



Wayland SEPAC

Wayland SEPAC General Meeting

April 6, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Wayland Town Building

School Committee Meeting Room

41 Cochituate Road, Wayland, MA

And by Zoom

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order: 7:35 p.m.

17 people in attendance total in person and zoom

Board members present: Katy Andrus, Courtney Conery, Stephanie Holender, Michelle Galicia, Lisa Bageley, Julie Kannell, Gayle Gledhill

Dr Cataldo, Interim Director of SPED, Ellen Grieco, Wayland School Committee

2. SEPAC Board Members to approve meeting minutes from 03/02/23 meeting by roll call vote. Minutes approved.

3. District Special Ed Update: (Dr. Cataldo, Interim Dir. Special Education)

- Dr Cataldo participated in 8th grade coffee via zoom with families. They did a presentation on what it was like for students to come up to the high school and what the liaison process is. They may try to do something similar at the elementary school level.
- Dr Cataldo interviewed three people for the ESY coordinator, but currently does not have anyone. She has had parents contact her to try and to make arrangements more flexible around camp schedules for tutoring in either morning or afternoon. All tutoring should be done by 3pm unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- The school committee meeting reported that they rehired Susan Boton for the business manager position. She will start on July 1. Interviews are underway for the assistant director of special education position, the interim assistant superintendent and Happy Hollow principal position. The district is also looking for an interim director of special education for next year. Allyson Mizoguchi did not get the Superintendent position in Lincoln-Sudbury and will be staying as principal at WHSI.
- There was a \$39,000 grant for METCO for students on IEPs to provide services where the students are living.
- Dr Cataldo recently served as the speaker for learning disabilities unit the

Just Like Me program for 4th graders at Claypit and Loker. The 3rd graders had a presentation of deafness and being hard of hearing.

- DESE will conduct a Tiered Focus Monitoring (TFM) of Wayland Schools next year. Wayland will do a self assessment in the spring. DESE will come in the fall to do record checks and interviews with parents, the SEPAC and administrators. The district is working to address certain issues that will be evaluated. The TFM looks specifically at special education and civil rights. DESE monitoring happens every three years. It is a completely digitized process. TCW will be included in this next evaluation that will determine if Wayland is complying with education laws. DESE will ask for fifteen records across the district of multiple ages and situations.

4. Survey Update: (Lisa Bagley, Technology)

The SEPAC closed the survey at the end of March and got 316 responses total, which is a record number of responses. We cast a wider net and asked everyone in the district to respond, even if they do not currently have an IEP or 504. The survey was for anyone who has concerns about their child's progress. We learned that pushing it out to multiple organizations was very helpful. The response was three times larger than last year. The survey is currently in analysis from the raw data that was acquired. The data will eventually be presented to the school committee. The survey requested that only one survey per child be completed.

5. Events Update: (Michelle Galicia, Events/Planning)

Save the Date! Thursday, April 27, 2023

Speaker Kate Radville, Doctoral student at Speech and Language Literacy Lab MGH, will provide an overview of Developmental Language Disorder (DLD), including issues related to terminology, advocacy, and supporting children. It will discuss DLD and literacy, including the relationship between DLD and dyslexia.

Save the Date! Wednesday, May 10th, at 7 p.m.

SEPAC Parent Social - Location: TBD, most likely 110 Grill

6. Co-Chair Announcements (Katy Andrus/Courtney Conery)

- Donation from PTO - \$1500/year (or \$300 from each of the 5 schools) will be set aside for SEPAC. Courtney noted that we are working to book speakers with other SEPACs to defray the cost and they hope to bring in more speakers now that we've secured additional funding. The PTO money can be used for general SEPAC expenses and not just speakers. It is not coming from the town wide budget but only from the individual schools.
- Just Like Me Program - Courtney reported that the program had a successful kickoff at both Claypit and Loker. Happy Hollow will participate in June.
- Parent Support Groups - Parents are looking for community. They have merged ADHD and ASD. However, if the group gets too big and wants to

splinter off they can. There are currently three support groups but they can add more as needed:

- SLD/Dyslexia - Sarah Morris and Nina Ching
- ADHD/Autism - Katy Cavallo and Amari Harrison
- Health/Medical Needs - Marni Canterbury
- Fundraising - Need volunteer to run a committee. Would like to do a fundraiser this spring. It is helpful now that they have funding through the PTO. However they could use extra funds for some office expenses. That way the money can be used towards speakers and education. Marni will look at Mabel's Labels to see if this could be a potential fundraiser.
- Special Ed Staff Appreciation - It was done last year in the spring, but SEPAC has not done it yet this year. Katie Riffle has been helping with the coordination and determining how many staff there are and what we can give them. Dr Cataldo suggested possibly hand written thank you notes.
- SEPAC Bylaws Update - SEPACs are no longer held to open meeting law (OML), so we are stripping out all of the OML of the language since it doesn't apply anymore. Also adding a vice chair position which is not currently a position that we have. This way it can be a pipeline to possibly becoming a co-chair in the future. Changing board election date from June to May or June.
- 2023-2024 SEPAC Board Elections - We will need at least one but possibly two secretaries and also someone for the technology role. The survey is now on google forms and Lisa will be able to train the next person who takes the technology role. Someone can nominate themselves or someone else during a SEPAC meeting or by sending an email to waylandsepac@gmail.com. Katie Andrus and Courtney Conery were nominated as co-chairs of the SEPAC. Marni Canterbury wasto continue as treasurer. Michelle Galacia was nominated for events.

7. Questions/Unanticipated items:

- The middle school PTO at the town wide PTO has expressed interest in a Just like me style program at the middle school level.
- The group discussed the need for implementing SEL programming at all the schools, but at the middle and high schools in particular that would address learning differences. The group discussed the challenges in implementing a district wide SEL program, including cost, staff buy-in and training. One member suggested SEPAC partner with a SPED administrator and apply for a grant from the Wayland Public School Foundation to fund a SEL program that has a component that addresses learning differences.
- Ellen Greico suggested the SEPAC get in front of the school committee in August or September with any items that require budget because that is when the school budgeting process begins.

8. Adjourn: 9:30 p.m.

Next meeting Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.