

Fairfax County SEPTA

August 24, 2019

Summer Board Retreat

Fairfax Circle Church

3110 Chichester Ln, Fairfax, VA 22031



9:00AM

I. Call to order, Introductions, Quorum Count, Good & Welfare, & Approve Agenda

Call to order: 9:18

In attendance: Rich Hem, Jennifer Kruzynski, Laura Allen, Amanda, Jennifer Benecke, Diane Cooper-Gould, Cathy G, Michelle Cades. Quorum: 7

Portrait of a Savvy Administrator Brainstorming Ideas:

- Leader
- Understanding SPED- general overview
- Presuming confidence
- Knowledge of the law
- Be up to date on terms and practices/annual training
- Demonstrate rights and responsibilities
- Accountability and fidelity
- Understanding of critical time pressure parents and kids are under
- Track qualified staff in the building
- Inclusion in social/ extra-curriculum
- Understand that parents and kids did not choose their disability and they have rights and what you do for SPED can make the difference in someone who can contribute to society and someone who can't.
- There are multiple mindsets and ways of looking at special education- more than behavioral
- Trauma approach
- Inclusion in many forms- food allergies, etc.
- Honesty
- Communication
- Consistency- model for inclusion, curriculum, classroom structure, support
- Understand that SPED staff need support and resources
- Openness/willing to think outside the box – inclusion
- Strengths-based education
- Promote POG/make it more inclusive
- Creative inclusion
- Basic knowledge of how to talk with anyone in the SPED community (parents, students, etc.)
- Understanding of what is available in the county.

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9:15AM

II. Approve Minutes

May 28th Minutes

- Motion: "I move to approve the May 28th minutes" (Amanda)
- Diane seconds
- Unanimously approved

June 23rd Minutes

- Motion: "I move to approve the minutes as changed for the June 23rd meeting" (Amanda)
- Cathy Seconds
- Unanimously approved

July 30th Minutes

- Motion: "I move to approve the minutes as amended" (Amanda)
- Cathy Second
- Unanimously approved

III. Committee Reports

9:25AM

A. Membership

1. Live registration! Update
 - 17 so far and extra superhero donations!
2. Feedback on PTBoard for Freddy's event
 - need an account, more difficult to access, good for reminding to sign up for membership.
 - *Overall preference is sign up genius
3. Update from Debbie Kilpatrick re: reduced dues in spring
 - Membership needs to vote to discount dues for SPED conference. We can vote in the March meeting, posted in February.
 - Can we do one vote at the top of the year with regular and discounted rates included?
4. RECRUITMENT -- parents & teachers!
 - Reminder to the board to join!

9:35PM

B. Advocacy

1. Update on Candidate Questionnaire - can submit through FCCPTA
 - Submit questionnaires to Jennifer before September 4th FCCPTA meeting

Action: Norm should be coordinating this then bring back to the group for review?

Action: Diane will start a thread on FB to collect question ideas
2. Discussion on advocacy strategizing & clarifying communication with public officials

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- Ways that we go about bring on change:
 - Small meetings
 - Public testimony
- Concern that there is not a lot of time before making these statements to gather thoughts.
- Are we speaking as an individual or on behalf of SEPTA
- As a solution- request is to start and end our conversations with clarifying that we are speaking as an individual. Be explicitly clear.
- Remember that even when we're saying we're an individual, we are inherently still connected with SEPTA so be cautious of what we're saying.

Action: Draft standing rules on this

Question posed: Who/which committee interacts with these public or private meetings? This is more than advocacy and president. This is why it's important to have set rules in place for all board/groups to follow as they are advocating in different ways.

3. What are our priorities & positions, if any, on various issues? Do we want to survey our members?

a) Restraint & seclusion

- There is a possibility for both to be banned (as displayed by other states precedence)
- Culture takes time to change.
- MANDT vs. PCM
- We need clear guidelines and definition
- Having another person in the room is less traumatic
- If secluded, even once, the IEP team needs to meet to discuss FBA/BIP
- Meeting with counselors afterward
- Specific guidelines for what warrants seclusions
- Communicating incident to parent
- Stand by the safety of the student and teacher
- SEPTA is in favor of banning prone restraint and would like to see limited restraint and seclusion.

