



**WELCOME
TO THE
ROSELAND'S
SEPAC**

CONTACT & JOIN
roselandsepac@gmail.com

WHAT IS SEPAC ?

- SEPAC stands for Special Education Parent Advisory Council
- The State of New Jersey Department of Education Administrative & Code for Special Education, Chapter 14, and code 6A:14--1.2(h) states that: Each board of education shall ensure that a special education parent advisory group is in place in the district to provide input to the district on issues concerning students with disabilities.

- SEPAC is an organization for the parents of Noecker, it is a parent volunteer group. Membership allows parents to share ideas, raise questions, voice concerns, provide solutions and fundraise for students with special educational needs. Participation also offers the opportunity to provide direct input to the Roseland BOE and school leadership.
- It is a confidential space for parents to share experiences, provide feedback and work towards understanding the right solution for their child's special needs. A great benefit of participating is that the individual needs of a child become part of "the big picture," and can help reach a broader community of children.
- Help host Special Education Parent Workshops to help parents become better informed about special education topics and classifications.
- SEPAC's effectiveness within Noecker is dependent on the participation of parents coming to meetings. We need the parents of Noecker to build a strong and supportive SEPAC.

WHAT IS SEPAC TO PARENTS?

STEPS IN CREATING A PARENT LED SEPAC

1. Create a Parent Development Team ✓
2. Create Special Services Team ✓
3. Create Mission Statement ✓
4. Establish Goals ✓
5. Create By-Laws ✓
6. Create a Council and its Responsibilities ✓
7. Apply for Non-Profit Financial Status and NJ Grants
8. Gain Membership
9. Plan Council and Parent Support Meetings
10. Hold Fundraisers

Special Services Team

❖ Mark Mansour –
Supervisor of Special Services

❖ Maria Hunkele –
School Psychologist

❖ Richard Celebre –
Special Education Teacher

❖ Jaclyn Spector –
Special Education Teacher

- The Special Services Team is the Noecker Admiration side of SEPAC. It is led by the Supervisor of Special Services and includes Child Study Team members and Special Education teachers.
- The Executive Board acts as the liaison between the SEPAC and School Administration and the School Board.
- SEPAC Executive Board must meet with the Special Services Team a minimum of four times a year (once per quarter) to ensure proper communication and open dialog.

HOW THE COUNCIL IS STRUCTURED

▪ Executive Board Positions

- Co-Council President
 - Jackie Parato
- Co-Council President
 - Cindy Sellitto
- Director of Outreach
 - Suzanne Brock
- Secretary
 - Position Open
- Treasurer
 - Position Open

▪ Other Volunteer Positions

- Committee Chairs
 - A committee may be created to help promote specific purpose or interest of SEPAC.
- Committee Volunteers
 - Help within a committee.
- Voting Membership
 - A parent of a child with Special needs classified with in the Roseland BOE.
- Support Volunteers
 - Parents who would like to volunteer in support.

HOW MEETINGS ARE STRUCTURED

- 1. Special Education Parent Workshops – Informational workshop for topics such as reading, math or homework tips, special education topics, understanding classifications, IEPs, 504, I&RS, etc. These workshops are open to the public to attend.
- 2. Open Council Meetings – Generally a monthly meeting where SEPAC business is conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. During Open Meeting members of the Special Services Team are invited to attend along with Support Volunteers. This helps the district to be update regularly on initiatives, requests, suggestions, and to develop reasonable timelines for Goals.
- 3. Closed Council Meetings and Parent to Parent – Generally a monthly meeting where SEPAC business is conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. Only parent members can attend and vote. Parent to Parent meetings help to foster a safe space for sensitive or private discussions, these SEPAC meetings are "Family Only," of children with special needs.

MEMBERSHIP VS SUPPORT VOLUNTEER

Membership Requirements

Any Roseland BOE Parent whose child has special needs under the following services.

- Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Observed by the I&RS Team
- 504 Plan
- Medical Plan
- Behavioral Plan
- Emotional Support
- Social Support
- Basic Skills Support

This includes children sent out of district and special membership approved by the Board.

Support Volunteer

Any Roseland BOE Parent who would like to help with events, fundraising, support, education, etc.

The Roseland SEPAC welcomes support from all members of the community.

