

NEWTON SEPAC

End of Year Report to Newton School Committee
June 10, 2019

Newton SEPAC Co-Chairs
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Summary

- Overall, Newton Public Schools continue to be a welcoming and supportive environment for students with special needs
- The Newton SEPAC continues to have a strong, collaborative relationship with the Newton School Committee and Newton Public Schools
- Over the 2018-19 school year, the SEPAC has worked to address broad concerns as well as to support parents on issues specific to a certain program or student

Community Outreach

- 9 Presentations for Parents and Guardians, including:
 - Basic Rights (required annually)
 - Also presented in Mandarin, and in Boston for METCO parents
 - Public Safety (with Newton Police Department)
 - Executive Function Skills (co-sponsored with NPS)
 - Mental Health
 - Bullying
- 10 Open Board Meetings
- Tenth Annual Newton Special Educator Awards

Progress

- Strong collaboration between SEPAC and NPS
 - Transition Taskforce (with City of Newton participation and support)
 - Willingness to engage with parents on concerns
 - Presentation by SEPAC at Student Services staff meeting
 - Additional special education administrator at NNHS
- Improved inclusiveness across school district
 - Unified sports and theater at NNHS and NSHS
 - Outreach to OOD families
- Better communication on policies and programs
 - Transparency in publishing meeting notes and feedback
 - ESY FAQs and meetings

Broad Themes for 2018-19

- Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities
- Changes to Start Times and High School Schedules
- Sharing and Adoption of Best Practices
- Staff Turnover
- Aide Coverage
- Post High School Transition

Areas for Ongoing Improvement

- Continue to create transparency, foster collaboration, and establish trust with families
 - We've made good progress!
- Establish consistency with IEP, ESY, Transition and other discussions
- Improve family awareness of resources
 - NPS website
 - School communications
 - SEPAC support
- Tracking disciplinary actions
- Support for generalized and school anxiety

Q&A