

SEPTA MEETING September 13, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. The president of SEPTA Kathy Rea introduced herself and the executive board:

VP Linda Gould
VP Fundraising Kim Faraci
VP Membership Janene Gronich
VP Programming Monica Grossman
VP Scholarship Eileen Chasan
VP Communications Bob Savitzky
Treasurer Evelyn Waltzer
Asst Treasurer Christine Vitti
Recording Secretary Chris D'Alessandro
Asst Recording Secretary Jackie Leiberman
Corresponding Secretary Lydia Wiesilthier
Asst Corresponding Secretary Elizabeth Musick
Parliamentarian Marylee Norton
Past President Linda Jakobs.

Announcements

A raffle was held at the meeting. All were encouraged to enter the raffle.

It was announced that volunteers were needed to help at Back to School Nights: Parkway and Old Bethpage Thursday, September 15th
Mattlin September 22nd and 27th.

SEPTA Night Out is November 21st and we will need volunteers.

Liaisons are needed for Title IX, Middle School Curriculum, Old Bethpage, Mattlin, POBMS and the KCenter.

Votes

A Vote of Confidence was taken and approved giving the president the authority to act on behalf of the SEPTA unit.

A vote was taken and approved to allow the president to approve expenditures for less than \$100.

Treasurer's Report: Evelyn Waltzer presented this year's budget. A motion was taken and the budget was approved and adopted for 2011-2012

Membership Report: Janene Gronich reported that we have 123 members to date. SEPTA emails will only be distributed to members this year.

Fundraising Report: Kim Faraci reported SEPTA's night out will be held on Thursday November 10th. Volunteers are needed to solicit donations.

Programing Report: Monica Grossman reported topics that may be discussed this year include stress, sibling issues, vision and ADHD.

Scholarship Report: Eileen Chasan reported that 8 or 9 awards for \$750 were distributed to graduating seniors in June 2011. To date \$430 has been collected for scholarships this year.

Pupil Personnel Report – Ellie Becker

Ms Becker introduced Assistant PPS directors Ms Maiman and Ms Binstock

Ms Becker reported that there are several new staff members:

Dr. Lisa Cohen – psychologist High School

Mark Gallary – Old Bethpage and Parkway Social Worker

Tera Costanio – ABA Program Stratford Road

Pam Genz – ABA teacher Stratford Road

Mattlin will be having Wilson reading instruction in the integrating coteaching model during the ELA portion of the academic day.

District Psychologists will be attending Professional Development given by Dawn Flannigan on Sept 19th and in December. The WIAT and WISK will be discussed on how they can be utilized to diagnosis certain learning disabilities.

Kim Powers will no longer be involved with the ABA and TAG program. The district has taken over the ABA and TAG program.

Consultant Debbie Nieman has been hired to work with the guidance counselors at the High school on transitioning special education students after graduation.

Occupational therapist Ariann Lewis will be working with Jeremy Ritter regarding assistive technology.

Parent training letters will be mailed home shortly to the parents of autistic children.

There are no longer RCT's for any special education students entering the high school this year in 9th grade. Everyone must be educated for Regents exams. The low pass option 55-64 is still available. Appeal process will be instituted for students unable to obtain this benchmark. High School diplomas may be at risk for some special education students without the availability of the RCT's.

The English regents will not be offered to the 11th grade special class students in January. They must take it in June. Many members were concerned that students should have the opportunity to take the test in January in case they were not successful they would be able to repeat the exam in June.

An ABA class is now in the High school. It is a life skills based program and will offer vocational training.

Progress reports will still be distributed quarterly in the elementary schools even though the elementary schools are now adopting a trimester grading system.

Parent member training has not yet been scheduled for this year but will be scheduled shortly.

Occupational and Physical therapists are negotiating with the PCT to become union members. It is unclear if speech and occupational therapy will be given before school to some students as it is currently done.

Students who receive less than a 3 on state tests are required to receive in AIS. AIS can not be in place of special education.

Physical education in the High School may soon receive a number grade. A rubric is being developed. Many members were concerned regarding how this may impact special education students who may not be able to perform in physical education because of a disability.

Prior Written Notice Policy was explained to members. Parents need to wait two weeks before services can be started. Consent is needed for initial implementation of an IEP.

New Business- None

Meeting adjourned at 9pm