



SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

SudburySEPAC.org

Policy Proposal Regarding the District's Special Education Parent Advisory Council

January 27, 2020
Presentation to Sudbury School Committee

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Sudbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Who we are

We are a volunteer advisory council of (PreK-8) families who collaborate with administrators, educators, and School Committee to continuously improve student outcomes and well-being. We also serve as a resource to local families of students with disabilities.

By the Numbers

22% of Students with IEPs/504s

499 Students with IEPs

88 Students with 504s

2,667 All Students (PK-8)

DESE October 2019 Enrollment

Our Work

- Advise the district, including the Director of Student Services and School Committee, on operations and development of special education programs, parent and teacher training needs, and help to develop policy
- Facilitate communication between parents and school officials
- Encourage understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of students with disabilities
- Offer opportunities to increase awareness of issues and best practices pertaining to students with disabilities
- Provide opportunities for families to network

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Source

SPS Policy File: AD

We are committed to excellence in educating students to be knowledgeable, creative, independent thinkers who are caring, collaborative members of the school and wider communities

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (AB) Policy File: BDFB

It is the general goal of the District to foster relationships with parents/guardians, which encourage cooperation between the home and school in establishing and achieving common educational goals for students.

SPS Proposed Policy

The Sudbury School District's Mission is to educate students to be knowledgeable, creative, independent thinkers who are caring, collaborative members of the school and wider communities

It is the general goal of the District to foster relationships with parents/guardians, which encourage cooperation between the home and school in establishing and achieving common educational goals for students.

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Source

Massachusetts G. L. c. 71B, § 3 (& AB Policy File BDFB)

The school committee of any city, town, or school district shall establish a parent advisory council on special education. Membership shall be offered to all parents of children with disabilities and other interested parties. The parent advisory council duties shall include but not be limited to: advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school committee's special education programs. The parent advisory council shall establish by-laws regarding officers and operational procedures. In the course of its duties under this section, the parent advisory council shall receive assistance from the school committee without charge, upon reasonable notice, and subject to the availability of staff and resources.

SPS Proposed Policy

The School Committee shall establish a parent advisory council on special education. Membership shall be offered to all parents of children with disabilities and other interested parties. The parent advisory council duties shall include but not be limited to: advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school committee's special education programs. The parent advisory council shall establish by-laws regarding officers and operational procedures. In the course of its duties under this section, the parent advisory council shall receive assistance from the school committee without charge, upon reasonable notice, and subject to the availability of staff and resources.

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Source

Massachusetts G. L. c. 71B, § 3

advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities

AB Policy File: BDFB-R

1. In accordance with School Committee policy, File BDFB, the School Committee may each year, subject to availability of member resources, appoint one or more of its members as the liaison(s) to the Special Education Parent Advisory Council for the term of one school year. The liaison(s) will be responsible for attending Special Education Parent Advisory Council meetings periodically and reporting back to the School Committee on the results of these meetings.

SPS Proposed Procedure

1. In accordance with School Committee's policy, File BDFB, the School Committee may each year, subject to availability of member resources, appoint one or more of its members as the liaison(s) to the Special Education Parent Advisory Council for a term of one school year. The liaison(s) will be responsible for attending the Special Education Parent Advisory Council meetings periodically and reporting back to the School Committee on the results of these meetings.

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Source

Massachusetts G. L. c. 71B, § 3

advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities

AB Policy File: BDFB-R

2. The Special Education Parent Advisory Council will be invited to present to the School Committee two times a year to share the organizations' annual goals or other topics related to the education and safety of students with special needs.

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council presentations to the School Committee shall be made at a September or October meeting and a June or July meeting, unless otherwise mutually agreed. Moreover, the Special Education Parent Advisory Council is welcome to request time on the School Committee's meeting agenda and/or email input to the School Committee at any time.

SPS Proposed Procedure

2. In accordance with School Committee's policy, File BDFB, the Special Education Parent Advisory Council will be invited to present to the School Committee two times a year to share the organizations' annual goals or other topics related to the education and safety of students with special needs.

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council presentations to the School Committee shall be made at a meeting at the beginning of the school year and a meeting at the end of the school year, unless otherwise mutually agreed. Moreover, the Special Education Parent Advisory Council is welcome to request time on the School Committee's meeting agenda and/or email input to the School Committee at any time.

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Source

Massachusetts G. L. c. 71B, § 3

meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school committee's special education programs

AB Policy File: BDFB-R

3. In accordance with the School Committee's policy, File BDFB, the Director of Special Education and the Special Education Parent Advisory Council chairperson(s) will meet at least quarterly to discuss the planning, development and evaluation of the district's special education programs. Meeting once a month has proven beneficial to support parent-school collaboration and communication. Other staff, Special Education Parent Advisory Council Board members and the School Committee liaison(s) may also be included in these meetings.

SPS Proposed Procedure

3. In accordance with the School Committee's policy, File BDFB, the Director of Student Services and the Special Education Parent Advisory Council chair (or co-chair) will meet at least quarterly to discuss planning, development, and evaluation of the districts' special education programs. Meeting once a month has proven beneficial to support parent-school collaboration and communication. Other staff, Special Education Parent Advisory Council Board members, and School Committee members may also be included at these meetings.

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Source

Massachusetts G. L. c. 71B, § 3

advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities

Pending House Bill No. H.3911

Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, each school district in Massachusetts, being required by Massachusetts Law, as specifically outlined in Chapter 71B, and in regulations 603 CMR 28.07(4) and 603 CMR 28.03 (1)(a)(4), to support Special Education Parent Advisory Councils, shall provide an ex-officio, nonvoting seat on the school committee to a representative from the school district's SEPAC, without the right to attend executive sessions unless such right is expressly granted by the district's school committee. The SEPAC shall elect the representative from their membership annually, and in accordance with their bylaws, and shall notify the school committee of their selection within 30 days of election. Said SEPAC representative shall be subject to all school committee rules and regulations and shall serve without compensation.

SPS Proposed Procedure

4. In accordance with the School Committee's policy, File BDFB, the School Committee shall provide an ex-officio, nonvoting seat on the School Committee to a representative from Special Education Parent Advisory Council, without the right to attend executive sessions. The Special Education Parent Advisory Council representative shall be subject to all school committee rules and regulations and shall serve without compensation.

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Questions?
Thank you