

**PVCICS SEPAC Meeting
September 7, 2016**

Present:

Diane Preston, SEPAC Chair

Christie Fontaine, Special Education Coordinator

Rose Carr (for the second half of the meeting only)

Three other parents

Meeting called to order at 9:15 AM by Diane Preston.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was a discussion about the level of support for SPED students in Chinese. It was noted that the stated goals and objectives of an IEP are to support Massachusetts state standards, but there are no Massachusetts state standards for Chinese proficiency. Further, someone asked how students are fully supported in K-5th math when math is taught in Chinese but there are no standards for Chinese proficiency.

A parent asked whether PVCICS report cards are standards-based or not standards-based. Ms. Fontaine said that she has seen different approaches in different school districts, and that she would research the school's policy. Attendees noted that report cards have a significant impact on students' self-esteem and this is an important issue requiring further evaluation.

NEW STAFF

Ms. Fontaine, SPED Coordinator, was introduced and gave a brief history of her experience.

Ms. Lilin Tseng is a new full-time special education teacher.

Mr. David Bulley is the new high school administrator.

Ms. Dorothy Hartman has moved into the role of middle school administrator.

The school continues to interview and look for candidates for the open full-time school psychologist position.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION and COORDINATION

The SEPAC would like to know more about the implementation and coordination of Response to Intervention (RTI), Second Step, and Responsive Classroom, as well as new methodologies for middle school and high school, particularly behavior management and peer mediation programs that have been mentioned in the past. No one from the school administration was present to address these questions.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULING and MassPAC INFO

A flyer about joining the MassPAC was distributed, but the SEPAC does not have funds for the annual membership fee. The "Plus" membership for \$450 included a free Annual Rights Workshop, but this seemed an expensive means of obtaining the required workshop. The SEPAC asked whether Rose Carr would present the workshop again this year, although that is undecided.

SURVEY RESULTS

The results of the SEPAC Parent Satisfaction Survey for 2015-16 were distributed. Narrative responses to a question about RTI were distributed to illustrate the apparent lack of understanding among survey respondents about RTI and how it operates.

Ms. Fontaine noted that the level of RTI at PVCICS is excellent and implemented very well as compared to other school districts. The SEPAC suggested working with the RTI coordinators to develop better methods of communication with parents about the program.

It was suggested that for the next survey, respondents should be asked to indicate the grade level of their student(s) and provide suggestions for improvement. Specifically, a question should ask parents to recommend the best method of communication.

The discussion about ways the SEPAC can be helpful and collaborate with the school was postponed due to time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45.