



## Meeting Summary- September 19, 2022

The meeting was held from 7:00pm-8:40 pm.

### **In attendance:**

- SEPAG Leadership Committee:
  - Lauren Galok, Co-Leader
  - Leah DiDonato, Co-Leader
  - Diana Fannan, Secretary
  - Jeff Jannarone, Primary School Liaison
  - Jenn Varga, Allenwood School Liaison
  - Erin Ahern, Central School Liaison
  - Laurie D'alessandro-Chiodo, Old Mill Liaison
  - Jenna Wilkowski, Intermediate School Liaison
  - Mary Beth DeBrito, High School Liaison
  - Lou Carrigan, West Belmar School Liaison (not present)
- Representing Department of Special Services- Kelly Bond, Nancy Samaha, Samantha Roberts
- Representing BOE- Ralph Addonizio

### **Welcome**

Lauren introduced the SEPAG Leadership Committee, which includes Co-leaders, Secretary, and Building Liaisons. The SEPAG private Facebook page which is open to any district family receiving special education services now has over 100 members.

Leah summarized SEPAG's goals and priorities for the upcoming school year, topics that were further discussed later in the meeting during the parent discussion portion:

- Increase SEPAG's presence in the district
- Promoting inclusiveness at the building level

### **Presentation by Special Services Department**

See attached slides for presentation.

- Additional presentations this school year:
  - Post- Graduate Transition Information- October 20, 2022
  - Transitioning to a New School- January 2023 (Date TBD)
  - Behavioral Strategies presented by our district BCBA's- March 2023 (Date TBD)

## Open Discussion

The floor was opened to attendees to ask questions and present concerns. The following is a summary of the topics discussed:

### Staffing and Training

- Five new paraprofessionals are up for Board approval at the September meeting, which will fill all current positions.
- Discussed background and training for paraprofessionals:
  - Currently the minimum standard for paraprofessionals is a high school diploma
  - Our district supports paraprofessionals who are interested in receiving further training in Applied Behavior Analysis to become Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs), though it is not a requirement for the position
- Discussed training for staff as listed in our children's IEPs; additional training specific to a child can be included in the IEP on an individual basis, such as train staff to use Assistive Technology.
- Special Area teachers (such as PE, Arts, etc.) – discussed whether there may be opportunities for additional training in case specific bases, beyond the district wide lecture-based training, specifically for In Class Resource placements.

### Transportation

- Follow-up discussion regarding the Spring/Summer 2022 bus delays – the Transportation Department's Excel spreadsheet, which is meant to be updated in real time, seems to be accurate and useful this school year, in most cases. Although there may be individual delays at times, there has not been a repeat of the delays that were seen in the past Spring and in ESY. Parents noted that the spreadsheet was not utilized by the Transportation Dept. during ESY.

### Unstructured times

- Concern brought forth that middle school lunch period has been shortened, which does not allow for enough down time and socialization time.
- Periods of the school day with less structure (e.g., specials, recess, lunch, bussing) may be times when special education students have the least support but may need it most for promoting socialization and managing appropriate behavior.

### Promoting Inclusiveness

- Allenwood School is pursuing an assembly given by an adult with autism, Tim Rohrer, to promote inclusiveness; building liaison Jenn Varga is spearheading this initiative with the Allenwood personnel and PTG.
- Discussed using the model of Circle of Friends program at Allenwood to develop similar programs in each school
  - Discussed need for identifying the proper school personnel; guidance counselors, speech and language
  - Dr. Samaha discussed the Wall Social Club in further detail, expanding on the presentation from earlier in the evening
  - Discussed the benefits of a student mentor/mentee program (similar to big brother/sister programs)

- Discussed a variety of other potential opportunities for promoting inclusion that may be led by faculty or parent volunteers (e.g., after school clubs, certain sports such as the track team, theater clubs, engage & create club, attending football games)
- Several parents brought up the concern that In Class Resource students may not currently have programs available to them to promote inclusivity and socialization, in addition to accommodations typically afforded to the self-contained classes.

#### Increasing SEPAG Presence

- As a group we would like to engage with more families to provide as much support as we can. We discussed several ways to increase meeting attendance (e.g., streaming meetings for those who may not have child care, inviting guest speakers to present a variety of topics of interest)
- SEPAG will seek to use the districts Facebook page to reach a wider audience, to announce meetings and other relevant information
- Building Liaisons are intended to be a valuable resource for families within each school. Discussed creating a handout for families with SEPAG information and liaison contacts to be distributed with PRISE for families receiving special education services.

