



Special Needs Advisory Council

Nantucket, Massachusetts

Laura Steele – Chair

Special Needs Advisory Council (SNAC) Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM with 9 people in attendance. Meeting was facilitated by SNAC Chair, Laura Steele.

Minutes from the January 16, 2019 meeting were approved and seconded.

Old business/ Updates

- Election discussion moved to end of meeting to welcome Mr. Steve Sortevik from the School Committee who attended the meeting.
- Autism Speaks Transition workshop feedback: Presenter was very knowledgeable and provided great resources for families. Workshop was well attended for a Sunday afternoon.
- Visions of Community (all day workshop through the Federation for Children with Special Needs) feedback: Laura attended the SEPAC presentation and came away with some great ideas to increase parent involvement and attendance at our SNAC meetings.
Ex: Facebook live meetings and events – with closed group for meetings
Perfect Pals – utilize students for parents who may have childcare issues
Meetings offered at different times- daytime meeting, monthly coffees
Bring a friend to a meeting

The presenter also spoke about a new federal grant that will create a statewide Family Engagement Center in Massachusetts designed to lead improvements in student development and academic achievement for all learners.

- NEXT update
New logo designed by high school student Owen Hudson. Facebook page is being developed as well as gmail address. Business plan needs to be written to secure preplanning money for feasibility study. Laura and Suzanne will meet with Inquirer & Mirror reporter, David Creed, who will track the ongoing developments of the organization.

New business/discussion

- What is currently in place and where can we do more to engage parents and families?
- Coordinated Family Community Engagement Grant – Pauline Cronin, Nantucket Community School, tracks ages birth-8. The Community School has several programs designed to support children and families.
- NPS has a parent registration liaison, Sarah Erichsen, to help parents with school registration and enrollment,
- Title I Parent University at NIS – ex. Math nights to introduce parents to Eureka math so they can assist with homework

- Recommendations:
SNAC liaison at each building level
September meet and greet
SNAC table at each school's Open House
Coffee get-togethers to answer questions, suggest resources
Welcome packet for pre-school

District news: (Michele Brady)

- New speech and language pathologist hired
- Transition meeting for 8th grade students moving to high school next year is April 9th CPS Cafeteria
- Upcoming workshops: April 2 – Accessing Insurance for Autism Supports
April 10 – KITS training

Membership suggestions moving forward:

- Invite OT, PT, SPL to meeting so parents can learn about what happens in therapy
- Invite building principals, new superintendent
- Schedule Mike Horton, Title I Coordinator to next meeting
- Invite summer camp providers; parents looking for supports for kids with disabilities so they can attend
- Wish-list of workshops, agendas, etc. for planning purposes

The next meeting of the SNAC will be held on May 15, 2019 at 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Fronzuto. Secretary of SNAC

Approved through a vote of SNAC members on _____

The SNAC is organized to empower parents, school staff and community professionals to collaborate in a positive decision making process to plan and implement educational programs for students with special needs.

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.