

UXBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Pupil Personnel Services
“Minimizing Obstacles, Maximizing Opportunities...
For Every Student!”

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Monthly Report – October 2008

Overview of Activities

- **The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education authorized Uxbridge Public Schools to participate in FREE professional development opportunities as they become available throughout the 2008-2009 academic year - as a means of improving programs and services for students with disabilities.**
- **The Department of Pupil Personnel Services portion of the district website is up-to-date and current.**
- **The Department of Pupil Personnel Services, in accordance with IDEA 2004 and Massachusetts General Law, has completed a mass mailing of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards to all families with students currently serviced on an Individual Education Program (IEP).**

Subject Activities

Throughout the month of September, the Director of Pupil Personnel Services met with Uxbridge Public School service providers in the areas of special education, English language education, 504 compliance, and guidance/wellness.

The Department of Pupil Personnel Services in cooperation with the Uxbridge Public School Special Education Parent Advisory Council (USEPAC) put together a mass mailing of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards along with information pertaining to the PAC - in accordance with the Reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and Massachusetts General Law.

The Department of Pupil Personnel Services has updated its webpage on the Uxbridge Public Schools site. To see the updated edition of the Pupil Personnel Services portion of the website, go to: http://www.uxbridgeschools.com/pupilservices_default.shtml

The Director of Pupil Personnel Services attended out-of-district meetings in the following communities: Milford, Swansea, Plainville, Harvard, and Lancaster, Massachusetts.

The Director of Pupil Personnel Services continues to examine the special education budget on a monthly basis - in cooperation with the School Business Manager, and Superintendent of Schools.

The Director of Pupil Personnel Services continues to be an active member of the Administrative Team meeting process twice per month. As well, the director participates on the Uxbridge

Interagency Roundtable, Gifted and Talented Education Team, and the Uxbridge Public Schools Technology Team.

The Director of Pupil Personnel Services continues to work in partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the area of grant writing as a means of improving programs and services for students with disabilities.

Phase III observations for the special education faculty at Uxbridge High School have been completed. Phase I observations have begun; all special education faculty at Uxbridge High School will be observed by the Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

On October 22, 2008, the Director of Pupil Personnel Services read to Mrs. Higgins 3rd grade class as part of Community Reader Day at the Taft Elementary School.

Professional Development Activities

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in approving Grant 274, authorized Uxbridge Public Schools to participate in FREE professional development opportunities as they become available throughout the 2008-2009 academic year as a means of improving programs and services for students with disabilities.

The Director of Pupil Personnel Services continues to offer department support in the areas of relicensure guidance/technical support – so that Uxbridge Public Schools special education faculty/staff remain current in the ever-changing laws of the Commonwealth. This technical support and guidance is offered throughout the academic year in partnership with the Department of Education and Framingham State College.

The Director of Pupil Personnel Services continues to be an active member of the English Language Learners Low Incidence Group and the Blackstone Valley Educational Collaborative Regional monthly meeting – as a means of remaining current with local, state and federal legal mandates.

The Administrators for Special Education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts held their quarterly meeting at the Best Western Conference Center in Marlboro, MA. on October 31, 2008. The Director of Pupil Personnel Services was in attendance to meet and talk with other leaders in the field of special education.

Parent Advisory Council Reports

On October 8, and October 17, 2008, the Uxbridge Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council held its initial meetings of the 2008-2009 academic year at 7:00p.m. in the library of the Whitin Middle School. New PAC Officers were elected, and a full calendar of events was planned for the 2008-2009 academic year. To access the calendar of events for the USEPAC, go to: http://www.uxbridgeschools.com/pdf_info/UPS_SEPAC_MEETING_EVENTS.pdf

The website for the Parent Advisory Council has been updated and contains numerous items of interest, and support materials for families of children with disabilities. To access this website, go to: http://www.uxbridgeschools.com/pupilservices_pac.shtml

The Uxbridge Public Schools Parent Advisory Council continues to expand its “Lending Library” for Parents/Families with exceptional children. Anyone interested in adding/borrowing an item from the lending library can come to the Central Office location, Suite 207, of Town Hall.

The next meeting of the Uxbridge Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council will be Wednesday, November 12, 2008 in the Whitin Middle School Library at 7:00p.m.

General Department Information

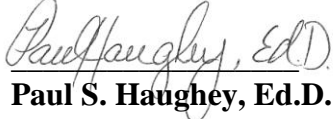
The Department of Pupil Personnel Services is responsible for the following activities throughout the month of October: Review of Progress in Meeting Adequate Yearly Progress, Professional Development/Implementation, Notice to Students at 17 – Age of Majority, Notice Regarding Graduation, Meet with Key Constituents regarding Implementation of School Improvement and System Wide Goals, Review Individual Professional Development with Faculty/Staff, Walkthrough of Buildings, Advertise and Continue Outreach to Community, and Submit State Reports to Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on Student Information Management System (SIMS) data, Private School Student Data, and any identified District Disproportionality Data.

Upcoming Events

The Uxbridge Special Education Parent Advisory Council (USEPAC) next meets on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 in the Whitin Middle School Library at 7:00p.m.

On November 21, 2008, the USEPAC hosts their annual Holiday Vendor Fair in the Taft Elementary School Cafeteria. For more information on this exciting evening, please e-mail the Uxbridge Special Education Parent Advisory Council at: uxbridgespedpac@yahoo.com.

Administrator,


Paul S. Haughey, Ed.D.