Workshop Objectives

- The Important Role of Parent Input
- Strategies for Engaging Families
- Working Towards Diverse Input
- Determining SEPAC Priorities
The Engine of a SEPAC

A good structure is the engine of the SEPAC:

• Mission Statement
• Well-organized framework/By-laws
• Clearly defined roles/Officers
• Meeting requirements - Agendas
• Elections and Turnover

Parent input is the fuel for the engine.

Important Role of Parent Input

Input is the fuel for change… collected from:

• Parents
• Students
• Educators
• Community leaders
• Others

Tap into Diverse sources. Input can be used to identify systemic issues and solutions.

What is input?
letters, proposals, comments, concerns, complaints, feedback, stories, testimony, data …

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**Strategies for Engaging Families**

- Multiple Communication methods: flyers, brochures, social media, website
- Participate in events, i.e., back-to-school nights
- Surveys
- Host a Listening Night
- Dedicated Email for input
- Present to PTA/PTO
- Workshops

**Components of Successful Engagement**

- Welcome all families
- Communicate effectively
- Support the success of new leaders
- Sharing power and responsibility
- Partnering with the community

[https://masfec.org/](https://masfec.org/)
Massachusetts Statewide Family Engagement Center (MA SFEC)
Supporting Diverse Input

What supports do families need to attend meetings?

• Childcare
• Translation services
• Transportation
• Food/drink
• Online access – phone or zoom
• Printed materials

* Is there another way to get input?

Determining Priorities

Not every concern is a systemic issue.

Focus on 1 to 3 critical issues annually to direct your SEPAC’s efforts.

Taking on too much can overwhelm volunteers. Leave room for issues that may arise.

Report on a periodic basis to School Committee.
Indicators of Success

- High attendance at meetings
- Interest in SEPAC positions/elections
- Requests for input by school leaders
- Positive feedback from parents/stakeholders
- SEPAC advice is considered

Follow-up with members is vital for success.

National Parental Involvement Day

#NationalParentalInvolvementDay
Nov. 19, 2020

Welcome to the home of National Parental Involvement Day

https://www.projectappleseed.org/national-parent-day
THANK YOU
Session 4 – July 28
Running a SEPAC Meeting