

SNAC



## Special Needs Advisory Council

Nantucket, Massachusetts

*Laura Steele, Suzanne Fronzuto – Co-Chairs*

SNAC Meeting Minutes

**September 23, 2020**

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM with 10 people in attendance. After an opening welcome and participant introductions, the minutes from the May 20, 2020 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

### Director Update:

- Deb Gately, Director of Special Services introduced herself and provided the following update:
  - Evaluations: Team chairs and school psychologists from all the schools are working on catching up on evaluations from the time period of the Governor's stay-at-home order in March.
  - Procedural Safeguards: A mailing is planned for the DESE's annual *Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards* and updates.
  - Special Services Webpage: The Department of Special Services webpage on the NPS website is being updated for better accessibility and for direct links to reach the Special Services Director.
  - Learning Plans: Individual learning plans will be sent home to advise parents how their student(s) are doing.
  - Staff Training: As part of professional development, school social workers were trained on new screening for universal assessment on social emotional needs.
  - BCBA: NPS behavior analyst Laura Stanley, BCBA is currently working on ways to best support students in the classroom.
  - ASPEN: Training on the ASPEN portal was recently conducted by Lauren Murray and Becky Earle.
  - Survey: A survey will be sent to parents and families seeking feedback on what's working and what's not.
  - Teachers teaching teachers: The school's goal is to maximize the extensive knowledge base among teaching staff.

Meeting participants followed up with questions for Deb centered around remote learning, the mixing of cohorts within the school day, and student/staff access to PPE.

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## New Business:

- Parent Check-In: Parents shared their impressions and feedback on school since the new year began on September 16<sup>th</sup> in the remote learning model. Discussion included some basic challenges parents noticed around their student sitting still and talking or interrupting rather than hand raising or using the chat feature in Google Meet. Another parent noted how the small group setting in certain subjects worked best for their student and how the 'pull-out' model played out better than expected in remote learning. Other parents expressed interest in opportunities that would offer their child more social opportunities and interaction with peers. Ideas suggested were Cub Scouts, Nantucket STAR, and social skills groups. NIS special education teacher Cara Seal suggested parents finding another parent/child to pod with. Deb Gately pointed out that parents might find and connect with each other once school began in the hybrid model and it became be more clear which students would be attending remotely, and further suggested parents reaching out to their student's school guidance counsellor as well. Meeting participants also shared their picks for favorite programs and apps their own kids have enjoyed for fun, physical activity or extracurricular learning, such as Outschool, Ack Trails, Geocatching, and Choiceworks.
- Welcome Back Videos: The pre-arrival videos created for students returning to NHS and NIS were a big hit. NES Special Services Team Chair & School Psychologist Michelle Cadavid will inquire with NES about their plan to do a video as well. CPS school nurse Jessica Douglas, RN shared that a video was also being created for the middle school.

The next SNAC meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2020 at 6:00PM. The meeting will again take place via Zoom app.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 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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