

**Boston SpedPac**  
SpedPac Executive Board  
2012-2013

Carolyn Kain, Chair  
John St. Amand, Vice Chair  
Diane Lescinskas, Secretary  
Kristin Macchi, Treasurer

**Members-at-Large**

Jeanene Fogli-Cawley, Nora Blake  
Jenny Watkins, Paulette Henry  
Susan Battista, Michele Cooper  
Lisa Connor, Dina Cundiff

**Members-at-Large - Alt**

Linda Freeman, Justin Palmer

*All Officers and Executive Board members are Parents/Guardians of Students with Disabilities and are volunteers in their respective capacities.*

**Boston SpedPac**  
General Meeting Schedule  
2012-2013

September 27, October 25  
November 29, January 24  
Feb. 28, March 28, April 25  
May 23 - Executive Board Elections

**Meeting Details:**

**Thursdays - 7-9PM - Cafeteria-2nd Floor**  
**Boston English High School**  
144 McBride Street, Jamaica Plain

Public Transportation Options:

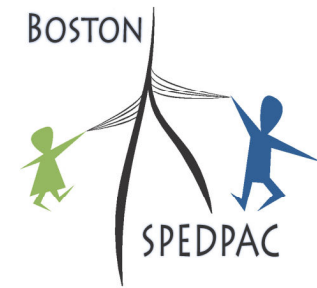
T - Orange Line: Green Street Station  
Bus: Number 42  
Parking Available Outside Main Entrance

Light refreshments will be served.  
Spanish translation is available at meetings.

**Childcare** is available, please request by (Wed) prior to each meeting by contacting SpedPac at:

[spedpac@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:spedpac@boston.k12.ma.us)

or (617) 635-8600



Are you a Parent/Guardian  
of a Special Needs Child?

Please Join  
**Boston SpedPac**  
Today

**SpedPac Contact Information:**

Website:

<http://www.bostonspedpac.org/>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/BostonSPEDPAC>

YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BostonSpedPac>

Email:

[spedpac@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:spedpac@boston.k12.ma.us)

Twitter:

@BostonSpedPac

Voice Mail:

(617) 635-8600

## About SpedPac

The Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (**SpedPac**) is a citywide parent advisory council, established under Chapter 71B, of the Massachusetts General Laws.

SpedPac's duties include but are not limited to: advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school committee's special education programs.

## SpedPac Needs You!

**Please join us** to help improve the special education offerings for all of our children! Work with us to **outreach** to parents at **your child's school** and build a strong parent community! Join us for **trainings** and **workshops**, a **resource fair**, and come hear from our **guest speakers** this year!

**Join Us!**

## SpedPac Priorities

The priorities that SpedPac is focused on are those identified in the report ***Improving Special Education in the Boston Public Schools*** by the **Council of the Great City Schools** in 2009.

SpedPac is committed to working closely with BPS leadership to address these priorities and improve services for all children with disabilities in the Boston Public Schools.

## Improved Culture within SPED Department

The BPS Special Education department ("OSESS") is in a period of transition and transformation. Under the direction of John Verre, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Students Services a new Team of Directors, Supervisors and Special Education Coordinators are being deployed to fulfill the stated priorities of OSESS of; 1) Improving student outcomes; 2) Meeting the hopes and aspirations of parents and 3) ensuring compliance with special education laws and regulations throughout the District. SpedPac meets regularly with OSESS and participates in OSESS advisory groups and task forces.

## Expand Qualified, Effective Inclusive Schools and Programs Throughout BPS

SpedPac is working with the District to increase inclusive opportunities throughout the District for special education students. The law requires that students with disabilities must be educated, to the maximum extent possible, in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) with their non-disabled peers. Over 49% of BPS SPED students are still in substantially separate settings (with only disabled peers).

## Effective, Equitable Transition Planning, Services, and Vocational Opportunities

MA Law requires Transition services to start at **age 14**, sooner if determined appropriate.

SpedPac is working with the District to **expand effective transition options** for middle and high school; including more vocational opportunities, and student centered transition planning.

## How is SpedPac Working on These Priorities?

SpedPac is working with **John Verre**, the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services, and his Team within the Special Education and Student Services Department, on new initiatives, including partnership on OSESS Advisory Committees and **Special Education Task Forces** that focus on:

Autism  
Early Education (3 & 4 yr. olds)  
Transition  
Inclusion  
ELL Students with Disabilities  
Social-Emotional/Behavioral Needs  
Assistive Technology

Each of these task forces/advisory groups includes parents, BPS administrators, external experts, teachers, community members, and a facilitator.

## SpedPac

Our children represent more than 20% of the students in the Boston Public Schools system. More than 10,000 students have disabilities and require services based on their own individual needs, which result from the impacts of their disability(ies). Whether your child has a specific learning disability, a developmental disorder, or multiple disabilities, we need to work together as a group to have our voices and concerns heard by BPS and effect change to improve services for our children. Please participate in any way that you can.