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By City Clerk at 8:36 am, Feb 10, 2022

The Newton SEPAC, in collaboration with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, will be hosting a parent orientation to learn about the upcoming **Special Education and Civil Rights Review*** happening in our district.



Join us **Tuesday, Feb 15, 7:00PM**
for this live presentation + Q&A,
followed immediately by our Open Board Meeting.
(Agenda below)

DESE & NPS at 7PM: <https://stream.lexikeet.com/newton>

Non-English speakers can select a [translated](#) language (Chinese, Spanish, or Russian).

Ask questions using the chat tool, and they will be answered live.

Questions typed in other languages will be translated for the panelists.

The session will be recorded in all 4 languages and posted publicly.

Open Mtg. at 8:15PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84359553994>

Click to join important Newton special ed discussions.

*Read about how parents can be involved in the DESE review process at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/parents/default.html>.

Newton SEPAC
DESE Presentation & Open Board Meeting
February 15, 2022

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Link (DESE at 7PM): <https://stream.lexikeet.com/newton>
Link (OBM at 8:15PM): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84359553994>

Agenda

DESE Presentation

- The Special Education Parent Advisory Council, in collaboration with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will be hosting a parent orientation to learn about the upcoming **Special Education and Civil Rights review** in our district.
- For more information, see [Parent Resources](#)

Open Board Meeting

- Introductions ([Board](#) and Attendees)
- Member Open Comment
- Update on Minutes ([Jan 2022](#))
- Update from Meetings with NPS Admin
 - Hiring process for new Asst. Sup. for Student Services
 - Proposed Program / Direct Instruction (DI)
- ARPA Funding for Special Ed in Newton
- Event & Presentation Planning Updates
 - *IEP for the Home* (2/6/22, 7pm; 3/3/22, 9am)
 - [Understanding our Differences](#) Activities (3/31/22, 7pm)
 - *Making Fitness Accessible to All* (2/17/22, 7-8:30pm)
 - Possible: *SCERTS Model, Neurodiversity and Neurodivergence*
 - *SEPAC Awards Ceremony*
- Liaison Updates
 - Middle schools' parent presentations
 - Transition to high school
- Transition Working Group Update
- New Business

Important SEPAC Dates, 2021-2022

▪ OPEN BOARD MEETINGS

- Thursday, August 19, 2021, 7-9PM, Education Center Room 217 & Virtual
- Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 7-9PM, Education Center Room 210 & Virtual
- Thursday, October 21, 2021, 7-9PM, Education Center Room 210 & Virtual
- Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 7-9PM, Virtual
- Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 7-9PM, Virtual
- Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 7-9PM, Virtual
- Thursday, March 24, 2022, 9-10AM, Education Center Room 210 & Virtual
- Thursday, April 28, 2022, 7-9PM, Education Center Room 210 & Virtual
- Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 9-10AM, Education Center Room 217 & Virtual
- Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 7-9PM, Education Center Room 210 & Virtual

▪ MEETINGS OF BOARD REPS WITH NPS ADMINISTRATION

- Friday, September 17, 2021, 9-10AM, Office of Beth Fitzmaurice
- Friday, October 15, 2021, 9-10AM, Office of Beth Fitzmaurice
- Friday, November 19, 2021, 9-10AM, Office of Beth Fitzmaurice
- Friday, January 26, 2022, 8-9AM, Virtual
- Friday, February 18, 2022, 9-10AM, Education Center / Virtual, TENTATIVE
- Friday, March 18, 2022, 9-10AM, Education Center / Virtual, TENTATIVE
- Friday, April 29, 2022, 9-10AM, Education Center / Virtual, TENTATIVE
- Friday, May 20, 2022, 9-10AM, Education Center / Virtual, TENTATIVE
- Friday, June 17, 2022, 9-10AM, Education Center / Virtual , TENTATIVE

▪ PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

- Thursday, September 30, 2021, 7:30-9PM, Virtual
 - *Basic Rights Under Special Education Laws*
- Thursday, October 14, 2021, 7-9PM, Virtual
 - *School Committee Candidate Forum*
- Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 7-8:30PM, Virtual
 - *IEP For the Home - Module 1 - Building Positive Relationships*
- Thursday, November 18, 2021, 1-2PM, Virtual
 - *Coordinating Your Special Needs Financial & Estate Planning*
- Thursday, December 2, 2021, 9-10:30AM, Virtual
 - *IEP For the Home - Module 1 - Building Positive Relationships*
- Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 7-8:30PM, Virtual
 - *IEP For the Home - Module 2 - Sleep*
- Sunday, December 19, 2021, 2-4PM, Auburndale Cove Playground
 - *Social Event*
- Thursday, January 6, 2021, 9-10:30AM, Virtual
 - *IEP For the Home - Module 2 - Sleep*
- Wednesday, January 19, 2021, 7-8:30PM, Virtual

- *IEP For the Home - Module 3 - Eating*
- Thursday, January 27, 2022, 7-8:30PM, Virtual
 - *Interactive Media Use and Youth Mental Health*
- Thursday, February 3, 2021, 9-10:30AM
 - *IEP For the Home - Module 3 - Eating*
- Wednesday, February 16, 2021, 7-8:30PM, Virtual
 - *IEP For the Home - Module 4 - Schedule and Routines*
- Thursday, February 17, 2022, 7-8:30PM, Virtual
 - *Making Fitness Accessible to All*
- Thursday, March 3, 2021, 9-10:30AM, Virtual
 - *IEP For the Home - Module 4 - Schedule and Routines*
- Thursday March 31, 2022, 7-9PM, Education Center
 - *Understanding our Differences Program Activities*
- Thursday, May 26, 2022, 1-2PM, TBD
- Monday, June 6, 2022, 7-9PM, Virtual
 - *SEPAC Annual Presentation to School Committee*
- Thursday, June 23, 2022, time TBD, Virtual
 - *SEPAC Awards Ceremony*

What role do parents/guardians play in the Tiered Focused Monitoring Review?

Parent involvement is an important part of the Tiered Focused Monitoring (TFM) Review process. There are several ways parents are involved:

- **Parent Orientation**
A member of The Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) presents a Parent Orientation for districts and schools in a Group A review. The orientation provides a general overview of the Tiered Focused Monitoring Review process. PSM organizes the parent orientation with the district or school and the SEPAC at a time and location that works for parents. A copy of the Parent Orientation can be found [here](#).
- **Parent Surveys**
PSM sends two anonymous electronic surveys. Surveys are available by email in English, Spanish, and Portuguese and in 14 other languages by mail. Surveys are sent before a PSM team visits a district or school.
 - **Special Education Parent Survey**
This survey is sent to all parents with a student receiving special education in the district or school. It focuses on the special education process.
 - **Equity and Access Parent Survey**
This survey is sent to parents who have students in grades 3, 7, and 11. It focuses on a student's opportunities to access school activities, such as extracurricular events, and a student's experiences in the school setting.
- **Parent Telephone Interview**
Parents may request a telephone interview. The district or school publishes a press release to notify parents and the public when a PSM team will be in the district or school to carry out monitoring activities. This is called the PSM on-site visit. Contact information (email and direct telephone) for a PSM member is included in the press release.
- **Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Member Interview**
During the PSM on-site visit, a PSM team member interviews a parent involved in the district's or school's (SEPAC).

General Resources

Scope of Tiered Focused Monitoring: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/default.html>

Parent Information on Special Education: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/parents.html>

Special Education Links and Resources: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/links.html>