#### **Announcements**

- 10/21 Allenwood BYOP & Trunk or Treat- sensory inclusive reserved time for Allenwood families from 5:00-5:30pm
- 11/1 FREE webinar- Click to register- [Look to the Future: Transition from School to Adult Life Registration, Tue, Nov 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

#### **Important Links**

- Wall SEPAG Facebook page- [www.facebook.com/groups/1021230828603890/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1021230828603890/)
- Wall SEPAG District webpage- [Special Services / Special Education Parent Advisory Group \(SEPAG\) \(wallpublicschools.org\)](http://Special Services / Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) (wallpublicschools.org))

**\*\*\*Next Meeting is Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the WHS cafeteria\*\*\***

The meeting concluded at 8:40pm. Submitted by Diana Fannan.

**Special Services  
Updates  
SEPAG  
9.19.2022**



# New Website

Please use this form to provide feedback on our website and to comment regarding our social media. Our team will continue to make updates. We value our community and your input.

Thank you to those who have provided feedback. We are working to attend to any technical issues.

Home Our District Departments Board of Education Students & Families Community Employees Referendum Calendar

**Departments**

- Athletics
- Business Office
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Food Services
- Human Resources
- Facilities
- Special Services
- Student Wellness
- Technology
- Transportation

Translate Users

District Select a School I want to...

WTPS Website Introduction

For Audio Click the Speaker Icon on the Right

Home Our District Departments Board of Education Students & Families Community Employees Referendum Calendar

**WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
One Vision · All Students · Wall Together

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District Select a School I want to...

Home > Departments > Special Services > Welcome

**SPECIAL SERVICES**

**WELCOME**

Staff

Calendar

Parent Resources

Parent Rights

Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAC)

**SPECIAL SERVICES**

Welcome! The Wall Township Public Schools' Special Services Department is proud to provide an array of services to students and their families. Special Education is an integral part of the educational system in Wall. We provide specialized programs and related services individualized to student needs. We are proud to provide an appropriate education for students with disabilities, in the least restrictive environment, that will enable them to reach their potential. Class placements for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) include preschool disabled, integrated preschool (general education placement), general education classes with specialized support, in-class and pull-out resource programs, and special class programs for students with more significant needs. The Child Study Team (CST) is comprised of the following members:

**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES**

Kelly Bond  
[kbond@wallpublicschools.org](mailto:kbond@wallpublicschools.org)

732.556.2572  
Department of Special Services  
1801 Bailey's Corner Road  
P.O. Box 1199  
Wall, NJ 07719

# IDEA Funds

## ★ IDEA PS and Basic

- Supplies
- Instructional Materials
- Assemblies
- Technology needed for specific students
- Contracted Services Providers

# Inclusive Community Opportunities

## Toms River Field of Dreams

- **Toms River Field of Dreams (TRFOD) is a project with a mission to encourage and engage our communities in Monmouth and Ocean County with a focus on those with special needs by building a community complex to provide opportunities for special needs individuals of all ages and abilities to engage, explore, and socialize together.**



- [Introduction Video \(14:30 minutes\)](#)

- [Fox News Clip \(7:30 minutes\)](#)



# Inclusive Community Opportunities

## Toms River Field of Dreams

- **Some students from WIS and the elementary schools visited TRFOD this past summer and had a great time!**
- **TRFOD is 3.5 acres that includes a basketball and bocce court, walking path, all-inclusive playground, 8 bathrooms, 9 hole mini golf, 5 community gardens, a baseball field, a quiet corner and more!**
- **Visit their homepage for more information on this nonprofit organization: [Field of Dreams Homepage](#). Families with children with special needs can sign up here: [Register for Field of Dreams Membership](#).**





# New Promethean Boards - Primary and MD @ AW



# SLE (Structured Learning Experiences)



**WHS students deliver interoffice mail within the district.  
Other SLE placements include Ocean Medical Center, Pet Supplies Plus,  
IHOP, Bradley Food Pantry, Walgreens, Foodtown, WIS and West Belmar  
School.**

# Changes to WHS classrooms



**We added  
appliances to our  
new MD class  
practice Life Skills.**

**We acquired a new,  
large classroom with  
a comfortable  
seating area.**



# Welcome Back Picnic with the WHS Social Club

## Social Club Picnic Recap Video



# Parent Information Nights

## ★ Post-Graduate Transition Information

- Presented by Ryan Bradley, our Transition Coordinator
- Date: Thursday, October 20, 2022

## ★ Transitioning to a New School

- Presented by our Special Education Supervisors, Dr. Nancy Samaha and Samantha Roberts
- January 2023 (date TBD)

## ★ Behavioral Strategies

- Presented by our district BCBAs, Kate Blasi and Felicia Slattery
- March 2023 (date TBD)