



SEPAC NEWS

Special Education Parent/Professional Advisory Council

Fall 2010 Edition

3330 Monte Villa Parkway, Bothell, WA 98021

425.408.6008

www.sepacnsd.org

Message from the Chair: Tough Times Ahead

Andrea Kadlec, SEPAC Chair

Over the summer we at SEPAC were hard at work, reviewing and revising our charter and bylaws - for the first time in about a decade! It's important to have a clear sense of where relationships and responsibilities lie so that the mechanics of our organization run smoothly and we can get down to the business of advocacy. As you can imagine, much has changed over a decade. We are making strides in our communication and web presence. Our district has seen school board changes, superintendent changes, assistant superintendent changes, changes to programs, curriculum, funding and the law.

SEPAC is grateful to welcome Sue Dedrick on as the third assistant superintendent and recognizes that she provides, for the first time within NSD, a special education voice in the leadership cabinet. SEPAC met again this year with Superintendent Larry Francois, who for the third consecutive year, graciously and respectfully acknowledged SEPAC's work and listened to our concerns.

The roundtable discussion of our September Board Meeting saw fallout from budget cuts, as we listened to the concerns of paraeducators, still in contract negotiations, and heard from community programs scrambling to survive drastic funding loss.

The year will surely bring more cuts and program losses. The Division of

Developmental Disabilities will see 25.5 million dollars cut by June 30 of 2011. The Division of Social and Health Services announced across-the-board 6.3% cuts. As the State grapples with the privatization of liquor sales and reforms to our tax and state revenue systems, education hangs precariously in Washington's general fund stream.

At a recent conference on Sustainability in Developmental Disability Systems, data analyst John Agosta remarked that how we support our disability populations will come more from the community, and less from public benefit systems in coming years. This is because we are realizing a decreasing number of public dollars from which we can provide supports. While SEPAC can't generate money, we can generate ideas for how we leverage resources, and respond collectively to the coming budget woes and their impact on our education system. How we fund education, support our teachers and administrators, how we support our families and - most importantly - our children, will require increasingly, committed dialogue from all of us, as a community.

The SEPAC Organizational goals for our 2010-2011 school year are:

- Research/Find Best Practices
- Inclusion
- Visible Presence
- Communication
- 501c3 or other incorporation development
- Board Development
- Boosting membership
- Disability history/awareness.

Directors' Corner

Sue Dedrick, Assist Superintendent of Special Services

Welcome to a new school year! Hopefully, this will be one of the best ever for your children.

I feel so fortunate to be here in the Northshore School District as the Assistant Superintendent for Special Services. My role allows me to provide guidance and support for Special Education, Title I, Learning Assistance Program, English Language Learners, and Early Childhood. Since coming on board July 1st, I have had the pleasure of meeting many fine families, students, and staff. They have confirmed what I suspected to be true: this community is composed of wonderful people who care deeply about the education of our students. It is an honor to be able to serve the students and families of Northshore.

I'd like to also introduce another new administrator in the Special Education department. Doug Pierce is serving as the Interim Secondary Special Education Director this year. Late in the summer, Ed Koehl made the decision to return to a teaching role, and we were very fortunate to be able to secure Doug Pierce's services. Doug has a rich set of experiences in K-12 education. He has been a teacher, principal, school psychologist, intervention specialist

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Parents and Professionals Page

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SEPAC Outstanding Service Award Recipients 2009-10

Team Recipients

- Woodmoor Elementary
Betsy Leahy - Special Ed Teacher
Katie Porter - Special Ed Teacher
- Hollywood Hill Elementary
Sandy Struthers - 1st Grade Teacher
Carolyn Kumar - 2nd Grade Teacher
Beth Robinson - 3rd Grade Teacher
- Canyon Park Junior High
Cheryl Boyer - Drama Teacher
James Stoltzfus - Para-Educator
Laurissa Dugan - Special Ed Teacher
Susannah Chase - Speech Therapist
- Bothell High School
Andy Gault - General Ed ASL Teacher
Regina Williams - Para-educator
Tom Van Duzer - Special Ed Teacher
- Cottage Lake Elementary - Carolyn Kitchens, Sam Maynard, Janice Rendahl, Lisa Stookey, Suzanne Lund, Jay Stookey, Kit Kocha, Diane Hemming, Linda Wood, Laurie Lundberg, Patty Odle, Rolla Pierce, Tricia Walker, Sandy Melanson, Betsy Ritchie, and Shelley Habenicht

Individual Recipients

- Casey Klinich - Special Ed Teacher
Cottage Lake Elementary
- Becky Fukuda - 4/5/6 CLC Para-educator
Arrowhead Elementary
- Shannon Phanhtavilay - Teacher,
Integrated Program
Kokanee Elementary (2 nominations)
- Frank Martorelli - 3/4th Grade Teacher,
Integrated Program
Fernwood Elementary
- Aidan Bale - Social Studies Teacher
Kenmore Junior High
- Nicole Trecker - Social Studies Teacher
Woodinville High School
- Kristin Marais - Science (Physics) Teacher
Bothell High School (2 nominations)
- Ben Zupke - 8th Grade Science Teacher
Timbercrest Junior High
- Peg Stevens - 7/8/9 CLC Teacher
Northshore Junior High

Community Recipient

- Betsy Geib - Parent Volunteer and
Co-Founder, Northshore Special Families

Woodinville Wranglers Seek New Location

In the late 1990's the City of Woodinville created the Woodinville Wranglers Specialized Recreation Program to provide opportunities for children and adults with special needs. The Wranglers program now has over 100 participants in Special Olympics and year round recreation programs for bowling, basketball, track, soccer, social activities, art classes, dances and parties.

