

# Reports

Special Education Advisory Committee - Chariho Regional School District  
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

- |                 |                  |                   |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ❖ Sarah Algieri | ❖ Iris Ornberg   | ❖ Jennifer Durkin |
| ❖ Tina Costa    | ❖ Lisa Gervasini | ❖ Mary Markovitz  |
| ❖ Nicole Allen  |                  |                   |

I. Call to order 6:00pm 1/20/22, Chariho High School Library

II. Introductions

III. Purpose of SEAC, Roles

Chairperson: Sarah Algieri

Vice Chairperson: Nicole Allen

Secretary: Erin Sefranek

Treasurer: Tina Costa

IV. Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2021

Voting Minutes approved from Oct. 21, 2021 SEAC meeting.

V. Recognition

VI. Special Education Director's Report

Special Education Director's Report presented. Speech/language pathologist change at CMS for remainder of the year. MaryBeth Calderone out on medical leave. Another S/L pathologist is also beginning due to a maternity leave. See report from Jennifer Durkin.

Budget for next year created, staffing increases - .2 at high school and full time special educator at middle school, half time increase to special education preschool.

RIDE reviewed secondary IEP's. Gr. 7 to 12, they come every year. 5 at each grade level including CALA. Indicator 13 in regard to transition. What the students need for post secondary goals.

25-27 exemplary rubric score. Chariho scored 27's in all categories.

District has a plan for APRA American Rescue Plan Act – grant funds allocated for K-12 and preschool, for students with disabilities. Jenn is looking to provide social and emotional support through a school psychologist or social worker (for older students anxious and not coming to school, for younger students who are dysregulated);

occupational therapist (for regulation needs), speech and language therapy (for lack of speech development).

## VII. School Committee Liaison Report

## VIII. New Business

1. RIPIN Webinar 1/20/2022 Presentation adapted from Advocacy in Action: A Guide to Local Special Education Parent Advisory Councils, 2019

RIPIN is the state designated parent center.

Support is provided to school districts, groups such as SEPAC's

How to use this guide as a resource- three parts

Part I. Establishing and running an effective SEPAC

Part II. For staff at PTIC's (parent centers)

Part III. Resources and Tools

Part I of book – RI Basic Requirements of SEPAC: meets 4 times per year, produces agendas, keeps minutes, 51% of the group are parents of students with disabilities, (IEP and 504's welcome) has diverse members, produces an annual report at the end of the year, and involves parents in policy making and decision making.

SEPAC is not a PTO, not an advocacy group, not a parent support group. Students that can be a part of the group, not required. SEPAC does outreach, gives a voice/representation to special education students/parents. It provides feedback, guidance, and ideas to the district – to improve the district culture.

Parents determine priorities, offer strategic solutions. Collaborative relationship. They need to be able to speak freely, lay out their concerns to a trusted group, and be heard. Not a place to air individual grievances.

Role of special education director – makes sure a LAC exists and that parents are being heard. He or she brings information to the group – district reports, information from the state, funding data, and listens to initiatives from parents for student needs, information needs. P. 17 best practices.

Part II of book – guidance and assistance of SEAC's. Twice a year – meeting to support parent leaders. RISEAC state advisory board. Covid Money – can be seed money. Every Student Exceeds Act – ESSA – supports students with the most needs. IDEA also provides money/grants for technology, social/emotional/behavioral health screenings, curriculums that address s/e/b issues, now is the time to have a voice.

Part III Resources – website resources, downloadable sources, mission statements, action sheets.

2. Parent Engagement. Artessy is a virtual event, no table this year. Survey to parents about what they might want. Must be approved by the school committee. Robo Call for SEAC meetings, to round up parents for SEAC meetings. Survey to special education parents – something for the future. Nicole voiced that parents are nervous with their children coming to middle school/high school. Information is needed for parents before they transition – a care package of information. Jenn is thinking of a summer workshop – tour, SEAC information.

3. Executive Functioning event. Notices went out to all special educators at middle school to go to the Westerly virtual event. There is a third event coming up in March 2022. Transition to work events for parents of high school students with developmental delays – Jenn gets this information directly to high school parents. Resources also provided to guidance counselors for 504 students.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Sefranek  
Recording Secretary