

SNAC



Special Needs Advisory Council

Nantucket, Massachusetts

Laura Steele, Suzanne Fronzuto – Co-Chairs

SNAC Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2020

(Note: The meeting was held by video conference via ZOOM App)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM, facilitated by co-chair Laura Steele. There were 12 people in attendance. In order to respect privacy in the online format, attendees are reminded that no recording or screenshots of the meeting are permitted. After an opening welcome and participant introductions, the minutes from the April 15, 2020 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Director Update:

- Michele Boebert, Ph.D., Director of Special Services/Nantucket Public Schools provided a recap of the of Nantucket Public Schools Remote Learning Plan: Phase 1 (optional) beginning week of March 23; Phase 2 (required) April 6 – focus on deepening skills; and current phase (required) power standards – focus on teaching new things. Replying to a question posed by a parent in attendance about the school's response to students who are not adequately engaging, Michele explained that part of the response is a safety check in addition to coming up with a plan for priorities and must-do items. Michele clarified that a 'PE' (Partially Engaged) is a pass for the school year.

Michele announced that the MCAS was waived and will start again next year.

Due to April vacation week being forfeited, the last day of school will be June 22nd as scheduled, with last day for teachers June 23rd.

Special ed summer school plans are in progress, with the options of in-school learning or continuation of an all-remote model under consideration, with focus on specialized instruction (reading, speech and language, etc.) OT and Speech sessions can be provided in a teletherapy model. The ability for some students to follow safeguards during in person learning (wearing a mask, keeping 6 feet distance, etc.) were noted as potentially challenging for in person learning. In a remote model, the timeframe is expected to be about 1.5 hours per day, with other resources (such as padlets) and therapies. Remote learning will have many of the same staff carrying over from previous remote learning. Parents with qualifying students should be receiving the summer school reservation paperwork soon.

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The SNAC will support, guide, advocate, advise and educate parents, Nantucket schools, and the community on the rights and needs of children with disabilities and their families.

Special Needs Advisory Council

SNAC Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2020

Page 2

Director Update (cont'd):

The district is meeting about once per week for ongoing planning, including discussions about the possibility of adding social activities for students should island summer camps be cancelled. Parents in attendance provided feedback both on interest for these activities as well as potential challenges with scheduling and transportation.

Fall planning update includes a new developmentally appropriate model for the IDSC at NES, with grade level classes set up to avoid labels between social-emotional and intellectual disabilities and facilitate inclusion. NES will also hiring two new SPED teachers. A replacement is being sought for Cara Nielson, who is leaving to pursue her Master's degree, and interviews are taking place for a replacement counsellor at NIS. The school is looking to hire a new team chair for CPS/NHS, as well as a team chair/psychologist for NES. It has been announced that Mike Horton is the new CPS principal. Mandy Vasil is the new principal of NHS.

New Business:

- *SNAC Year in Review:* Co-chair Suzanne Fronzuto presented highlights of the past year including annual presentations and workshops on Basic Rights, IEPs, along with speakers and guest presenters at various monthly meetings. A high point of the past year was a rountable discussion on afterschool programs and summer camps attended by guests representing eight different island organizations. The gathering, which was held during the February SNAC meeting, included a robust and open discussion between parents and the program providers about inclusion opportunities for special needs kids. The plan is to hold this again next year, earlier in the year and with more publicity. A job fair planned for April did not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be rescheduled for next year. The SNAC also deepened its leadership bench with the addition of school liaisons, building out its team beyond customary board member roles and expanding its ability for outreach and parent support.
- *SNAC Parent Welcome Letter:* Suzanne created this new outreach tool, which contains an introduction of the SNAC and resource information. The plan is to have the letter go out in the packet sent out to parents in the new school year, with additional copies provided as new students are identified. Michele said she could include the letter with the Notice of Procedural Safeguards mailing that she sends out in August.
- *Meeting Schedule for the 2020-2021 School Year:*

<u>SEP:</u>	09/23/20	<u>JAN:</u>	01/20/21	<u>MAY:</u>	05/19/21
<u>OCT:</u>	10/21/20	<u>FEB:</u>	02/17/21	<u>JUN:</u>	No meeting
<u>NOV:</u>	11/18/20	<u>MAR:</u>	03/17/21	<u>JUL:</u>	Summer
<u>DEC:</u>	No meeting	<u>APR:</u>	No meeting	<u>AUG:</u>	Break

Michele will schedule the library and add meeting dates to the school's refrigerator calendar.

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Special Needs Advisory Council

SNAC Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2020

Page 3

New Business (cont'd):

- *Board Member Elections:*

Co-Chair	<i>Suzanne Fronzuto</i>
Co-Chair	<i>Laura Steele</i>
Secretary / Co-Liaison CPS	<i>Lora Kebbati</i>
Social Media Officer	<i>Jean Witt</i>
Liaison-NES	<i>Grace Hull* and Denise Badders-Perry</i>
Liaison-NIS	<i>Sarah Hollis</i>
Liaison-CPS	<i>Mandy Mason*</i>
Liaison-NHS	<i>Kristen Dussault</i>
Liaison-Nantucket New School	<i>Alison Johnson</i>

**Nominated in absentia*

The next SNAC meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2020 at 6:00PM. It is anticipated the meeting will again take place via Zoom app.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. All non-parents signed off so the Uncommon Parents support group meeting could begin.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Kebbati, Secretary of SNAC

Approved through a vote of SNAC members on _____.

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