

# MINUTES

## HVRSD SEPAC Minutes

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9/13/22 @ 6:30PM | *Meeting called to order by* Monica Zanin

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### In Attendance/Introductions

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Monica Zanin, Director of Student Services, Jackie Daniels, Associate Director of Student Services, Erica Girgenti, Community Engagement, Kell Riechers, Pre-School Teacher, Kristen Palatt, Curriculum Coordinator, Erin Beaulac, Elementary Principal.

Members: Krystal Safa, Liz Chapman, Erin Shea

### Approval of Minutes

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Minutes from August meeting are posted on the Student Services website.

### Welcome Erica Girgenti

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New position created at HVRSD- Family & Community Engagement Coordinator

Erica's primary focus will be at the middle and high schools to start

Decrease absents in the school district

Improve graduation retention

Improve connections between our school and our community: Focus in community events for students of all abilities, have a presence in the community and minimize missed opportunities of engagement for students receiving student services. (Students in Special Education).

SEPAC Brochure: See below for notes

SEPAC Community Flyer: Top 10 Reasons to Join, see below link on draft

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yBpRHusf5RkzIf\\_CvutnVa8LpO7DbYmn/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yBpRHusf5RkzIf_CvutnVa8LpO7DbYmn/view?usp=sharing)

### Updates in Special Education

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Monica Zanin, Director of Student Services started July 1, 2022. Focus is on engagement, visibility, partnership in education and breaking down barriers of traditional students and students receiving student services (special education).

Although staffing has been a challenge nationwide and current openings at HVRSD, 41 new educators hired in district, all highly qualified and experienced.

Paraprofessional positions recently posted as there is a needed for the support in the district.

School committee voted to increase wages for substitute and other positions to make HVRSD competitive.

Students on IEP's are always the top priority to assure educational and safety needs are being met.

### Budget

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The budget for the current school year was distributed by Kim Ralls, PTA Treasurer, and reviewed by the board and PTA members at the last meeting. In tonight's meeting, David Jaffe made a motion to approve the budget which was seconded by Rachel Valdez. All present voted in favor of approving the budget as presented.

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## SEPAC Brochure

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Monica & Eric co-presented a draft SEPAC logo and brochure for families. Includes a QR code which links to student services webpage.

Focus is to market SEPAC to recruit more members.

Brochure to be emailed to attendees and possibly to all parents via superintendent weekly note for input.

Committee needs to vote whether or not the brochure should be finalized for a period or update more frequently.

Committee members should also think about 3 words which describe group: Advocate, Educate, Value

Committee agrees use of student photos exhibiting engagement would be best on brochure. In the interim to get brochure out for parents' week Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, generic clip art/photos.

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## Additional Notes

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Establish a SEPAC school email address

Develop a short video on an overview of SEPAC and What we do, a QR code/link to video for families, educators, and community members.

Presentation from today's meeting on Student Service website for reference.

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## Next steps

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Review previous meeting minutes

Discuss topics for future SEPAC meetings, incorporate training (committee goal is quarterly), guess speakers, etc. Committee to be prepared to share ideas of topics for next meeting.

Develop Survey for parents for input on training topics

Review Brochure and provide feedback via email to Erica [egirgenti@hoosacvalley.org](mailto:egirgenti@hoosacvalley.org) and Monica [mzanin@hoosacvalley.org](mailto:mzanin@hoosacvalley.org) by 9/16/22 due to parents' week as indicated above.

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## Next Meeting

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October 11, 2022 @ 6:30PM via zoom