

Fairfax County SEPTA

Board Meeting
March 29, 2022
Virtual - Zoom



7:00PM

- I. **Call to order - Michelle Cades, Amanda Campbell, Rich Hem, Diane Cooper Gould, Ally Baldassari, Kaitlin Erkkila, Kate Volpe, Emily Haeckel, Margaret Behrns (left at 8:34), Stephanie Smith (arrived at 7:30), Cheri Belkowitz**

A. Absences noted in advance: Jenn Benecke, Amy LaCrosse, Tammy Owens

7:20PM

II. Committees & Liaisons –

A. **PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR HERE** - Board members should look at the link and put any ideas they have for next year in this document.

B. Annual awards

1. Judging is underway - due April 10, 2022.
2. Location - Cathy Greulich's church - Fairfax Church of Christ: 3901 Rugby Rd, Fairfax, VA 22033 - There will be a final decision based on the virus spread in the community that may require the event be changed to virtual.
3. Food options - board discussion - Concerns voiced about food, masking and vaccinations. We also need to be aware that some people may not be able to be vaccinated who want to attend. Due to our population there could be a high percentage of those we represent that may have medically fragile/disabilities. We need to check with the FCCPTA and VA PTA to see if we are allowed to require masks. So we could have masking requested/not required. The general consensus of the board members is that we do not have food and drinks to avoid issues having people taking masks off. We could have a table with 'to go' drinks and snacks and ask that people eat them outside.
4. Publicity & Save the Date - There should be an email going out with a save the date to all nominees next week.
5. Timing - The ceremony will be held in the evening with time before and after to set up and clean up.
6. Set up & clean up volunteers - We need people to help before and after, especially after. There will be a sign up sheet once the timeline is available.
7. Livestream or Pre-record - A decision was not made, but the discussion included the fact that any tech will require outside help that would need to be paid for. Possibilities include live streaming or creating a slideshow for the night of the event to post on SEPTA social media sites later.
8. Covid vaccination requirement. Mask requirement. - Checking with PTA to see if it is possible to require masks or if we can only request them. (Jenn indicated that FCCPTA response to another PTA was that all PTAs have to follow local guidelines)
9. Community vaccination site opportunity - the discussion included concerns about the logistics given the time and focus of the event. Consensus is that it would take away from the event. If there is new information to share a display table could be created.
10. Childcare - Discussion included that some attendees have indicated in the past that having childcare for the event is the only way they could attend. Jenn will be looking at options for childcare and it was noted that an adult will need to be involved in any childcare.
11. ASL Interpreter will be provided.

C. Events

1. April 19, 2022 - Tracey Lee (VDOE & co-author of 123 Magic) Communicating & Collaborating with the School Division - Cheri will reach out to Luis to make sure the
2. SEPTA Birthday Board Brunch - Sunday, 4/24 <http://evite.me/RUxpzePQmB>
 - a) Board members should check the evite in your email.

D. Communications

1. Anonymous posting in Facebook Group - Discussion was held about whether SEPTA should consider turning on a feature for anonymous posting in the Facebook group. Moderators would still be able to see the person posting, but the posts and any replies from the original post would remain anonymous. The overwhelming consensus supported turning this function on.

E. Latino Outreach

1. Website - PEATC link is not on the website yet. Amanda and Michelle will follow up to ensure it is posted.
2. A Spanish Language Facebook group - once the PEATC is up, Margaret would like to start promoting the group. It has been set up with the SEPTA group account. It has been set up, but nothing else as far as questions/admin. Margaret will be set up as an administrator and is looking to get an additional volunteer for spanish speaking moderators. Discussion began about promoting the event with the PRC and other areas to promote the group.

F. [March ACSD Liaison Report](#) - Discussion included enrollment issues that could interfere with funding levels. FCPS indicated that shouldn't be the case and they have not seen a significant decrease in special education enrollment.

1. The ACSD next meeting will look at their annual report language as well as how ACSD can best serve their roles as the yearly review is rarely acted on. This includes continuing to try and reach out to FCPS as issues arise and accepting applications for membership on ACSD and sending them to the appropriate representative to try and ensure rolls are filled.
2. There is a vacancy for the VA State SEAC for Region 4.
3. FCPS Public Engagement Committee has sent the School Board Public Engagement Committee an Advisory Committee Manual that could impact ACSD through changes to the number of community representatives and time for public comment. As a State required SEAC it is important that SEPTA advocacy follow this discussion and stay on top of any proposals to change the rules and standards. A suggestion was made to reach out to Board member Frisk as chair of that PEC committee to discuss any proposals to cut public engagement. Advocacy committee will be working with the SEPTA ACSD representative to stay on top of this issue as it moves forward.

G. 2e - There has been a lot of activity in the 2e Facebook group. A lot of issues/concerns (many ongoing issues) continue to come up in the group.

1. Emily has drafted a letter with input from many members of the board that expresses what SEPTA wants to see and it lists 5 suggestions/requests for things 2e students need in the schools.
2. Michelle and Emily have discussed conducting a survey to gather information about 2e parents' concerns. Laura Baker did a huge 2e survey several years ago that would be helpful in setting this up.
3. There was a post in the SEPTA Facebook group about contacting the Federal Department of Education regarding VA oversight - more of a general concern than 2e specific.

4. Partner with the Advocacy committee given that many of the issues overlap. Emily is interested in drafting information to then share

H. Advocacy

1. Basal resources update - The committee work has finished. The Committee decided to go with a program that is less strong in the Science of Reading. The State had a call with all Superintendents to stop all Basal Resource purchases until a State approved list is provided to everyone. The Committee did adopt the Benchmark Advance materials before this indication from the State. In addition the Committee adopted only two intervention programs - neither of which are appropriate for Tier 3 students nor were either Orton Gillingham based. There were Lexia and Benchmark Phonics (a component of the overall Benchmark curriculum).
2. Mystery RFP - There has been an RFP for literacy and mathematics materials out from FCPS since July. To date there has been no community stakeholder involvement and questions to the acquisition and DSS teams led to very confused responses from the FOIA office (although there was no FOIA request made). The responses have been sent to School Board members given the confusion and lack of transparency.
3. R&S collaboration meeting - Tuesday, 4/5/22 at 5:30. There will be a discussion of the best ways to move forward. The meeting is for SEPTA members that have been involved in R&S discussions and anyone else that wants to join. Contact Michelle if you want to attend.

8:30PM

III. Officer Reports

A. President

1. FCCPTA is giving Brabrand a gift and is looking for donations to the gift. The board agreed that SEPTA does not have funds for a donation.
2. [Special Ed Conference](#) - Amanda cut down video presentations for the FCPS resource link during the conference.

B. Treasurer

1. Debit Card for Bank Account
 - a) Feedback from FCCPTA is that recommendations for a card should not have been in the audit, but regardless any suggestions/recommendations in the audit are only recommendations and are not required to be enacted. Michelle has also been in touch with the Jenn Benecke regarding any awards costs to ensure as much as possible is done through direct payment and avoids any personal expenditures as much as possible.
2. Audit - As there will be a new Treasurer next year the audit will need to be held and approved by the general membership before the official handover can take place.

IV. Approve Minutes

- A. Minutes for [March 1, 2022 Board Mtg Minutes](#) and [March 15, 2022 General Mtg Minutes](#) Cheri Belkowitz moved to approve the minutes as written. Kaitlin Erkkla seconded. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

9:05 pm

V. Adjourn

****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****