



# 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

10/26/23, 12:00PM

### Via Zoom

Contact Bryan Thomas ([bthomas@valleycollaborative.org](mailto:bthomas@valleycollaborative.org)) for more information or to join the group.

#### Minutes:

- Introductions & Welcome
- Reviewed the Vision of PAG / Meeting Guidelines (included below)
  - Discussed the PAG structure and options for officers and bylaws.
    - The group opted not to elect officers or establish bylaws at this time.
  - Number of Meetings
    - The group is interested in more frequent meeting
    - Plan to meet in November and December then discuss future frequency.
- Wants and needs for parents/guardians:
  - Opportunities for students to make connections beyond the classroom.
    - Connecting with families outside of school
    - Parents can connect with each other via the classroom teacher or through administration.
  - Parents looking for space to discuss and share processes, experiences, and resources with each other.
    - in official meetings and casual meet-ups
    - connect with parents outside of meetings
  - Parent Engagement in the school
    - Trunk or Treat Event
    - Thanksgiving Event
  - Interested in platforms for connection between parents outside of Class Dojo
  - Renew “Who’s Who At Valley” class Dojo Posts
  - Interested in presentation(s) on the new IEP format: overviews and cheat-sheets in the future.
- Overview of Special Education Rights and Laws
  - <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ECSr7ulyV9T29OoBO1UnirkZ3--9gVtYglGi-Vz5jcg/edit?usp=sharing>
  - This resource was provided to parents to review independently with the opportunity to review and discuss as a group in the future.
- Other Business: None
- Plan for next Meeting
- November & October meetings will be scheduled via the PAG group email.



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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/>
  - [https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf5221/f/uploads/23\\_winter - youth\\_programs\\_update\\_0.pdf](https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf5221/f/uploads/23_winter_-_youth_programs_update_0.pdf)
  - 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, and educator 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.