



**WOBURN SPECIAL EDUCATION  
PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
THE HEART AT WORK

**Woburn SEPAC**

Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2026 | 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Open Meeting

School Committee Member present: Jessie Wetzel, Jose Oliveira, Mike Mulrennan

SEPAC Board Members present: Adam Chapman, Alex Tisdell, John Wetzel, Maura Petty

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order (AC, 6:35)
- 2) SEPAC Updates
  - a) College and Transition Fair a huge success
    - Most successful fair since the pandemic
    - 50+ families
    - 28 communities from MA, 1 from NH, and one almost from CT
    - Overall survey response - people left feeling informed and would like to see more colleges in the future
  - b) Woburn Challenger Baseball w/ John Tompkins
    - About to celebrate 30 years of Challenger Baseball
    - Ages 4+ are eligible and you can still register at no cost at <https://www.woburnlittleleague.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1710611>
    - Runs May & June. Shirts & caps provided. Players are paired with a Buddy (usually a highschooler earning volunteer hours)
    - Very welcoming & low demand.
  - c) ESY Update
    - Monday - Thursday, July 6 - July 30
    - ESY being moved to **Reeves Elementary** this summer for Pre K & Elementary (8AM-11AM). Power scholars program taking place at the Reeves this summer as well.
    - Possible use of therapy dog to help with transition??
    - Middle and Highschool will be held at Woburn High (9AM - 12PM)
    - Watching Fire Station 5 construction at Gillis Field. Start date TBD but may start during ESY.
    - Tentative date for info session 6/9 at 5PM at Reeves. Tours available upon requests made to Kelly Wilhelm (ESY Coordinator) [kwilhelm@woburnps.com](mailto:kwilhelm@woburnps.com)

- d) It's official! WuPAC is ready to hit the ground running!
    - "Friends of SEPAC", known as WuPAC, is officially a 501(c)(3) non-profit ready to fundraise.
    - Funding can be used towards speakers, teacher education, scholarships for kids/camps, special ed equipment, etc.
    - Early ideas for events include gift wrapping station @ the Burlington Mall, swag, and adult talent show.
    - Open to member feedback!!
  - e) Family Summer Send-off?
    - Tabled until next meeting
  - f) SEPAC Summer - what would you like to see, if anything?
    - Tabled until next meeting
  - g) Nominations
    - President Adam Chapman nominated the present board members to serve in their positions for the next two years. Alex Tisdell (Vice President), John Wetzel (Treasurer) Maura Petty (Secretary)
    - Elections next meeting 6/2 at WPL Program Room
    - Liaisons for schools are still needed!
- 3) Family Survey Review
    - a. Survey results presentation to be shared at a later date
  - 4) SEPAC position on ongoing WTA negotiations
    - a. Letter regarding position read aloud by board members
  - 5) Parent Concerns and Action Items
    - a. Communications for subseparate classroom parents
      - i. Get district-wide communications, sometimes principal communications, but do not get grade level communications- did not know about a field trip/permission slip
      - ii. Feel isolated and left out of grade specific events, field trips & theme days
    - b. Dyslexia services and lack of language based programming
    - c. Staff retention, vacant positions, leave policies, staffing issues
      - i. Prolonged absences of a staff member not communicated to a parent, when you find out from your own child
      - ii. Seems to happen with paras and BCBAs
    - d. Not having enough direct support staff
    - e. ESY
      - i. Different program availability, pilot programs
    - f. RISE classroom placement next year
  - 6) Close of Meeting (AC, 8:00 PM)