



Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

SEPAC Executive Board Members 2021-2022

Co-Chairs: Kerry Aglugub, Stephanie Finegold

Co-Treasurers: Jared Jones, Rebecca Long

Co-Secretaries: Liz Polin, Asanka Moehring

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



What is SEPAC?

The Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a state-mandated, parent-run group working to promote a **network of parents, guardians, and caregivers of children with special needs.**

SEPAC **partners** with the Director of Student Services and the School Committee on policies. We **receive input** from parents, teachers and others to **encourage understanding, acceptance, and inclusion** of all special education students.

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What we do...

Advocacy, Education and Support

- ★ **Advise the School Committee** on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities
- ★ **Meet regularly with school officials** to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the district's special education programs
 - We liaise and are supported by our Abby Hansom, Director of Student Services and other district leaders
- ★ **Provide a forum to share information and discuss matters of common concern** and interest among parents and caregivers
 - We do this through regular meetings, workshops, district presentations and networking meet & greets that connect parents & caregivers of special needs children

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How we do it...

SEPAC: Advocacy, Education and Support

★ **Executive Board**

★ **SEPAC Representatives/Liaisons at Each of our 7 Schools and a Community Liaison**

- Spread the word about SEPAC Events with the PTO and parents, the school principal, & special education teachers
- Fosters inclusion in the school community
 - Provide insight on special education issues to the PTO Board and Event Chairs on accommodations to consider for events
 - For example some schools have implemented sensory friendly PTO events
- The representatives work directly with special education teachers and PTO Boards regarding needs for equipment and supplies.

★ **Subcommittees**

- SEPAC form subcommittees as needed to take on special projects or whenever a need is identified

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SEPAC Recent Highlights

- ★ We shifted to Zoom and monthly meetings providing open communication between parents/caregivers and administrators on remote and hybrid learning challenges and school reopening
- ★ SEPAC Community Meetings throughout the year
- ★ Parent Networking Meetings & Trainings
- ★ Middle School & Westwood High School Transition Workshops with District Administrators
- ★ SEPAC Popsicle Socials
- ★ District Event: Accessibility Overview of the Proposed New School
- ★ SEPAC Community Meeting with District update on the new Dyslexia Guidelines
- ★ Westwood SEPAC Diagnosis Specific Networking Groups:
 - Autism Parent Group
 - Language Based Learning Difference Parent Group
 - Aspergers/Autism (or similar social profile) Parent Group
 - Westwood SEPAC Coffee Meet & Greet

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Upcoming Events

- ★ Parent Group for Language Based Learning Differences - November 18 at 7:00 PM on Zoom
- ★ Parent Group for Aspergers/Autism (or similar social profile) - December 5 at 8:00 AM at Cafe Nero
- ★ Westwood SEPAC Community Meeting - December 7 at 7:30 PM on Zoom
- ★ Basic Rights: Evaluation and Eligibility - January 11 at 7:00 PM on Zoom
- ★ Monthly Parent Groups:
 - ★ Autism/WABA families
 - ★ Aspergers/Autism (or similar social profile)
 - ★ Language Based Learning Differences
 - ★ Coffee Meet & Greet

See all upcoming events at: westwoodsepac.org

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Parents/Caregivers on SEPAC

- ★ *“I think this group is AMAZING. I try my best to go to things when I can but I always feel like the group is active and alive which is such a great feeling. Thank you for all that you do and for taking care of each other as we navigate through all these different paths.”*
- ★ *“SEPAC has been a life saver for me and my family. I’ve learned so much and connected with other parents going through the same things we are. I’m better informed because of what I’ve learned from the district presentations, speakers, and most importantly from other parents.”*

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Get Involved!

- ★ Join our private Facebook Group (Westwood SEPAC)
- ★ Visit our website westwoodsepac.org
 - Join our email newsletter
- ★ Attend SEPAC events
- ★ Volunteer your time to keep our SEPAC strong

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Contact SEPAC



To volunteer, for questions, or to submit ideas for SEPAC meetings or topics email westwoodsepac@gmail.com or contact any SEPAC board member or your school's SEPAC liaison.

2021-2022 SEPAC Board Members & School Liaisons

Board Members: Kerry Aglugub, Stephanie Finegold, Jared Jones, Rebecca Long, Liz Polin, Asanka Moehring

Community Outreach Lead: Megan Brenk

Preschool: Lauren Fortin, Liz Polin

Martha Jones: Megan Brenk

Sheehan: Asanka Moehring, Kerry Aglugub

Deerfield: Doris Forteith, Karen Dolman

Hanlon: Stephanie Finegold

Downey: Samantha Sturma, Rania Kelly

Middle School: Kelly Anderson, Megan Brenk

High School: Suzan Riley

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