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# SEPAC GENERAL MEETING

## Message from SEPAC Co-Presidents

Greetings to you and your family,

Welcome back to the school year; by now we expect you are all up and running at full speed! At our annual election last May we elected a new Executive Board. Thank you to all who have served on our previous Board and a special thank you to Pat Ononibaku for all of her help and dedication to SEPAC, we will miss her this year.

SEPAC is very excited about this upcoming year and we have big plans to help support our parents. We have identified 4 primary goals for this academic year and have set up regular times and dates to meet with Dr. Faye Brady, Student Services Director to work together on these goals. Our meeting times and dates will be posted on our website and are also included in this newsletter. We hope that you will take a few minutes to review our goals outlined in the following pages and check out our website for more information and to provide feedback.

We understand that the new school year is a time of transition and we hope that your children are adjusting to their new teachers, support staff, class-mates and classroom routines. Please stay connected with SEPAC and plan to attend one of our events to help support "you" as we move forward this year. If you would like to volunteer with SEPAC, please contact us, we are currently in need of school reps to join the Board. The time commitment is reasonable and the benefit of networking with fellow parents are priceless.

Our next general meeting is September, 25th—to be held at the Bangs Center at 6:30—Please join us and meet the new Executive Board and learn more about our efforts to improve your child's school experience. We hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings or workshops and look forward to receiving your feedback as we continue to work to improve our special education system in our Community.

All our Best, **Melissa Paciulli and Malulani Sherlock SEPAC Co-Presidents**

## **5 EASY** ways to get involved with SEPAC

1. **Join our mailing list**
2. **Come to our General Meetings and Upcoming workshops**
3. **Volunteer with SEPAC**
4. **Stay informed—Follow our Blog**

<http://arpssepac.wordpress.com/>

5. **Like us on Facebook**

**We want to  
hear from  
you!**



# SEPAC GENERAL MEETING

## GENERAL MEETING

Come meet your 2013-14 SEPAC Executive  
Board Members

We want to hear from you!

September 26th

6:30

Bangs Community Center

**SEPAC  
Fundraiser**

### *SHOES FOR AFRICA*

*October—December*

Amherst SEPAC is collaborating with Rerun Shoes this fall in an easy and fun fundraiser. We don't want your money, just your old shoes that Rerun will purchase from SEPAC. If everyone cleaned out their closets of usable shoes they no longer wear, we can turn that into cash to support our community. For more information please email SEPAC or Rerun Shoes at [info@rerunshoes.com](mailto:info@rerunshoes.com). Look for these collection boxes in your children's schools~! Thank you for your support!

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# Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year!

## *Letter from Faye Brady, Director of Student Services*

Dear all,

I hope that all families enjoyed some time to relax over the summer and to have special times with friends and family. Although summers can be relaxing and many look forward to the longer hours of sunshine, I must admit that I truly enjoy the last days of summer when energies mount as the new school year approaches. The anticipation of another year is very special and I always take time to reflect on all the joys and lessons learned from previous years. This summer we invested time and resources in professional development for our staff in a number of areas. To name a few these included: reading and writing instructional techniques for students with language based learning needs, Applied Behavioral Analysis, Co-Teaching, and fine motor curriculum activities to support school readiness of our young students.

This year's beginning brings with it the continuation of many things we have already been working on as well as some new areas to focus our attention. Last year I was fortunate enough to have an opportunity to learn a great deal about the Amherst school community from families and my colleagues. Amherst is a wonderful community and the children of Amherst are very lucky to have their families invested in making sure that the schools continue to grow and develop to meet the needs of all the students. Having a school community that is designed and works to continually adapt to the needs of a diverse student population requires the partnership of all. As the Director of Student Services, I fully embrace the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) standard which states: "A school administrator is an educational leader who promotes the success of all students by collaborating with families and community members, responding to diverse community interests and needs, and mobilizing community resources." I was lucky to have met a number of parents during my first year and have the benefit of an active SEPAC with whom I meet on a regular basis. As many of you know, I am not a leader who wants to do the work in isolation and I welcome input and discussion from all. I hope that during this school year many of you will be able to attend one or more of the SEPAC meetings.

I invite you to work closely with me and others in Student Services Department to continually build upon our programs and services. Please contact any of us whenever you have a question, concern, or idea.

Once again, welcome to the 2013-2014 school year!

Best,  
Faye Brady



**Check out  
[www.sepac-arps.info](http://www.sepac-arps.info)  
For additional  
information on  
District Programs**



# SEPAC Goals of 2013

SEPAC has established four primary goals for this academic year in an effort to work towards measurable and attainable progress here in the Amherst Regional School District.

We feel strongly that through continued measurement and advocacy for the Special Education community, collaborative change and systemic improvements are possible.