Action: Diane will draft a statement and send out for review

b) Discipline (including, but not limited to, Juuling & also the expansion of restorative justice)

- Preventative measures
- Consistency in discipline- how are SPED students being disciplined?
- Relate to discipline study done and ask what the follow up is?
- Link to FCCPTA statement on juuling, etc.
- Restorative justice

Action: Diane will draft a statement and send out for review

c) Teacher salary, recruitment & retention -- staffing for ATS; change in model (currently by headcount per program, not by service hours)

Action: Jenn will write up what's currently happening and what might be better

d) SROs in Schools (armed / unarmed)

e) Trauma Informed Practices

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National PTA has a position

- f) Access & Inclusion: AAP centers & Academies, Support in Honors & AAP classes; College-bound support; Extra curricular programs (i.e. sports, prom)
- g) Mandatory training for administrators & continuity across pyramids
- h) Staff training - including method for staff tracking for professional development, certifications, etc
- i) Standards for outcomes/processes based on screening performances
- j) Partnering with other organizations, FCPS, School Board, etc to lobby @ state/national level
- k) Inclusion
- l) Inclusive extra-curriculars and events (prom, sports etc.)
- m) Gun violence - advocacy with VA & National PTA

Priorities:

- Restraint and Seclusion
- Inclusion
- Staff/administration training and support/staffing
- Discipline
- Transitions

4. Report – reduce length of document to summarize main points & track/update issues
 - Chart/graphics vs. full length written reports
5. Update from Superintendent's SpEd Community Task Force
 - Members of the taskforce is not a closed door at this point
 - Submit to Brabrand names of potential students who could be members of force – suggestions?
 - Recommend private mental health professionals- no conflict of interest
6. Inclusion Work Group - any follow up with Mike Bloom?
 - Keep on to do list
7. Restraint & Seclusion update
 - Next meeting in September

10:20AM

C. Events

1. Still need Events Chair!!
2. Awards ceremony - still need chairperson
3. Ice cream social & fundraiser @ Freddy's - feedback - \$100.99 raised!
 - Recommended shortened time to 5-8
 - Action: write a thank you note!
4. STEAM - September 7

Amanda, Cathy, and Michelle are around to represent

5. Board meeting - 9/17 @ Camelot ES 7-9PM
6. General membership meeting - 9/24: "Resolution Strategies for Conflict Between Parents and School"

Cathy worked on getting Gatehouse but our insurance wasn't in yet, so Fairfax Circle is on reserve.

Teacher book/material swap! School supplies

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Action: Jenn will check if we can we get gatehouse? Reach out to Jane about being charged to use gatehouse.

Jenn will make a school supply list

- a. **Diane-** Invite/Include new SpEd PSL - Dawn Clements
 - a. Invite School Board & DSS & Brabrand?
 - b. Invite Jen Glazer, FCPS School Counselor Supervisor?
 - c. Invite Karrie Delaney (VA House of Delegates)?
7. Mental Health & Wellness Conference - October 5 8:00-4:00 @Fairfax HS
- **Cathy can reach out for exhibit events**

Action: Cathy will send the list of conferences

8. General membership meeting - 10/22 - Parenting - Rachel Bailey?
- **Status update: Rachel has ideas and is good to go!**
 - **Title may change: Thread in the group**

Action: Cathy will combine lists of possible volunteers and will re-contact some people.

Action: Amanda will help create Events Chair campaign!

Duties for board meetings:

- **Eventbrite, RSVP, fliers**
- **Building use- Jennifer (use gatehouse until we have an events person)/AV**
 - **November meeting at**
- **Setting up speakers-**
- **Tina/Laura A- (5:30) Set up night of, coming early, having display stuff, Michelle- refreshments, clean up**

10:50AM

D. Communications

1. Video shoot
 2. Publicity Request form- <https://fairfaxcountysepta.org/communications-requests/>
 3. Back to School mailing via FCCPTA update
 4. GSuite Review and Q&A
5. Bylaws update- **Amanda will ask about having wording project for the whole year. Requirement that our election is in April- let's change them at the election meeting (after) for next year.**

