

## **IPAC MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022

**FACILITATOR:** Brooke Avakian

**LOCATION:** Zoom

**ATTENDEES:** Brooke Avakian, Rebecca Delhougue, Sarah Banks, Hope MacLeod, Angela Knapp, Janet Sylvia, Catherine Mafcher (cathmaf@gmail.com), Kira Sullivan, Nina Lombardi, Colleen Hickey

Sasha Ianmarino (interpreter) was available but not needed for this meeting

Brooke Avakian started with introductions and a slideshow presentation on IPAC which is attached here separately.

- We discussed that IPAC was created to support families navigating the special education world and how to work with the school districts.
- We plan to currently meet every other month but are open to more frequent meeting if warranted.
- Currently the website is under construction but Kevin McGrath is going to be working on this with IPAC.

Hope MacLeod spoke about the meetings being a good place to express more general concerns and if parents have any specific concerns that she welcomes them to reach out privately to her.

- Every grade/age levels struggles look a little bit different and that things have shifted a bit since COVID.
- There was a new school psychologist position accepted by the school committee last year but they have been unable to fill it until now (starting the first week in March). Still looking for a Speech & Language position to be filled.
- Looking for suggestions on time of year for the Basic Rights Trainings that are provided to parents by the school (one formal required one and another that has been provided in addition in the past as a more like “ask the advocate” style)
- Kira suggested a link for training that parents can access any time of the year (whenever an issue might arise—Angela provided this link: <https://fcsn.org/pti/events-calendar/> )

Angela introduced herself as the Program Coordination for Family Support Center at MVCS

- They work with children and adults with a wide range of intellectual disabilities.
- Goals are to provide information, referrals, trainings, community connections and collaborations, networking for parents and mentorship, support for families going through transitions.
- They provide flexible funding to those eligible to cover recreation, respite, childcare and beyond
- Working to bring in speakers (including author of “The Whole Child”

Brooke opened up the floor with “How can we support you and your family?”

- Kira expressed confusion on how to know who to go to, how to advocate for needs without ruffling feathers
- Colleen suggested a “cliff notes” version of processes from evaluation to end result as well as how often these reevaluations occur (annual, every three years, etc)
- Nina suggested we lay out the types of evaluations the schools do vs what types of evaluations you can obtain on your own through health insurance and that the timelines for outside evaluations are quite long to even get an appointment)
- Catherine suggested we layout what all the different acronyms are for parents

\*Hope to have committee members representing each of the schools

\*Hoping to have next meeting in person

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 (Location: TBD)