**GOAL 1—ADVOCATE FOR TRANSPARENCY IN SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**GOAL 2- WORK TOWARD IMPROVING AREAS OF DISCIPLINE DISPARITY**

**GOAL 3-IDENTIFY PATTERNS/ISSUES WITH SE SERVICE DELIVERY**

**GOAL 4- WORK TOWARD IMPROVING DROP OUT RATES IN THE ARHS AND SEC**

## Upcoming Meetings

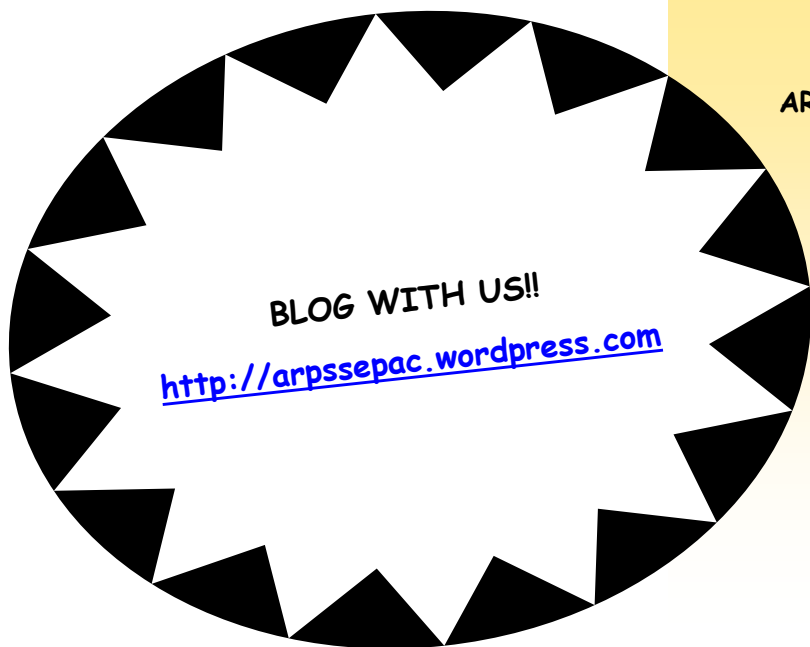
### *Administration/Executive Board Meetings*

September 17, 6:30 -8:30—Bangs Center  
October 8th, 6:30 -8:30—Location TBD  
November 5th, 6:30 -8:30 -Location TBD  
December 3rd, 6:30 -8:30-Location TBD  
January 7th, 6:30 -8:30-Location TBD  
February 4th, 6:30 -8:30-Location TBD  
March 4th, 6:30 -8:30-Location TBD  
April 1st, 6:30 -8:30-Location TBD  
May 6th, 6:30 -8:30-Location TBD  
June 3rd, 6:30 -8:30-Location TBD



## WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!!

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Like us on Facebook

ARPS Special Education Parent Advisory Council  
and Twitter!

Be sure to join our email list~!

[www.ARPS-SEPAC.info](http://www.ARPS-SEPAC.info)

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## ARPS SEPAC Board 2013-2014

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### SEPAC EXECUIVE BOARD

#### Co-Presidents

Melissa Paciulli (413) 519-4814

[mpaciulli@comcast.net](mailto:mpaciulli@comcast.net)

Lani Sherlock

[quabbinmediationlani@gmail.com](mailto:quabbinmediationlani@gmail.com)

#### Co-Vice Presidents

Birdie Champ (413) 237-6712

[8irdie@gmail.com](mailto:8irdie@gmail.com)

Maria Polino

[begoodharry@yahoo.com](mailto:begoodharry@yahoo.com)

#### Secretary and Web Editor

Laura Duffy

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#### Treasurer

Michael Aronson (413) 306-4504

[ma@consumerexportsgroup.com](mailto:ma@consumerexportsgroup.com)

Nancy Stewert

[basilstew@comcast.net](mailto:basilstew@comcast.net)

### BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

#### Crocker Farm

Members Needed

#### Wildwood

Birdie Champ (413) 237-6712

[8irdie@gmail.com](mailto:8irdie@gmail.com)

#### Fort River

Maria Polino

[begoodharry@yahoo.com](mailto:begoodharry@yahoo.com)

#### Pelham

Lani Sherlock

[quabbinmediationlani@gmail.com](mailto:quabbinmediationlani@gmail.com)

#### ARMS

Nancy Stewert

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#### ARHS

Michael Aronson (413) 306-4504

[ma@consumerexportsgroup.com](mailto:ma@consumerexportsgroup.com)

#### SEC

Members Needed

#### Out of District

Melissa Paciulli (413) 519-4814

[mpaciulli@comcast.net](mailto:mpaciulli@comcast.net)