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Transition Planning
Parent Checklist

- ◇ SCHOOL-BASED EVENTS: Watch for and plan to attend upcoming school-based “transition” events.
- ◇ ADVICE FROM THOSE WHO EXPERIENCED YOUR CHILD IN A CLASSROOM: Seek advice from your child’s teacher(s). Obtain informal input on types of classrooms and teaching styles that work for your child.
- ◇ OBSERVE CLASSES: Schedule classroom visits through your ETL or Case Manager .
- ◇ PRIVATE SCHOOLS: Whether or not you are considering private school, it does not cost anything to visit a school. Call the school to find out when they will hold their next open house.

TRANSITION: PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

Who Needs to Plan: It’s January and time to take a break, right? No, not really. In fact, now that we are half way through the year, it is time to begin planning for next year. If you’re in one of the three categories below, start the planning process now.

- **Transitioning from...**
Early Intervention to Public Services,
Preschool to Kindergarten,
Elementary to Middle School,
Middle School to High School, or
Private School to Public School (or vice versa)
- **Considering different classroom types:** A General Education or Sub-separate Classroom
- **Considering a change in independence/support needs:** Moving to/from an Aide

Who is responsible for “transition planning”? We all are....parents, the IEP team, our schools and Medford SEPAC (yes, we can help too.)

Parents: You are the most important member. In addition to participating as a member of your child’s IEP Team, there are activities you can do now that can be an aid in future discussions with your child and the IEP team and to help smooth the way for a supportive transition for your child.

Medford SEPAC: In the coming months, we will be working with our schools to identify opportunities to connect parents with school personnel, coordinate “transition” events and provide information to parents.

IEP Team: Discuss each child’s individual “transition needs”, plan and document those needs.

Our Schools: Our administration and PTOs are working to provide transitional events for preschool to kindergarten, elementary to middle school; middle to high school, and life after high school transitions.

In the coming months, we will continue to bring you information about these transitions...

IN OUR SCHOOLS IN JANUARY

Jan 18 “Your Dependent with Special Needs: Making his or her Future More Secure”
7pm-9pm Event is free. To register, contact Lee at atlcmpe@medford.k12.ma.us or 781-393-2316. Location: Medford High School, 489 Winthrop Street, Medford

Jan 30 “Let’s Get Organized: Informational & Skill building Workshop” 6:30pm-8pm
Speaker: Mary Summers, Mass Family Ties Event is free and registration is required.
To register, contact Kathy at 781-956-8770 or kaluia@comcast.net
Location: McGlynn Elementary School, Medford (entrance on Freedom Way).

GOT BOOKS? Curtis-Tufts School, 437 Main Street Do you have books you no longer need and plan to discard? If so, please consider donating them to the “Got Books” container located in at the Curtis-Tufts. Monies raised benefit the Curtis-Tufts student activities fund.

A LOOK AT DECEMBER IN MEDFORD SCHOOLS

Coordinated Program Review (CPR) by State: Every six years each school district undergoes an audit by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Medford's review was conducted in December.

For those of you who are not familiar with the review process...

- Areas reviewed: Special Education, Civil Rights, English Learner Education, Career/Vocational Technical Programs and Title I.
- How it's accomplished: Looking at operational documentation; interviewing school personnel, SEPAC representatives, parents and community members; reviewing student records in the areas being audited; visiting schools/observing classrooms; and obtaining feedback from parents through surveys.

Based on the timeline set by DESE, a final report will likely be published in February 2012.

Regarding "Parent Surveys": Surveys were mailed out in early December. If you were part of the group selected to receive a survey, we encourage you to complete it and return it to DESE in the envelope provided to you.

(In October, Medford SEPAC invited our auditors to present to the Medford community. DESE's staff provided an informative overview of the process and allowed time for questions from attendees.)

Progress Reports: This month marked a progress reporting period for all students. Parent-teacher conferences were held and report cards were sent out.

For students in special education, you would have also received written reports of your child's progress toward the IEP goals. If you have questions and haven't done so already, you can set up time in January to meet with your child's special education teachers. This does not have to be a team meeting; although, as a courtesy, you will want to notify your Education Team Leader (ETL) that you have questions and plan to meet. This is good practice and it is an opportunity to develop a working relationship with all your child's teachers.

Educational Opportunities for Parents: Medford SEPAC hosted two educational events that are essential for every parent.