The Difference

Members - may attend Closed and Parent to Parent Meetings. Be a Parent Mentor, hold an Executive Council or Committee Position and Vote in Council Business.

Support Volunteers - may attend Educational Workshops and Open Meetings.

Parent to Parent Meetings

- ❖ Meetings for parents to come and discuss concerns, strategies, give and get advice.
- ❖ These meetings are closed and for official member only
- ❖ If you are a non-member and want to attend the meeting to obtain information you may attend as a guest.
 - Notification to the executive board is required
- ❖ These meetings are confidential, school administration does not attend nor does school board members.
 - However, if a school employee or a school board member has a child receiving services the employee or board member may attend the parent to parent meetings
 - School Board members or employees who attend these meeting should abstain from voting.

PARENT TO PARENT MEETINGS

MENTOR BUDDY SYSTEM



Parent Mentoring Program

- ❖ Parents that have been through the special services progress is matched up a new parent that has is just getting started in the progress
- ❖ Parent who volunteer to be a buddy training is required prior to starting
- ❖ School Board members, HSA Executive Board, and school employees even if they are SEPAC members cannot be a mentor secondary to conflict of interest
 - You can request a mentor for yourself

CONFIDENTIALITY

Please be aware that as an Executive Board Member, Voting Member, Support Volunteer, Mentor, Mentee, Special Service Team, School Staff, Guest or etc complete confidentiality is required. A few things to remember...

- We are dealing with a child's medical, academic and personal information.
- What happens in SEPAC, stays in SEPAC!
- Families expect that what is discussed in closed parent to parent meetings and the mentoring program is always confidential and is not to be shared or discussed outside of those contexts/meetings.
- Executive Board has the right to suspend any Parent or Member of the Roseland BOE from meetings if confidentiality is broken.



FUNDRAISING

CHAIRPERSON & COMMITTEE

Fundraising activities will be conducted throughout the year. Money collected from these fundraisers are to benefit special services only

- Child Study Team and I&RS Services
- Speech, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy
- Inclusion and Integrated Classrooms
- Resource and other Special Needs Classrooms
- Any support services that falls under Special Services
- Individual Scholarships

Fundraising events/activities will also be held to bring awareness to various special services and population that they serve

- Speech and Hearing Awareness Month
- PT, OT Awareness Month
- Diabetes Awareness Month
- Celebrating Diversity



RECAP ON OUR MISSION & GOALS



Roseland's SEPAC Mission Statement

- To establish a partnership between parents, staff, and administration and creating transparency of the Special Education program in Roseland, to benefit the students.

To develop a SEPAC which is inclusive, community-centered, and actively involved in Noecker School

- Develop procedures for meetings, determining roles and responsibilities
- Survey Community (goals, values, needs, wants)
- Sponsor educational opportunities for parents (in-house and guest speakers)
- Encourage involvement to all parents of children with learning, physical, neurological and/or mental health disabilities in the Noecker community
- Coordinate with administration on areas to explore or consider

SEPAC GOAL 1 & ACTIONS

To support, strengthen, and grow the inclusion program to ensure all students benefit from effective comprehensive inclusionary services.

- Continue to educate parents on the inclusion program available at Noecker School
- Build community involvement to support the growth of special education programs and their budgetary impact
- Identify and communicate opportunities for continued growth and improvement within inclusion program(workshops, other districts, shared readings, data)
- Assist in educating the Noecker community on the benefits of inclusionary education and need for full day inclusion classes
- Work with administration and special services to ensure all teaching staff receive the necessary support and training to foster effective comprehensive inclusion services
- Coordinate with administration on areas of concern or need

SEPAC GOAL 2 & ACTIONS

To guide and support parents through the Special Education process

- Outreach (see Goal 1)
- Deepen understanding of student support resources available, and special education options and programs available at Noecker
- Guides/Outlines of processes (IEP meetings, timelines) in parent friendly language
- Develop a Parent-to-Parent Mentor and Support Program
- Implement confidentiality and contact measures
- Offer programs to support parent education and increase understanding and involvement in special education at Noecker School

SEPAC GOAL 3 & ACTIONS

TALKING POINTS & QUESTIONS

- ❖ Full Day Inclusion! How do we get there?
- ❖ SEPAC depends on Volunteers and Fundraising to run our organization.



Questions are the path to learning

