Haverhill SEPAC

10/21/15 – Minutes

Basic Rights in Special Education

Guest: Kristin Wesolaski from Lyons & Rogers LLC. A firm specializing in special ed law, representing public school systems.

Parents Notice of Procedural Safeguards – outlines parents' rights.

Parents or a child 14 or older can request copies of all records (transcript, progress reports, evaluations, meeting summaries etc). Copies must be provided within 10 business days. Receive copy or review at school.

School – qualified person to review record or representative to review record – request in writing/consent.

Prior written notice: Must have how, why, what eval etc. 1) proposing to do 2) proposing not to do.

Parental consent – revocation must be in writing.

Request for independent education evaluation – if you disagree with the school evaluation. You can request the school pay – sliding scale based on income (free lunch = free).

10 days to convene a team to present private or independent evaluation. Evaluations over one year old considered stale. There is a legal requirement for a 3 year revaluation.

What happens when the private evaluation and the district do not agree? What happens when services are not in place?

Age of majority – 18 rights transfers to student, 14 to be invited to IEP meetings.

Suspension of SPED students – more than 10 days cumulative suspension requires change in placement and manifestation hearing.

What is the districts anti-bullying plan? 99% of disputes handled at the local level. Mediation through BSEA very successful.

504 Plan – Due process hearing, state complaint department. Do not need to hire an attorney.

Effective progress is individualized – particular to each student.

Update from Interim Director:

- All ETF positions filled (interviewed over 40 people)
- SLP still open – using contractors for now
- Summer program – beginning to discuss 4-6 week minimum

- Now meeting with ETF, SLP, OT and PT 1x per month
- ETFs attended legal summit with Lyons & Rogers
- Nov 3rd Professional Development – training on testing etc. ETFs train the trainer
- Co-teaching model