"Understanding My Child's Learning Style" was held on December 8th and presented by a facilitator trained by the Federation for Children with Special Needs. Knowing how your child learns best key to understanding how an IEP is developed and to participating as an active member of your child's IEP team.

"MCAS/Alt-MCAS: Deciding Which is Right for Your Child" was held on December 14 and presented by Kathy Medaglio, Director of Pupil Services. This was a thorough presentation which covered MCAS in elementary school through high school.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION: HAVE A QUESTION? WHERE DO YOU START?

We find many parents don't know the answer (even those who seem very experienced in special education). To help parents, we created a visual map of the process.

Most of your questions and concerns can be resolved with your child's classroom teacher and your IEP team.

If you have questions about this process, contact your Education Team Leader (ETL) or your Medford SEPAC representative. Medford SEPAC representatives include:

Kathy Aluia 781-956-8770 or kaluia@comcast.net

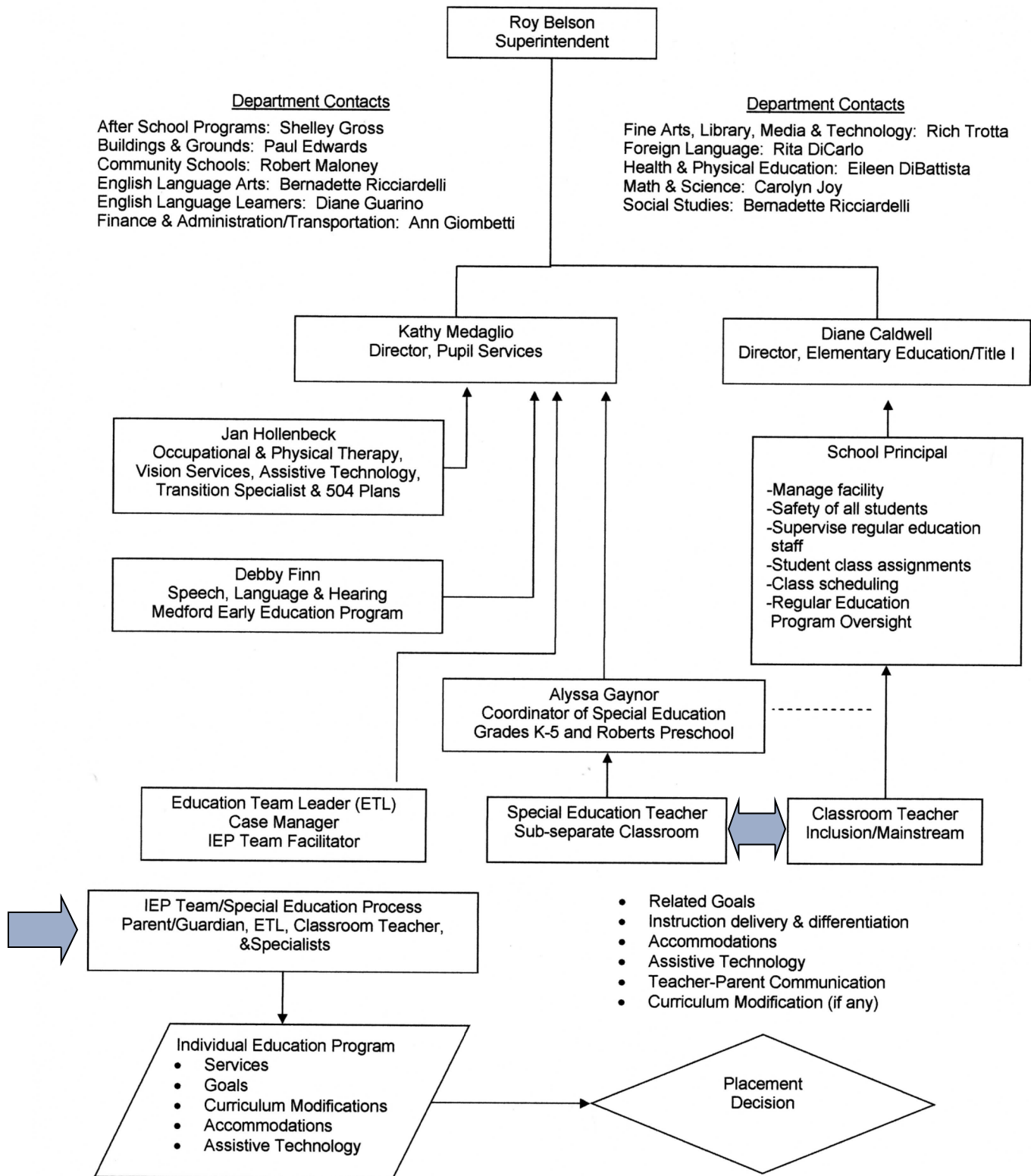
Early Childhood/Preschool, Brooks Elementary, Roberts Elementary, Curtis-Tufts, and High School programs

