

Meeting called to order at 6:08pm.

- 1. Roll Call of Committee Members:** Jackie Ecker, Jessica Hall, Patrick Fitzgerald, Bruce Friedman, (Revised guidance prohibits in-person meetings-meeting conducted via Zoom)

- 2. Welcome and Introductions**

Committee members introduced themselves and Patrick introduced guests, Jennifer Spadafora and Adam Weldai.

- 3. Superintendent Search Committee Forum, *Jennifer Spadafora and Adam Weldai:***

Jennifer and Adam talked about the status and process of the screening committee for the Superintendent. They discussed duties and expectations, interview content and process, and asked for input from meeting attendees. Provided the email for the search committee supersearch@maldenps.org for those interested in learning more or wishing to give feedback.

- 4. President's Report and Updates**

Patrick discussed:

-SEPAC meeting Rules of Order, Voting, and Decision Making

-the importance of engagement and connection of parents and caregivers of special education students, in SEPAC meetings and activities. Parents/caregivers wishing to engage can reach out to PAC@maldensepac.org to receive emails, meeting invites and information.

-Development of Advisory Goals. These are decided by the membership-at-large. Asked meeting attendees to let the committee know what issues are out there.

-COVID Compensatory Services and who is eligible. Any student with IEP who did not receive services in spring/summer due to school closure, are entitled to COVID Compensatory Services. Patrick encouraged parents of students with IEPs to contact their IEP liason or their team lead at the school, to find out their eligibility, obtain an assessment, and find how the district will respond to their obligations.

-The request for a more formal Special Education Audit. Concerns were raised after the results of the initial audit were presented. Additional funds are requested to have a more comprehensive audit. Pam McDonald is now tasked with this and will discuss next steps with the superintendent.

-Advisory Board Subcommittees and Liaisons – need people to populate these committees.

-MassPAC Membership – Patrick reviewed the SEPAC’s membership benefits and a free training session this group is entitled to. He asked for input on what topic parents/caregivers want to discuss and asked that they email SEPAC committee members at PAC@maldensepac.org with suggestions. Patrick also discussed the one opening for an all-day online training and conference on Saturday March 6, 2021 – Visions of Community. There will be a public lottery for interested SEPAC community members that wish to participate. There is another opening for this training, for an educator that Pam McDonald will appoint an educator.

5. Public Comment:

Patrick opened the floor to public comment and topics discussed were: attendees giving the SEPAC feedback on how they received their information for this meeting, community forums for the Superintendent search and whether these were recorded, MPS Special Ed sending out information out on behalf of SEPAC (Pam McDonald is open to this and she plans on coming to the next meeting to discuss the new database), the high school will kick off a small business program for high needs students that will be making and marketing candles, further discussion of COVID Compensatory Services (CCS), the importance of getting parent input and reaching out more to receive services and how language barriers compound issues, discussion about CCS at the Early Learning Center, resources through Boston Medical Center that are low cost or free through Mass Health, making an outreach system for students that are new to the SEPAC program (to welcome new members), development of a contact sheet with names, social media, etc. in multiple languages.

6. Next Meeting, Thursday February 25, 2021

7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica L. Hall, Clerk