

Devens Educational Advisory Committee

33 Andrews Parkway, Devens, MA 01434
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes: December 7, 2022

Members Present: Maureen Babcock, Tammy Haschig, Heather Knowles, Jesse Lowe, and Meg Delorier, MassDev Ex Officio.

Others Present: Shelly Testa, Naomi Ahuja and Erinc Caglar, Devens residents.

Members Not Present: Michele Granger, SusanMary Redinger, Dr. Linda Dwight

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:12 pm.

➤ **OPEN MEETING:**

- Welcome Devens residents Naomi & Erinc.

➤ **MINUTES**

- November 2, 2022, minutes reviewed. Motion to approve with changes made, accepted by Heather Knowles, seconded by Jesse Lowe. Approved.

➤ **ELECTIONS**

- Upcoming elections December 13th, three (3) positions are open on the Devens Educational Advisory Committee. Incumbent Heather Knowles is running for the DEAC again as well as Devens residents Naomi Ahuja and Erinc Caglar.
- Naomi and Erinc were encouraged to join our meetings regardless of the election outcome.
- Thank you Tammy Haschig for all your dedication, support and time!

➤ **DEAC MEETINGS**

- Committee prefers to continue meetings via remote meeting. We feel it is more accessible for residents.
- The committee struggles with a reliable remote meeting tool. Meg requested that we try using MassDevelopment's Teams account again. We will try this again for our next meeting. Maureen and Meg will do a trial with the tool in advance of the next meeting.

➤ **DEAC COMMUNICATION**

- The DEAC will continue to use the MassDev Friday Newsletter as our vehicle for communication. We desire that all meetings be announced via the newsletter so that residents have the ability to attend. Summaries of our meetings will also be shared after our meetings. Other relevant education news may be shared

through the newsletter after being approved by a DEAC point person (Jesse Lowe)

- As a new resident, Enric asks that it be made more clear that DEAC means the “Devens Educational Advisory Committee”.
- A submission on the upcoming Parker Charter lotteries will be submitted for the Friday newsletter.

➤ **TEMPORARY INTAKE CENTER**

- A brief discussion was had about the intake center being established at the Bob Eisengrein Community Center. Because these will be short term stays, there are no connections to the Devens Education contract for the children passing through the center.
- Meg answered questions from committee members
- Jesse shared that Parker families had concerns about safety and that the Parker Charter School had not been notified about the decision by MassDevelopment. Seems like DESE was supposed to notify the schools and did notify Harvard, but not Parker Charter.
- Members asked how Devens residents might help the people being temporarily housed at the community center. Meg referred the group to the Devens Community webpage with FAQ’s. MEMA should be reaching out to the community once things are established at the facility.

➤ **UPDATES**

HARVARD

- none

MDFA

- Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is Dec 8th @ 4:30pm. Come to see Santa and have some snacks.
- Ice Rink is being installed again this year
- HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

GRANT ROAD

- Emerson Green is still moving forward and good progress is being made.

ERINC

- Erinc shared some information about the HES’s former Bridges before and after school program. The program was outsourced and is now managed by Alphabest and has been short staffed, resulting in a wait list for families looking for before and after school care.

➤ **COMMENTARY**

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➤ **NEXT MEETING:** January 3, 2023 @ 7:00pm via Teams

➤ **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made, accepted by Heather Knowles and seconded by Jesse Lowe, adjourned at 8:20pm.