SEPTA Planning Meeting

September 5, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Parent Advisory Board (PAB) history and reason for shift to SEPTA

* Previous members of PAB shared the history of the organization
  + Disability and inclusion awareness
    - Includes the need to identify and meet the needs of diverse learners
  + Helping families to understand and navigate the 504/IEP process
  + Create connections between parents, teacher and administrators
  + The group recognized the rising costs of programing and services and wanted the ability to garner more support through a more recognizable name and fundraising. Under the SEPTA structure more options become available.
  + The goals remain the same:
    - Creating a bridge between the parents, teachers and administrators to ensure cohesiveness and consistency.
    - Working with the PTA to make events also appropriate for children who receive special services.

Review of the PAB's committees:

* Subcommittees to help create awareness
  + Mental health
  + Inclusion models
  + Safety
  + Transition between schools
* Sharing of Stories
  + Personal experiences and workshops
* Reaching all students in the district
  + The question was raised regarding children who are in Wilton but not in the Wilton schools. How are we are going reach these families?
  + Dr. Smith noted that this was a technical question that needed further research. The group agreed that all should be included but we need to find out how to make sure this happens.
  + At this time the special education secretary sends emails to students who have a 504 or an IEP. This is the extent of our current reach. Social media is utilized but not always the most effective way of getting to people.

Current SEPTA Status

* Bylaws to be established- currently have sample from CT State PTA to be reviewed and agreed upon by Formation committee
* Completed paperwork is due by end September
* Outstanding items:
  + Board of Directors
  + Mission Statement
* **ACTION ITEMS:**
  + Ask for volunteers to take positions on the Board of Directors – to be completed via email or possibly by election.
  + A small group of individuals will work on completing the mission statement using the SEPTA goals. Discussion regarding draft goals:
    - Once complete it will be submitted as part of the paperwork and then shared with stakeholders. It will continue to evolve as the organization takes shape.
  + Need to define:
    - Goals
    - Needs
    - What do we want to continue from the PAB work that has already been accomplished?

Discussion about engaging in possible "Back to the Future" exercise much like the one being utilized for the districts Long Range Planning Committee to gather feedback from all stakeholders to help define SEPTA Goals and Objectives. Dr. Smith offered to provide support.

\*Once all of this information is completed it can be shared with everyone through the school messenger system.

* + Dr. Smith to explore the technical loophole of who is getting information from the schools.
  + Other outstanding items:
    - How will teachers attend these meetings?
    - Need to ensure nighttime meeting for working families.

Next meeting: September 26 at 7:30.

Location: TBD Zellner?