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TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Meeting Posting

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Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by G.L. c. 30 A, c. §18-25)

DEPT./BOARD: Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)
DATE: March 2, 2021
TIME: 6:30pm ET
PLACE: VIRTUAL MEETING using WebEx



- Review/acceptance Minutes/Q&A from 12/2020 meeting (available online)
- Debrief programming
 - BR from Jan. 2021
 - parent support sessions
- District update – Mary
 - Status of state dyslexia guidelines and how this will move forward in Burlington
- plan for nominations/elections 2021-22 Board
- Brief Financial update
- Other Board position updates
- Subcommittee discussion
 - Literacy sub committee proposal- Heather Peckham
- Discuss whether we should support impact statement for full-time school
- DEI director hiring update - parent panel
- Discussion of how school year is going with
 - Snow days
 - Remote, Hybrid and impact on our families
- Community comment /Questions/Request

WebEx Meeting Information

Meeting link:

<https://townofburlington.webex.com/townofburlington/j.php?MTID=ma8defa24087a4e92500721eb04c3f1f1>

Meeting number:

129 558 1938

Password:

KEkfGUSv222



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Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm on WebEx. Present were: Ms. Elizabeth Melo, Ms. Megan Nawoichik, Ms. Beth Colburn, Ms. Becky Norum. Ms. Heather Murphy joined a few minutes late. District was represented by Ms. Mary Houde.

District Update	<p>Dyslexia Screening (Director of SPED, Mary Houde)</p> <p>As of now, the K-5 dyslexia screenings are appropriate to state standards Director Deborah Clark at the BECC is determining the preschool screening process.</p> <p>Ms. Houde indicated that we start with Dibbles in Kindergarten and screen throughout K-5. If a student isn't progressing, we look at the screens to get information on why.</p> <p>Ms. Houde will put together more on the screener and send to SEPAC.</p> <p>Extended / Full Day School</p> <p>Administration was notified last week that the DESE Commissioner's objective is to have elementary students back full days starting on April 5. The board of Education is meeting on Friday and a week later districts will get more guidance on this.</p> <p>Burlington elementary schools are moving forward to be ready for full-time, in-person school on April 5.</p> <p>Remote academy will stay as is this school year.</p> <p>District is looking to hire two remote academy special education teachers to take over remote instruction from several instructors who are currently teaching in-school who will now be needed full-time in class.</p> <p>The majority of the time being added to elementary is non-instructional and mostly related to lunch and recess. Looking for more guidance on how to do lunch safely, for example whether lunch will be in classrooms or cafeteria.</p> <p>District is looking for drafts of the new schedule during the next few weeks.</p> <p>Parents asked when there is remote learning but a child has a 1:1 he struggles to access curriculum can he go to space in school with just his 1:1 if it was safe?</p> <p>Dr. Conti said this shouldn't be a problem as long as it isn't a safety issue.</p> <p>Kindergarten day will be extended to full day as we don't currently have buses to send Kindergarten home midday.</p> <p>Commissioner said middle and high school schedule changes will follow, but no details have been provided yet; Burlington administration has started looking at impact for middle</p>
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	<p>and high school assuming this is coming shortly after elementary returning to full-time. At MSMS and BHS, 3 feet distance would be needed to fit students full-time.</p> <p>There may be some disruption to services during this time. Compensatory services will be done if needed.</p> <p>District may ask after-school employees to help for coverage during the day for additional coverage; other ideas are being considered.</p>
Plan for Nominations / Elections 2021-2022 board	<p>Ms. Melo described the process. Nominations will happen by the end of April with a vote in May so there is time in June for a board transition. People can be nominated for, or self-nominate. Voting will be done on-line (secret ballot) like last year during the meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Nawoichik and Ms. Colburn stressed to meeting attendees that the board isn't the only way to be involved, SEPAC has opportunities in sub-committees and any areas of interest that people would like to be involved in.</p>
Financial Update	<p>Ms. Murphy reported that we haven't spent money, or taken in any, so finances remain the same.</p>
Other Board Position Updates	<p>Ms. Melo inquired if we should repeat the SEPAC award this year. Ms. Colburn will take the lead on that.</p>
Subcommittee discussions: Literacy sub-committee proposal	<p>Ms. Melo noted that at the last family support discussion, a literacy subcommittee was discussed. Ms. Peckham is interested in a committee whose purpose is bringing together parents around literacy, struggling readers/writers, language-based learning disabilities to better educate district parents on these. She envisions that the group could collect and share resources like the district dyslexia screening processes. She is open to other ideas like working with Ms. Houde to understand how a parent group can better support the district as well as parents.</p> <p>Ms. Houde noted that there are a lot of spots where help would be very helpful and she would be interested in her and/or team chairs to formalize/stabilize assessment around this area.</p> <p>Ms. Melo and Ms. Nawoichik expressed support and interest for this subcommittee.</p> <p>SEPAC board unanimously (5-0) voted to support creating the sub-committee. SEPAC board unanimously (4-0-1) (Ms. Nawoichik abstained) voted to appoint Ms. Nawoichik as SEPAC board representative on the sub-committee led by Ms. Peckham.</p>
Full Time Impact Statement	<p>Discuss whether we should support impact statement for full-time school</p> <p>This topic was skipped as no longer relevant given DESE's instructions for full-time learning.</p>
DEI director hiring update - parent panel	<p>SEPAC board was asked to provide a parent representative to serve on a parent hiring panel for the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI). SEPAC board unanimously voted to appoint Ms. Norum to this (4-0-1, with Ms. Norum abstaining).</p>



	Participants spent a few minutes brainstorming questions to ask.
Community Participation	n/a

