

SEPAC Meeting 3/30/04

Joanna Hudack represented Ray Healey.

Agenda items

Budget – Joanna

The following budget items are being requested: A guidance counselor for high school. A language based Grade 7 class at Van Wyck. Part-time CSE chair to assist Mary Nicoletti. A reduction of TA's (as a result of students who no longer require one).

Joanna announced new CSE chair, Jim Emmanuele who will be responsible for Myers, Kinry and Wappingers Junior.

Speaker – Tom Stella

Stella spoke on his responsibilities, vision. Explained his responsibility is hands-on things working with principles. He does superintendent hearings.

-He talked about the creation of a kick-off character education task force. Identify initiatives K-12; diversify approach, assembly type programs. A task force fundraiser is taking place April 16 at junior high. Sixth and 7th graders will participate. Connect-with-Kids programs covering bullying, peer-pressure and more – working with principles, parent representatives in finding out programs and outreach to others in collecting information.

-New Health state guidelines has parent component. Junior high and high school level – how can we incorporate life skills? Considering Parent University.

-Represent Choice For Change – reaching out to the community

-Safe schools – work with principles – spot check for compliance with state (state set benchmarks). How do we communicate emergency situation, discipline with dignity, more prevention strategies.

-Office also runs central administration – wants an orientation/welcome package for parents.

Q&A

Would his office look at providing a resource/training for educators who need help in understanding disciplining a student. Is an area he will look at – how to filter down the training. He has met with bus drivers and a training session is scheduled for August. He wants to look at all service providers.

Reviewed/Voted on By-laws –Gina/Karen

One request was initiated and the by-laws subcommittee will meet to review. The by-laws were voted and passed. First SEPAC Report went to Hudak/Healey. Joanna and Ray have several meetings set-up where they will address items on report and should have information for us at next meeting. Ray will report back to us on format of report – if needs to be changed.

Election

Steve and Claire volunteered to be election coordinators. Nominations are due at April meeting. Elections will take place in May. If voting member wants to vote but cannot be at next meeting – they will need to get vote to election coordinators.

Questions for Yeager

The Council reviewed existing questions and added a new question for our speaker at next council meeting.

New Business

Follow-up from Feb. Mtg.

BOE letter is work in progress. Presentation by Yaeger committee on diploma issue has not been presented to the BOE yet. Karen & Gina will follow up with PTA Council and BOE on efforts on diploma issue.

Workshops

-Reviewed workshop/dates by PRC.

Web Site

-Robin Rose has updated the district SE Web site. Bonnie and Steve (Web-site subcommittee) will be meeting with Robin Rose and Ray Healey to discuss web-site.

Autism subcommittee

Steve talked about Autism Walk April 25. We agreed we should get a booth. Will need volunteers to man booth. If advertise – need approval from WCSD.

SEPAC Brochure

Gina, Liz and Bonnie will work on new SEPAC brochure to be presented at next meeting and ready for April 25 booth at Autism walk.