



Valley Elementary School

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

Parent Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting Minutes

11/28/23, 12:00PM - Via Zoom

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

Minutes:

- Introductions & Welcome
 - Review the Vision of PAG / Meeting Guidelines (included below)
 - Wants and needs for parents/guardians:
 - Review parent engagement and connection
 - Family & School Events
 - The recent Trunk or Treat (October) & Thanksgiving Brunch (November) were popular and valued events.
 - The P.A.G. discussed and brainstormed potential future activities for family/school events:
 - New Year or Winter related activity for family involvement.
 - PJ Party / Cozy Movie
 - Talent Show: one large or multiple (by class)
 - Family Craft Day
 - Class Dojo Posts
 - Continue “Who’s Who At Valley”
 - Suggested: Monthly Resource Post to Class Dojo from the P.A.G
 - Reviewed school engagement and activities for students:
 - Clubs:
 - Football club was a student/family favorite
 - The P.A.G. discussed new club ideas for the winter months:
 - Basketball, dodgeball, hungry hungry hippo, running club, etc.
 - Other Ideas for the School:
 - Trauma-Informed / Mental Health / Wellness Assembly for students
 - Kapstone project: writing and acting play for perspective taking.
 - Interest in presentation(s) on the new IEP format: overviews and cheat-sheets in the future: Administration will plan an overview for families to be held in the spring.
- Review of Special Education Rights and Laws
 - <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ECSr7ulyV9T29OoBO1UnirkZ3--9gVtYglGi-Vz5icg/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Discussed uses for this resource
- Group discussion of experiences with district SEPACs & The group plans to share useful events and resources from SEPACs with the P.A.G.
- Plan for next Meeting: 12/19/23 12:00PM via Zoom



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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.

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.