

# Ocean City Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) Meeting

**Wednesday, 10/06/2021**  
**First meeting of 2021-2022 school year**  
**6 -7pm via Zoom**

## **Mission:**

*To provide a platform for feedback and input to be given to OCSD about the provision of special education in the district so that best practices are consistently being sought after and followed for ALL students. To this end, we will work toward the goal that all students and their families will report that they are valued members who are fully included and belong to the Ocean City community.*

## **Attendance:**

1. Jennifer Polcini (host)
2. Annemarie Wagner-Fehn (Supervisor of Special Education for OCSD)
3. Heather Coleman (school psychologist for OCSD)
4. Kathy Yates (speech and language pathologist for OCSD)
5. Karin Stanton (special education teacher at OCPS)
6. Tatsiana DaGrosa (representative from SPAN Parent Advocacy Network)
7. Interested community members

## **Agenda Items:**

1. Welcome
2. Requests for attendees to provide contact information for OC SEPAG
3. Introduction to administration and staff members involved with Special Education at OCSD
4. Yearly goals for Ocean City SEPAG:
  - a. Increase awareness and membership
  - b. Establish goals and priorities
  - c. 4-6 meetings (combination of informational and open discussion)
  - d. Communicate feedback and input to OCSD after meetings
  - e. Year-end presentation to Ocean City School Board of Education
5. Introduction to speaker Tatsiana DaGrosa from NJ SPAN
  - a. Key Points about SEPAG's
    - i. State-mandated
    - ii. District-level
    - iii. Parent-driven
  - b. Purpose of SEPAGs:

- i. To provide direct input on policies, programs, practices that impact services and supports for children receiving special education and their families
      - ii. To increase involvement of families of children with special needs
      - iii. To advise on matters that pertain to the education, health, & safety of children with special needs
      - iv. To advise on unmet needs of children with disabilities
    - c. Providing Input on Systemic Issues:
      - i. District policies and procedures
      - ii. Funding issues
      - iii. Staffing and professional development needs
      - iv. Facility issues such as accessibility and location of program
      - v. Inclusion & least restrictive environment
      - vi. Transition
      - vii. Related services
      - viii. Extended school year
      - ix. For the community to provide direct input to the local school district on
- 6. Question and answer session
  - a. Question asked about cell phone policy for high school students
  - b. Question posed regarding communication channels
- 7. Wrap-up
  - a. Input regarding content of future meetings
  - b. Request for volunteers to share their gifts and talents to increase OC SEPAG participation
  - c. Communications for future meetings