Kelly Tello 781-858-1202 or kellytello@comcast.net or Jen Maunsell 339-221-2002 or falcomaunsell@yahoo.com
Columbus Elementary

Kathie Hunt 781-391-6148 or kevinjhunt@aol.com
McGlynn Elementary

Jen Maunsell 339-221-2002 or falcomaunsell@yahoo.com
Andrews Middle School

Mary Finn 781-391-2353 or maryfinn@comcast.net
McGlynn Middle School, High School and Out-of-District programs



Start at the "Arrows": When you have concerns, begin with your child's classroom teacher and the IEP Team.

FOR CHILDREN (UNDER 18) & FAMILIES

Medford Family Network, Medford High School, 489 Winthrop Street

Practice inclusion by joining the MFN's family events and play groups. For the latest news, visit <http://www.medfordpublicschools.org/2011/09/medford-family-network-fall-newsletter/> or call 781-393-2106.

Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Universal Access Programs

A required waiver can be found on the event website. To register, call 617-626-1294

Upcoming events: http://www.mass.gov/dcr/universal_access/a_events.htm

The Emarc, 20 Gould Street, Reading

Includes basketball, music, social events, water sports and bowling in Reading and Malden.

To register, call Chenine at 781-942-4888 x4036 or rec@TheEmarc.org

Upcoming events: <http://emarc.recdesk.com/recdeskportal/Programs/tabid/673/Default.aspx>

Jan 8-Feb 12 Winchester TOPS for Hoops, Lincoln School, Winchester 1pm-2pm .

Winchester Youth Basketball Assoc. provides rule and equipment adaptation in this program. A volunteer group of junior coaches serve as one-on-one buddies for the TOPS athletes. To register, contact jfcalnan@yahoo.com.

Jan 10 Adaptive Skating-Games on Ice Cronin Skating Rink, 850 Revere Parkway, Revere

No cost; Volunteers are welcome; To register, contact Heidi at 1-413-577-3840 or Heidi.marie-peterson@state.ma.us This rink is devoted to Universal Access activity which includes sled hockey, power chairs on ice, an agility course, a crash tower and other spontaneous games. Future dates: Feb 14 & Mar 20.

Jan 15 MAPVI's Adaptive Skiing/Snowboarding Day 9:30am-11:30am and 1pm-3pm

For registration forms and event costs, visit <http://mapvi.org/fliers/skiing-2012.pdf>

For questions, contact Chris at 508-274-0636 Register by Jan 12, 2012. Location: Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH

EMARC Teen Sibling Group (Ages 13-19): EMARC coordinates a support group for teens who have a brother or sister with special needs. Group meets every other Wednesday at the West Medford Community Center. Full or partial scholarships are available to cover the fee of \$5 per night (includes dinner). For registration and information, contact Chenine at 781-942-4888 ext 4036.

June 21 -24 Camp Kaleidoscope: Family Camp for families with children on the autism spectrum (Limited Space)

For costs and camp details, visit <http://www.cgcvt.org/programs/campkaleidoscope.shtml>

Location: Common Ground Center, 473 Tatro Road, Starksboro, VT

Special Olympics Program For information, visit <http://www.abgclub.org/special.aspx> or call 781-648-1617

Location: Arlington Boys & Girls Club, 60 Pond Lane, Arlington

FOR PARENTS & OUR ADULT CHILDREN

Travel Planning for February Vacation: If you are planning travel with your children, the Transportation Security Administration, has information that will help you prepare for your trip. Visit http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial_1572.shtm

Council Empowerment Funds Program: This program helps you pay for costs of up to \$500 per year that are associated with attending special education training for you and your family. For more information and to download an application, visit <http://www.mass.gov/mddc/cefp/index.htm>