11:20AM

E. School Representatives/Liaisons

1. Recruitment
 - **Get PTA president name and liaison names from each school- FCCPTA**
 - **Facebook form for membership to help send info**
2. Update website for resource information
3. Dissemination of info - partnership with FCPS
 - **Once/month updates from SEPTA**
 - **SEPTA Liaison meetings- October 15th**

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Action: Update the data sheet on who has liaisons or not

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GoPKBRHuYpFkvjYsGmf--xHqw2X5aZFrV7gkh24TXA/edit#gid=2033659182>

11:40AM

F. FCCPTA

- Goals focus on excellence and equality.
- Why do we do what we do and how do we educate our students based on needs
- Banning phones from classrooms
 - Respect assistive technology in this regard
- Advocacy night- December 2nd or 3rd – more details to come
- PTAs submit questions for candidate forum- first one is September 4th
- Looking into taking official position on school bond
- Hispanic parents' outreach has been rolled out.
- Significant sub shortage
- Webinars in the fall on member hub, student report cards, military families, etc.
 - SPED webinar?
- New Business: This year they are giving us a 2500 grant!!!
 - Will be voted on, on the 4th-We can all go and vote too!

Action: write a thank you note!

- No changes coming on boundaries
- Looking into what FCPS can do on the vaping epidemic.

G. ACSD

- Monthly meetings resume in October
- 2nd Wednesday

H. 2e (Handbook Celebration!!!)

- Handbook coming out Monday!!!!
- Will go under resources tab
- Laura B and Tina have separate emails now
- Send a thank you- sheet cakes, card
- Two more items on the agenda: college, 2E camp

12:00PM

I. Educator (was Teacher Liaison)

1. Teacher member recruitment

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J. Underserved Populations

- Vaping and discipline issues.
- We need to identify what underserved is.
 - Food allergies, POTS, PANDAs, rare diseases, homebound, mental health, ESOL, low income.

12:20PM -- LUNCH BREAK

1:30PM

K. Treasurer

1. Budget Committee
 - a. Laura A., Cathy, Jenn K., Diane, Michelle
 - b. Must post by August 24 (30 days before 1st Gen Mem mtg)
2. Audit Committee
 - a. Norm, Kate, Amanda, Michelle
 - b. Must start by end of August, due 90 days later
 - Give Rich full admin rights for Ptboard, access to Gatehouse.
 - \$228 of fees so far, \$460 revenue so far

1:45PM

L. Fundraising

1. B&N update
2. Amazon Smile
3. National PTA grants / grant-writing workshops
 - Come up with specific target goals and funding options/grants by September 17th.
 - Sponsorships
 - Website recognition
 - T-shirts
 - Awards
 - Facebook

2:15PM

M. Mini-Grants

1. Update website posting list of all grants over 2 years, total schools served, people/students served, hours served, pics, write-ups etc

2:25PM

IV. Announcements

A. Board Changes - follow up

1. Update website
2. Publicize on FB to recruit interested members to help

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2:30PM

B. Board Vacancies

1. Events
 - a. Coverage by event?
 - b. Coverage by responsibility (i.e. reservations, speakers, food)?

2. SEPTA School Liaisons

3. Other liaisons: PEATC, Arlington SEPTA, Prince William SEPTA
5. Awards- **Laura A, Laura B, and Jenn K can be award ceremony team**
6. Mini-grants- **Hillary Press**

3:30PM

C. Meeting with FCPS leadership - 8/22 - Michelle & Laura A. with Brabrand & Johnson

- Tracking teacher qualification/certifications
- Access to academy, honors, AP
- We'll help advocate for staffing ratios, ATS, etc.- wants suggestions on topics we want to collaborate on.
 - ATS, OT, SLP, ABA ratios, APE/PE accommodations.
- Restraint and seclusion- something will be coming out
- Sharing of information
- Approach in terms of advocacy (see advocacy)

V. Additional New Business

- Laura will add/start new chart of interested contacts from events
- Make sure we're entering in the contact sheets at each event!
- Action: Tina make a list of other schools

5:00PM

VI. Adjourn -- Next meeting: Board Meeting 9/17

4:41 Adjourned

****Thank you for attending; we hope to see you at our next event! Feel free to contact SEPTA any time via email or FB. Check us out on the web at www.FairfaxCountySEPTA.org****