



Barnstable Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

August 10, 2021

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year!

First, I would like to thank the Barnstable SEPAC officers, general membership, and everyone else who has supported Barnstable SEPAC in our efforts to improve Special Education in Barnstable.

Although the last eighteen months have been full of change and uncertainty in our children's education, SEPAC remains committed to making recommendations to the district with the intention of improving the special education services offered to students in Barnstable. Over the last year, SEPAC increased the support to individual parents and guardians as we continued to navigate IEP's and 504s.

Our monthly Zoom meetings will resume on September 28, 2021. The presentations will focus heavily on presenting students' legal rights and strategies for parents and guardians to help to ensure compliance for their students, specific to Barnstable Public Schools. The meetings will typically be translated in Spanish and Portuguese.

The Barnstable School Committee has committed to holding two SEPAC workshops a year. They will be held in place of regular SEPAC meetings and will provide SEPAC opportunities to share ideas and concerns directly with the school committee members.

Why attend SEPAC meetings? *There is strength in numbers!* Your input is needed to help us advocate for students with special needs in Barnstable. Parents/guardians of children, who receive services on an IEP or 504, and others interested in special education, have first-hand knowledge of what their children need in school. This is another important year for SEPAC as we continue to work in the planning, development, and evaluation of special education programs in Barnstable. **Your input and participation are critical to help improve the education of our students with special needs in Barnstable. SEPAC meetings are the perfect place to receive support and to learn how to help your child be successful.**

Monthly Meetings will be held September → May on the last Tuesday of most Months @ 6:00 p.m. We will be meeting via **Zoom** on the following reoccurring link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89643211976>. **The full meeting schedule is on the back of this letter.** Updates will be provided on the SEPAC website www.barnstablesepac.com if changes to the schedule are made.

If you would like to receive a monthly update please email us at barnsepac@gmail.com and request to be put on our distribution list.

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom at our **first meeting on Tuesday, September 28 at 6 p.m.** SEPAC is here to help and support you, so please don't hesitate to reach out. Getting involved will help to improve special education services in the Barnstable Public Schools.

2021-2022 Officers: President – **Linda Letourneau**, Vice-President – **Kim Lyons**, Secretary- **Selissa Johnson**, Members-at-Large: **Julie Clymer** and **Tracy Miller**.

Respectfully, Linda Letourneau