAC Board Members Present: Katy Andrus, Courtney Connery, Michelle Galicia, Christina Rodrigo, Gayle Gledhill, Julie Kannel, Lisa Bagley, Stephanie Holender.

School Administration Present: Dr. B.J. Cataldo

1. **Call to order: 7:00 p.m.**
2. **Approval of September 2022 Minutes:** Courtney Conery asked if anyone had changes, Julie Kannel asked to be added to the list of board members. The Board unanimously approved the minutes with the requested edit.
3. **Update on annual SEPAC Survey/request for volunteers:** Lisa Bagley discussed the annual survey. L. Bagley reported that eliminating the covid questions cut survey length by almost half. The annual survey team is looking for volunteers to help with editing, content and analysis, as well as helping to raise awareness and increase survey participation. The team is also looking for someone to shadow them so they can learn how to run the annual survey in future years. Discussed how this is the one piece of work product that goes to the school committee.
4. **Check in with Committees:**
 - a. **Liaisons** - C. Conery read an update provided by Katie Riffle: We are working hard to fill all of the liaison positions for each school, with only one remaining school needing to be filled. I met with Abigail Dressler, Director at TCW, to hear about all the wonderful changes being implemented now that TCW is a DESE approved program. We are working hard to brainstorm effective ways to send communications and announcements to school communities about SEPAC. Group discussed reaching out to new METCO coordinator to solicit a liaison.
 - b. **Events** - Michelle Galicia proposed speakers: Sara Ward (executive functioning), Tiffany Hogan (language based learning disabilities), and Nadine Gaab. C. Conery will request funds for a speaker at town wide PTO meeting 12/15. C. Conery will reach out to the Federation to schedule annual "Basic Rights" parent training.
 - c. **Community Resources** - Julie Kannel reported the bi-annual refresher will occur soon and will solicit suggestions from SEPAC members by email soon.

- d. **Technology** - L. Bagley would like people to share events from other local SEPACs on social media. K. Andrus proposed possibly having a high school student volunteer to help with SEPAC social media communications.
5. **Treasurer Update:** Gayle Gledhill reported \$130 earmarked for Zoom fee, \$464 in account and \$500 expected donation in early 2023.
6. **District Update:** Dr. Cataldo reported that she met yesterday with SEPAC leadership and received questions by email in advance of the meeting. She noted that she's been in Wayland barely 6 months, and is still learning something new every day. She said while there are holes that need to be filled, there are a lot of things that are doing well, including the wonderful teachers and children in this district. One of the big changes coming is to update the SPED website, where she plans to post a SPED handbook she has written for faculty that include timelines, policies and procedures, and programs offered in the district. Dr. Cataldo noted there had been questions about programs available in the district for the purpose of the SEPAC Annual Survey. She reported the following programs: Elementary level – 3 programs at CHS: ILC, SKIP (skills improvement program), LBLD. WMS: ARC (alternative resource center), LAP (language acquisition program), SAILS. WHS: Alt learning resource program, LRT, life skills.

Dr. Cataldo noted while the district has programs, it needs more, such as dyslexia. She said Dr. Easy wants more support for reading. A parent asked if the language based program at CHS is monitored and Dr. Cataldo said yes. Parent asked if FP (Fountas & Pinnels) is used as a metric, Dr. Cataldo said yes, but also DIBELS, and DIBELS is what drives progress monitoring. Dr. Cataldo said Foundations is being used, and the district also can use Wilson and Orton Gillingham (OG). A parent asked for the number of teachers who are certified in OG, Wilsons, etc. Dr. Cataldo said we have teachers trained in various reading programs, but not all are certified. A parent asked if Wayland teachers are using cueing reading techniques. Dr. Cataldo says new hires are trained not to use those methods and said general education students get Foundations 30 minutes a day, starting in TCW this year, in K-2, but not in 3rd grade yet. Some students receive additional services/strategies in reading, and progress is being monitored.

A parent reported that DIBELS scores are not being communicated to parents and Dr. Cataldo seemed surprised they were not communicated, and said she would talk to Karen Saxon and Michelle Crowell about informing parents of DIBELS scores. RTI process and Start process available as well.

Dr. Cataldo shared that she felt announcing Extended School Year (ESY) plans in June seems very late and that she is having discussions with SPED team leaders now so they can assess regression after the holiday break and make ESY decisions and inform parents. Dr. Cataldo is hoping to determine ESY eligibility and programming that will be offered in January-Feb. Dr. Cataldo noted this year's ESY offering may be different than

those in years past and will be focused on the needs of the children in the district. Parents expressed concerns about elopers, programs for executive function skills, social skills, transitions, and the Pegasus summer program that was replaced with a shortened 30 minute directed teaching program. Dr. Cataldo said she would look into it. A parent expressed concerns with Pegasus students missing OT, PT, Speech because of parents bringing kids for PT OT SLP and services not starting on schedule.

Dr. Cataldo says team leaders will be meeting Monday to discuss SEL (social emotional learning) programming. She wants to build better, more therapeutic programs, especially post-pandemic. She said research shows middle school girls aged more than boys during the pandemic because of anxiety, and all children missed two years of building stamina, and resiliency for schedule changes.

Dr. Cataldo says she meets with each principal each week to check in, she's looking to work with them to enhance programs. She's also looking to increase awareness of reading, LB programs. Her and Dr. Easy want to start a blog to share new research and resources. Would like OOD (out of district) children to stay connected to the community.

7. **Formation of parent support groups:** C. Conery said she wanted to restart parent support groups and asked anyone interested in helping to organize the groups to reach out to her. C. Conery hopes to get the groups up and running in early 2023.
8. **Questions and Concerns/Unanticipated Items:** None.
9. **Adjourn:** 8:07 p.m.

Next meeting is planned for February; a social gathering is possible for January.