



Fairfax County Special Education PTA School Board Election Questionnaire

About us:

Our Mission:

Empowering and connecting families, students and educators to ensure students with disabilities develop their full potential as individuals and community members.

- Fairfax County SEPTA is a county-wide PTA that covers all special education, special needs and disabled students in Fairfax County. We are made up of parents, caregivers, educators and professionals dedicated to advocating for the needs of students with disabilities.
- Fairfax County SEPTA offers the following branches of service to our Special Needs Community: Advocacy, Community & Support, improved Access to Information, Programming, and Awards & Recognition.
- Fairfax County SEPTA is dedicated to positive collaboration with FCPS and other disability advocacy groups as we work to achieve our mission.
- Fairfax County SEPTA is a member of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs as well as the VA State PTA and National PTA

About this Questionnaire:

We thank you for completing this short survey regarding your view on ways the FCPS School Board can ensure that Special Education students in FCPS receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

All candidates are receiving this questionnaire on August 1, 2017. We kindly request that you submit your responses to info@FairfaxCountySEPTA.org no later than August 11, 2017. We will publish all received responses on April 18, 2017. If you decline to respond, we will note that on our website and communications. We will also be encouraging Fairfax County SEPTA membership to vote in the special election on August 29, 2017.

Chris Grisafe's Responses

1. What is your view of how the budget process should be undertaken this year in terms of transparency to stakeholder group members while various options are developed, analyzed, and selected? In light of the fact that Fairfax County has the greatest shortage of special education teachers in the Commonwealth, will there be a focused consideration of chronic teacher shortages in Special Education and will you include parent groups in this discussion?

Transparency and stakeholder engagement are essential to making accountable and informed budget decisions. I want to ensure that all students are receiving a quality education, and I will absolutely be focused on not just considering but finding pragmatic solutions to gaps in cooperation with parent groups.

2. Given the complexity of serving an extremely diverse population of students with disabilities who require special services, will you be an at large board member with a special concern for these needs?



Yes. I look forward to a close dialogue with parents of children with special needs to understand how their needs are currently being met, or under served, and to best represent their voice and help them get the resources they need.

3. What personal experiences do you have with educational accommodations, whether 504 Plans, ADA provisions or Individual Educational Plans required under IDEA? Are you familiar with the Supreme Court's Endrew F. decision? How should the school board assess its impact in terms of the amount and quality of Special Services that FCPS will provide next year?

The Endrew F. Decision is a win for students and parents with special needs, but it is also a reminder that each and every child is unique and can learn if given the right tools and environment. Our challenge as parents, teachers, and members of a community, are to connect with our youth to light a path toward a horizon beyond what they can see and help them grow. Each and every child deserves that chance, concern, and investment.

4. What else should we know about you before voting?

I understand how impactful an advocates can be. Having lost my mom at a young age, the combination of teachers, mentors and caring members of my community helped open my eyes and expand my thinking about the art of the possible, and helped me become the first in my family to graduate college.