

MIDDLEBOROUGH SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

BY-LAWS

(Revised 11/2008)

MISSION STATEMENT:

1. To present workshops, programs, educational materials, and other topics of interest to parents of children and adolescents with disabilities and to the community.
2. To create awareness and successfully empower parents' involvement in the implementation of all aspects of special education within the Middleborough Public Schools
3. To advise the district on matters which pertain to the education of children and adolescents with disabilities.

ARTICLE I

Name

Middleborough Special Education Parents Advisory Council (hereinafter referred to as MPAC)

ARTICLE II

Purpose

1. To share information and provide support for all parents or guardians of children and adolescents receiving special education services.
2. To actively participate with school department staff and personnel in the planning, development, and evaluation of the School Committee's special education program.
3. To foster better understanding, improve communication, and strengthen the partnership among staff, educators, parents/guardians, students, administrators, School Committee members, and the Middleborough community concerning all aspects of special education programming.

ARTICLE III

Membership

MPAC membership shall be open to all parents and guardians of children and adolescents receiving special education services, as well as other interested persons.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

The officers of the council shall consist of at least one chairperson and a treasurer. Co-chairpersons can be elected by consensus vote of the members. Nominations for officers shall be made during the first

meeting of the school year, with elections conducted during the second meeting of the school year. Vacancies can be filled by vote mid-year at a regularly scheduled meeting, as needed.

ARTICLE V

Duties of the Officers

1. Chairperson(s)

- a) Submit notice of upcoming meetings to local media (newspaper, cable, etc.)
- b) Work with the Special Education Director to plan an agenda for each meeting
- c) Attend all regularly scheduled meetings (or appoint a designee) and maintain notes/minutes of discussions
- d) Serve as custodian of records and maintain a current list of members
- e) Serve as resource and point of contact for parents and others seeking information about the council

2. Treasurer

- a) Maintain complete and accurate records of incoming and outgoing funds of MPAC's treasury
- b) Provide a report to MPAC members at regularly scheduled meetings, as needed

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

1. At least 6 meetings will be held each school year, with an initial meeting in October and subsequent meetings planned for the remainder of the school year according to a calendar identified by members. Summer meetings can be scheduled at the discretion of the membership.

2. All meetings shall be open to the public and advance notice will be made in the local media.

ARTICLE VII

Voting

Voting privileges are open to parents and guardians of children/adolescents who are receiving special education services from the Middleborough Public Schools, including those in out-of-district programs.

ARTICLE VIII

Amending

These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the MPAC by a 2/3 vote, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given at a previous meeting.