



## Presentation to the Waltham School Committee

The Waltham Special Education Parent Advisory Council  
May 19, 2010

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## WSEPAC History

- 2005-2008 WSEPAC is inactive
- May 2008, a group of parents of students receiving special education services request meeting with Director of Special Education to reinstate the PAC
- July 2008, acting board is sworn in by Director of Special Education
- PAC website is created and notifications are sent to distribution list with survey and membership forms
- July 2008, board meets to plan reintroduction of PAC at October 16, 2008 meeting
- October 2008-present monthly meetings are held and membership and interest in PAC continues to grow



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## Accomplishments

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- Produced surveys for teachers and parents in English and Spanish
- Redesigned the PAC website
- Brought in speakers covering a variety of topics such as basic rights, and how to write an effective education plan
- Created facebook group, yahoo page, and twitter account
- Skyped a meeting to test and consider offering this option in the future

## Accomplishments (cont.)

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- Members attended the APPLE Institute through the FCSN with Special Education Director and developed a Team Action Plan
- Created a monthly e-newsletter
- Supported Saturday play date for children with special needs at Waltham Public Library organized by PAC parent
- Held 3 fundraisers and collected donations for year end reception
- Hosted Year End reception

## Goals for 2010-2011

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- Work with the incoming Special Education Director to complete the Road Map and develop a communication plan for families of students in special education including a welcome letter to new families, program locations, teaching staff, bus routes, etc.
- Help families locate education supports and resources to improve MCAS scores
- Update the survey and membership forms
- Create a PAC brochure in English and Spanish



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## Goals for 2010-2011 (cont.)

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- Increase the PAC membership via outreach to families by creating parent mentoring network and working with the PIC, WPY, and the Waltham Family School
- Offer occasional meetings during school hours at the Moody Street Building location and look into moving play group there
- Increase fundraising efforts
- Explore setting the PAC up as a non profit 501(c)3 corporation



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## Next Steps

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- Director of Special Education and PAC to present to the Handicap Commission to request funding to help cover expenses
- Include PAC members in the selection process of new Director of Special Education
- Advise the school district on special education initiatives and programs, training needs, and policy
- Promote a stronger network by collaborating with PTO's to share information more widely