Presently the future of the Wranglers is most uncertain. At its July 2010 meeting the Woodinville City Council voted to close the Carol Edwards Center and cancel all the recreation programs effective December 31, 2010. A group of highly motivated citizens is searching for alternate partnerships, funding sources and ways to continue providing recreational opportunities for people with disabilities in the Northshore area.

NSD has committed rental space for Wranglers basketball and track, and SEPAC has voted to pay the NSD rental fees for the 2010-2011 basketball season. After that, unless the Council reverses its decision or an alternate partnership or funding source is found, there will be no specialized recreation for our children in this area.

Special Olympics and Recreation Bowling is currently being offered at Kenmore Lanes on Tuesdays, from 4-5:30 pm. Special Olympics Basketball begins November 4th. For more information on Wranglers Specialized Recreation programming contact Cole Caplan, Wranglers Coach/Coordinator at 425-398-9327 (e-mail: colec@ci.woodinville.wa.us) or Alexandra Miller, Assistant to the City Manager @ 425-877-2266 (e-mail: amiller@ci.woodinville.wa.us).

Directors' Corner *(continued...)*

and human resources director in neighboring districts. Upon his retirement, Doug came to the Northshore School District two years ago to serve as a retire/rehire school psychologist, where staff and families experienced his calm demeanor, thoroughness, and knowledgeable problem solving. We're pleased to have Doug in this expanded capacity this year.

We hope the school year is going well for your child. If you have concerns, the first person to talk with is your child's teacher. If that doesn't seem to resolve the issue then you would talk to the school principal. If after that you continue to need further resolution, you would call Carrie Matthews (425-408-7736) for elementary concerns, or Doug Pierce (425-408-7735) for secondary issues.

SEPAC Leadership



Parents:

- Chair - Andrea Kadlec
- Vice Chair - Kim Runge
- Secretary - Nancy Burrows
- Treasurer - Betsy Geib
- Past Chair - Kathryn Williams

Professionals:

- Elementary Grades - Carrie Matthews
Director of Elementary Special Education
425-408-7736
- Secondary Grades - Doug Pierce
Interim Director of Secondary Special Education
425-408-7735

SEPAC Snipits

Volunteer for SEPAC!

All of us in the Northshore School District are feeling impacted by the financial challenges of our district, county and state. More than ever we need to support our school programs, staff and students in every way possible. Volunteering is a significant way we can help keep the momentum going. It feels good to be involved and you can make a difference in so many ways. SEPAC has many areas of responsibility and needs, with a surprisingly small number of dedicated individuals carrying the bulk of responsibility. Find out how you can get involved with one of SEPACs committees by sending an e-mail to: questions@sepacnsd.org.

Advocacy

Chair: Andrea Kadlec

Communications

Co-Chair: Paula Quigg

Co-Chair: Andrea Congdon

Community Relations

Chair: Kathryn Williams

"disAbility" Awareness

Chair: Andrea Congdon

Fundraising

Chair: Paula Quigg

Presentations

Chair: Kim Runge

**October is
Disability
Awareness
Month**

SEPAC is now on Facebook

You can visit SEPAC on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/SEPAC-Northshore-School-District>.

Multiple Stipends Available from SEPAC

Are you planning to attend a conference relating to special education? Is there an inclusion idea/project at your school that could use a little extra funding? SEPAC has small stipends available to teachers, para-professionals, and parents for many different types of activities that promote special education excellence in the district. These stipends often go unused. For more information visit our website at www.sepacnsd.org and click on "teacher resources and stipends" or email questions to: treasurer@sepacnsd.org.

SEPAC Survey

Thanks to all who responded to the survey last spring. To view the results visit us at: www.sepacnsd.org.

NSF Announces New Name

Northshore Special Families (NSF) is a parent led social and support group for children with special needs and their families living in North King and South Snohomish counties. It promotes community among families with children with special needs by offering inclusive and exclusive social opportunities for parents and caregivers, children with special needs and their siblings. Started in 2004 by two parents and a special education teacher, it has grown in scope in size. This year NSF announces a name change that better reflects the diversity of communities that participate in the events. Northshore Special Families is now Northwest Special Families. For more information about NSF please log onto: www.northwestspecialfamilies.org.

Northshore



30th Annual

Woodinville

Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, November 6

9.a.m. to 4.p.m.

Woodmoor Elementary

12225 NE 160th Street, Bothell

All proceeds support special needs students and families in the Northshore School District.

SEPAC

Meetings

*Meetings are held
on Monday evenings
6:30-8:30 pm at the NSD
Administrative Center.
All parents, teachers,
principals, administrators
and community members
are welcome.*

October 11, 2010
November 8, 2010
December 13, 2010
(location TBD)
January 10, 2011
February 14, 2011
March 14, 2011
April 11, 2011
May 9, 2011
June 13, 2011
(location TBD)

For more information e-mail:
questions@sepacnsd.org or check the
website: www.sepacnsd.org

2010-11 Presentations

October 27, 2010
- Bullying
November 17, 2010
- Social Thinking
January 19, 2011
- Inclusive Practices
February 16, 2011
- State of the District II
(curriculum updates)
March 23, 2011
- Smooth Transitions
(school to school)
April 27, 2011
- Dyslexia
May 25, 2011
- Adult Transition

*Presentations
are held Wednesday
evenings 7-9 pm at
the NSD Administrative
Center. Bring a friend!*

Childcare for NSD
families is available.
Call 206-579-2321
to reserve a spot.

SEPAC NEWS

Administrative Center
Northshore Special Education Dept.
3330 Monte Villa Parkway
Bothell, WA 98021-8972

Non-profit org.
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