

MSEPTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 19th, 2020 6:30pm

General Meeting:

Mita Bhattacharya, Jocelyn Pena, Joann Tonkin, Mark Accardi, Cindy White, Heather Mondillo, Jin Patel, Amy Gomez, Ali Batliwala, Michelle Russo, Mellisa Deutsch, RoseAnn Sands, Cookie Franco-Herman, Monique Dujue, Joann Orlando, Tiffany Yordan, Meredith Delaney, Jen Volfson, Jaime Gostkowski, Maureen Daniels, Susan Delaney, Rose Acerra, Zelda Wallace, Jillian Chianese, Patrick Todd, Denise Sciascia, phone(?)

- SEPAG Informational Session, presented by a representative by SPAN (Statewide parent advocacy network); Monique (SPAN), Cindy, Rose (Ocean Twp SEPTA/SEPAG)
 - SPAN; first stop for family needs to navigate education and health/mental systems for your child
 - START: engaging parents of students with disabilities; work with SEPAGS and PTA's and PTO's to improve student outcomes
 - NJ code: 6A:14-1.29(h); each BOE shall ensure a special ed parent advisory group is in place in the district to provide input to the district on issues concerning students with disabilities.
 - Cindy, founded Ocean Twp SEPAG
 - 17.9% of NJ children have classification and receive special ed services
 - access info from DOE website
 - Montgomery, 14% students classified; can request data and analyze
 - SEPAG must be meaningful, parent driven and collaborative
 - Recommend to introduce SEPAG at BOE
 - Bring up Special Ed issues whenever you can; test scores, bussing, curriculum
 - Concentrate on cost; more student help at earlier grades results in less help / cost in later grades
 - disciplinary needs; 80% have IEP's and 504s
 - consider gifted and talented/twice exceptional students
 - parent groups per diagnosis
 - Consider partnering/bench marking with other SEPAG's throughout year
- MHS & LMS Liaison search
 - looking for both
- BOE liaison report
 - Jin Patel: 40% hybrid; 60% virtual students; health dept decides if school shuts down; anti-racism initiative, looking for 2 student reps
 - **Action: Jin** send out more info to find a special ed student rep

- Special Services Director update
 - Mark:
 - lead replacement for middle school supervisor who is out on maternity
 - Started hybrid instruction, evaluating needs of students; self-contained full week back and rolling out / phasing in other students
 - Kristen looking forward to collaborative work with SEPAG
- Teacher liaison reports
 - Mark/Jillian: teachers are looking at grants for hybrid instruction
 - **Action:** Send grant reminder to Mark and Jillian
- Parent liaison reports
 - RoseAnn: MES PTA; first general membership meeting on Wedn; promote rising above noise and parent involvement; PTA your way, focus on inclusiveness and accurate portrayal of all students
 - Maureen: middle school PTA, started fund raising
- Newsletter/FB (Heather)
 - not alot of input from other PTA's
 - RoseAnn and Maureen to send relevant info for newsletter
- Membership (JoAnn)
 - July 2020 to present: 16 teachers, 2 community members, 1 student and 35 parents/families
 - **Action:** Jocelyn/Mita to ask Kristen and principals to send out MSEPTA membership email, cc Jin
- Masks (Jocelyn)
 - 12 youth and 8 adults left