

# **MILTON SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**



# Who Are We?

**We are a State-mandated, system-wide volunteer organization comprised of parents and primary caregivers of children with special needs.**



# What we do:

- **Advise the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities, professional development and parent concerns**
- **Meet regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school district's special education programs**
- **Provide educational/informational forums to parents, educators, students and professionals**
- **Promote communication and programs within the community to encourage understanding, acceptance and inclusion of special needs children**



# Our Mission

**We strive to make a difference in the lives of students with special needs by:**

- **Providing families support, information and training on the special education process, and laws that govern their child's right to a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment**
- **Networking and sharing resources to better support our children's needs**
- **Working in partnership with the school district to create and improve positive outcomes for students with disabilities**
- **Promoting education, communication and programs within our community**



# PAC Board 2013-2014

- **Jerry Vitti**, Chairperson
- **Michelle Connolly**, Vice Chairperson
- **Ann Finnegan**, Treasurer
  
- **Members at Large:**
  - **Kevin Lenane**
  - **Terri Solomon**



# OFF TO A GREAT START....

The Milton PAC had our best “kick off” meeting in years last month

The room was full and the energy and enthusiasm were apparent.

Special thanks to Karen Clasby, Milton’s Director of Pupil Personnel Services (Special Ed. Director) who gave an overview of current special education services in Milton.

There were a lot of good questions and there was lively discussion amongst the group.

Folks (and it was heartening to see) stayed after the meeting (and the Sox were on) to meet each other, exchange contact information and ideas.



# **A GREAT NIGHT TOMORROW....**

## **"AN IEP for My Child"**

Every child with a disability who receives special education services must have an Individual Education Plan. This workshop takes parents step-by-step through the development of the IEP including how to articulate a vision, using evaluations to write measurable annual goals and measuring their child's progress

The next PAC meeting is "An IEP for My Child" presented by Jennie Dunkley, a SPED Family Consultant and Child Advocate. She is a senior trainer for the Federation for Children with Special Needs on Basic Rights, IEP Development, Transition and Multiple Learning Styles



Advocating for Children with Special Needs

# 2013-2014 PAC SCHEDULE

- **10/21 - Parent Speak**
- **11/21 – IEP For My Child (Milton High School Library)**
- **1/16 - EYS Parent Speak**
- **2/27 – Parent Speak**
- **3/20 – Transitional Planning**
- **4/17 – Preschool Roundtable**
- **5/15 – Parent Speak & PAC Elections**





# **2013-2014 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Strengthen Infrastructure**
- 2. Improve Communication**
- 3. Increase PAC Membership**
- 4. Advocacy and Advisory Participation**



Advocating for Children with Special Needs

# How Can We Achieve These Goals?



# 1. Strengthen Infrastructure

- **Develop more interactive website with links to essential services, programs and community events**
- **Create committee structure to effectively address various goals/needs in special education**
- **Establish clear goals and objectives for school calendar year with deadlines to meet**
- **Increase participation in school committee and administrative meetings**
- **Solicit volunteer support from students and community**



## 2. Improve Communication

- **Update MPS Special Education Programs and Supports and district's SPED policies**
- **Clearly establish/update district contact information in all communication materials.**
- **Work collaboratively with district SPED office to provide clear information to parents.**
- **Meet monthly with the Administrator of Pupil Personnel**
- **Design communications to be more interactive**



### **3. Increase Participation in PAC**

- **Revise and update website, program materials and resources**
- **Provide current calendar of events, links to local and community presentations**
- **Increase PAC listserv of parents**
- **Share information about PAC events/meetings in school newsletters and other publications**
- **Provide child care at monthly PAC meetings**



## **4. Advocacy & Advisory Participation**

- **Identify areas that need attention/compliance to State and Federal special education laws,**
- **Work collaboratively with district on special educational issues, upcoming special educational initiatives and policies,**
- **Serve as a liaison between parents/guardians and school officials to encourage better understanding and communication on SPED issues,**
- **Advise school committee and administration on development of special education programs, parent, and teacher training needs**



# 2013-2014

## Advocacy & Advisory Objectives

- **Extended School Year (ESY) services**
  - **NEC**
- **Programs/procedures to address Social/Emotional Goals**
- **CAP Implementation**
- **Co-taught programs**



# THANK YOU