Online Disability Rights Course: A free, self-paced course. Take anytime. To register, visit <http://www.humancentereddesign.org/neada/disabilityrights/Welcome.html>

"MORE" FOR PARENTS & OUR ADULT CHILDREN

Jan 16 Understanding Asperger Syndrome: Interventions and Strategies for Parents 7-9:30pm

Jan 23 Homework and Writing 7-9pm

Jan 24, Feb 13 & Mar 15 Advanced Training for Group Instruction in the Social Use of Language 9am-3:30pm (includes light lunch)

Jan 31 Writing Measurable IEP Goals

Cost for most programs \$40 AANE Members/\$50 Non-Members (unless noted). To register, call 617-393-3824.

Location: The Asperger's Association of New England (AANE), 51 Water Street, Suite 206, Watertown.

Jan 12 IEP Clinic: Basics of the IEP & What Should be Included 6:30pm Event is free and registration required. To register, contact alucifora@ne-arc.org or 978-624-2381 Location: Northeast Arc, 6 Southside Road, Danvers

Jan 17 Reading Development: The Brain, Dyslexia & Intervention 7:30pm Event is free. Registration required. To register, call 800-461-6671 Location: Commonwealth Learning Center, 220 Reservoir St, Suite 6, Needham

Jan 18 "Your Dependent with Special Needs: Making his or her Future More Secure" 7pm-9pm Event is free. To register, contact the Special Education Office at 781-393-2316. Location: Medford High School, 489 Winthrop Street, Medford

Jan 20-21; Mar 2-3; Mar 30-31 & Apr 28 Massachusetts Families Organizing For Change (MFOFC) Leadership Series (Must attend all sessions) This event is free and involves overnight stays at Courtyard by Marriott Boston/Woburn North, 700 Unicorn Park Drive, Woburn To view online application and event brochure, visit <http://www.mfofc.org/events/leadership-series.html> Questions? Contact Lauri at rjmede@aol.com or 617-605-7404.

Jan 21 How to Choose a Therapy Product 9am-11am with Karen Conrad Weilrauch & Linda Marshall Workshop is free. Registration required. To register, call 800-257-5376 or email info@therapro.com. Location: Therapro Showroom, 225 Arlington Street, Framingham.

Jan 25 Speech & Language Development: A Sensory Integration-Based Approach to Successful Communication 7pm

Cost: Free to OTA Parents/\$25 for non-patients. Registration required. To register, call Teresa at 617-923-4410 ext 110

Location: OTA Watertown, 124 Watertown St, Watertown Visit [http://www.otawatertown.com/images/resources/11-12overviews\[1\].pdf](http://www.otawatertown.com/images/resources/11-12overviews[1].pdf)

Jan 29 MDSC Support Group for Families of Children with Down Syndrome 1pm-4pm Event is free. Contact Melanie at melanie.mclaughlin@comcast.net. Location: 152 Allston Street, Medford For support group information, visit www.mdsc.org

Jan 30 "Let's Get Organized" 6:30pm-8pm with Mary Summers, Mass Family Ties Event is free and registration is required. To register, contact Kathy at 781-956-8770 or kaluia@comcast.net Webpage: <http://www.medfordpublicschools.org/for-parents/medford-sepac/> Location: McGlynn Elementary School, Medford (entrance on Freedom Way)

Feb 11,; Feb 18 & Feb 25 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Basics Education Program (Must attend all three sessions) 9:30am-3:30pm Event is free and registration is required. To register, contact judi_maguire@waysideyouth.org or 781-891-0556 x34 Location: Wayside Youth and Family, 118 Central Street, Waltham For information about NAMI, visit www.namimass.org

COMING TO OUR SCHOOLS: SAVE THE DATE!

Feb 1 Understanding MCAS Requirements for Your Special Needs Student 7pm-8pm To register, contact lcempe@medford.k12.ma.us or 781-393-2316

Mar 7 Transition Fair: Getting Ready for Life After High School 6:30pm-8:30pm To register, contact lcempe@medford.k12.ma.us or 781-393-2316

Apr 4 Basic Rights in Special Education 7pm-9pm To register, contact kaluia@comcast.net or 781-956-8770

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY: SAVE THE DATE!

Mar 10 Annual Conference—Federation for Children with Special Needs, World Trade Center, Boston