



Special Education Parent Advisory Council Minutes

July 19, 2016

6:30-7:30 pm

District Office Board Room

- Attendees
 - 2 parents
 - Kathy Zwonitzer- District Representative

- A parent talked about Miracle League- Blaine
 - Website: www.miracleleagueofblaine.org
 - Provides children with special needs aged 3-21 the opportunity to play baseball.. Kids play on a rubberized field, each child bats and gets a hit. Each child scores, and both teams win.
 - Facebook page is here: <https://www.facebook.com/MiracleLeagueBlaine/>
 - Registration is now open for our fall season which runs August 13th through Sept 10th, on Saturdays.
 - **Currently looking for players, volunteers, coaches, buddies, etc.**
 - **Buddies: Time commitment- all four Saturdays or one Saturday, there is a little training that helps the buddies get to know the kids**
 - **People who live in the north metro can participate but anyone who is willing to drive to Blaine can participate.**

- Review SEPAC Guidance Document
 - People were interested in having a core group of parents with one lead parent but not necessarily official elected positions. One parent expressed interest in taking the lead of this core group of parents.
 - It helps to have an odd number of people in this group for voting purposes
 - Kathy Z. is going to check in how we establish as a parent organization. E.g. funds

- We talked about the SEPAC sponsoring a breakfast for staff- are we considered a non-profit? What do we have to do to get donations? Are there any grants out there that we can apply for financial support?
 - We decided it would be good to meet once a month for the first year to get established. 6:30 is good time for everyone and the DO is a common place to meet each time.
- Establish Mission Statement- we reviewed sample mission statements/goals and came up with the following mission statement/goals:

Mission of the SEPAC is to:

- Advise the District and School Board on behalf of students receiving special education services
- Coordinate opportunities for parents, staff, students and the community to share information and resources
- Encourage the continued development of cooperative relationships with regular and special education
- Support school staff education by providing resources to enhance understanding, acceptance and inclusion for students receiving special education services.

GOALS:

- Increase awareness among parents about the IEP and their rights regarding the process
- Strengthen communication between families and the School District
- Encourage collaboration between staff and parents in providing services to students.

Next meeting:

- Start working on a brochure for parents on what to ask and what to look for at an IEP meeting
- Parent Buddies- how do we want set this up?
- Define the acronyms better- include on website
- Parents: Put together a list of resources for parents for outside resources such as OT, mental health, PT, speech and language etc.