



# Valley Elementary School

135 Coburn Road, Tyngsborough, MA 01879 | Tel: (978) 528-7843 | [www.valleycollaborative.org](http://www.valleycollaborative.org)

## Parent Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting Minutes

10/21/24, 12:00PM

Via Zoom

Contact Bryan Thomas ([bthomas@valleycollaborative.org](mailto:bthomas@valleycollaborative.org)) for a meeting link and more information.

### Agenda:

- Introductions & Welcome
- Vision of PAG / Meeting Guidelines (included below)
- Wants and needs for parents/guardians.
  - Parents hope the PAG can continue to connect parents and provide information about how parents can support the school and how parents can participate in school activities.
  - Parents appreciate advanced notice for school events and activities and frequent ClasDojo updates.
- Upcoming Parent Engagement in the School:
  - Trunk or Treat Event - 10/31
  - Thanksgiving Event - 11/27
  - Suggestion: Winter/Holiday staff appreciation event
- Opportunities for students to make connections beyond the classroom.
  - Parents can connect with each other via the classroom teacher.
  - Connecting families through PAG for outside activities.
    - Such as: Sports Programs, Art Activities
    - The PAG can connect families and share resources via email and by creating a resource for families.
- Overview of Special Education Rights and Laws
  - <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ECSr7ulyV9T29OoBO1UnirkZ3--9gVtYgIGi-Vz5icg/edit?usp=sharing>
- Plan for next Meeting
  - The next PAG meeting will be scheduled for Early November and will focus on parent feedback on the draft District Improvement Plan.



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## Relevant Items and Resources from Past Meetings

- Review of Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards. <https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/prb/>
  - Guidance on Parent Advisory Councils: -<https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/pac/>
  - Resources for parents
    - Massachusetts Association of Special Education Parent Advisory Council (MassPAC) <https://fcsn.org/masspac/>
    - Listing of SEPACs: Special Child Mass Website <https://www.spedchildmass.com/special-education-sepac-massachusetts/>
    - Federation for Children with SPecial Needs: Free Workshops: <https://fcsn.org/news/#calendar>
    - Training & Workshops for Parents & Families – Federation for Children with Special Needs: <https://fcsn.org/training-workshops-for-parents-families/>
- Recreation & Library Programs:
  - <https://beyondtops.com/>
  - Groton Bike Program <https://icanshine.org/ican-bike-groton-ma/>
  - Other towns may have similar programs. Parents can reach out to local libraries and recreation departments for information.

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## Parent Advisory Group mission statement:

The Valley Collaborative Parent Advisory Group works to support all children and parents with special needs in our community. We are committed to: Promoting a platform for discussion for parents to share information, discuss common concerning matters, and interests among the population of students; Communicate with local, state and national organizations that support parents and children with special needs; Meet with our administrators and appropriate Valley Collaborative personnel as needed, to participate in discussions regarding education, health and safety our students; Promote communication among our families in all of our programs; Provide informational and educational forums to parents, students, educators and all other professionals involved with children with special needs; Promote communication that encourages understanding, acceptance and inclusion of our students; Increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in district policy making and decision making; Recommend priorities to be addressed by the district in their annual and long term strategic plan.

## Parent Advisory Group – Meeting Guidelines:

Valley collaborative parent advisory group meetings will be conducted with an administrator and officers using the following procedure: Meeting calendar and individual agenda's and schedules will be set with parent advisory group parents and the administrator. Parent advisory group academic year calendar will be posted on- line to the Valley Collaborative website and sent home to parents. Agenda for each meeting will be posted on Valley Collaborative website one week prior that includes, time, location and content of meeting.