

Fairfax County SEPTA

September 30, 2021

General Membership Meeting

7:00-9:00PM

Virtual - Zoom



7:00pm **I. Call to order, Quorum Count (10 Members = Quorum) 27 attendees in Zoom**

7:05pm **II. Announcements & Introductions**

- Michelle Cades - Vacancies & Opportunities:
 - Chairperson needed for Fundraising Committee
 - Committees to join: Advocacy, Fundraising, School Liaisons, 2e, Underserved Populations, Reflections, Mini-Grants, Events, Exhibits, Military Family Liaisons
- Michelle Cades - Other Info
 - National PTA Grant - Future of Family-School Partnerships SEPTA has been chosen to receive a grant to hold public forums for comment from parents.
 - Reflections - Theme "I Will Change the World By..." - submissions due by October 18th to Awards@FairfaxCountySEPTA.org More info to follow!
- Emily Haeckel - 2e Co-Chair needed.
- Kate Volpe - School Liaisons
- Margaret Behrns - Underserved Populations
- Kait Erkkila - Military Families
- Lenora Gumbs - Membership: please join our voice!
<https://fcsepta.ptboard.com/home>
 - Your dues fund our Mini Grants - last year we funded \$5,000 of projects
 - Our membership numbers give weight to our advocacy efforts

Upcoming Events - Michelle Cades:

- **School Board Work Session - Literacy** - Tuesday, October 5th at **3:30pm**, Gatehouse Room 1600; Dr. Emily Solari (UVA Professor & Director of Reading Education program) joining for the literacy discussion
- **School Board Meeting** - Thursday, October 7th at 7pm - Recognition of October as Dyslexia Awareness Month
- **SEPTA General Membership Meeting** - Tuesday, October 19th at 7PM, working on guest speaker - potentially on IEPs & family rights
- **FCC-PTA General Membership Meeting** - Wednesday, October 6th at 7PM; Register: <https://www.fccpta.org/events-1>
- **ACSD Meeting** - October 13th at 7PM, Gatehouse Room 1600
- **Northern Virginia Family Network (SEPTA is a member):**
 - **The ARC** - upcoming webinars, workshops, & conferences
<https://thearcofnova.org/workshops/>

- **NAMI Northern VA** - annual walk in October
<http://namiwalks.org/northernvirginia>
- **Formed Families Forward** - In-person peer support group for adoptive & foster parents & kinship caregivers
<https://formedfamiliesforward.org/event/formed-families-together-in-person-peer-support-group/2021-09-15/>
- **PEATC** - upcoming workshops (virtual) <https://peatc.org/events/>

7:20pm

III. Treasurer Update:

- Budget proposal - The budget has been posted on the SEPTA website and there will be an electronic vote sent around to paid members on the 19th.
Current balance is (9/30/2021) \$12,586.00

IV. ACSD Update - Ally Baldasari is the SEPTA representative for this year. One of the 12 advisory committees for FCPS and required by VA law.
[advisory-committee-students-disabilities-acsd](#)

7:30pm

V. New Business

- Advocacy Committee Position Statement - [Advocacy Committee Position Statement 2021-22](#) - this is a general statement that covers the top priorities that SEPTA has identified from monitoring conversations in the Facebook group, emails received by board members, feedback surveys and meeting comments. There are several topics included to allow flexibility as issues arise before the school board or within FCPS.
- Diane Cooper Gould moved to approve the Advocacy Committee Statement as presented, seconded by Kaitlin Erikkila. Vote approved by 21 yes votes and no nay votes.

7:57pm

Adjourn Business Meeting

Followed by Family Feedback Forum - Advocacy Topics Discussion

Thank you for attending; we hope to see you at our next event!
Feel free to contact SEPTA any time via email or Facebook.
Visit us online at www.FairfaxCountySEPTA.org

SEPTA Board and Delegates

All email addresses are @fairfaxcountysepta.org

TITLES IN BOLDFACE ARE COMMITTEES - EMAIL CHAIR TO JOIN OR COMPLETE THIS FORM:

<https://fairfaxcountysepta.org/volunteercommittee-sign-up/>

President: Michelle Cades - [president@](mailto:president@fairfaxcountysepta.org)

Vice President: Amanda Campbell - [vicepresident@](mailto:vicepresident@fairfaxcountysepta.org)

Secretary: Stephanie Smith - [secretary@](mailto:secretary@fairfaxcountysepta.org)

Treasurer: Rich Hem - treasurer@
ACSD liaison: Ally Baldassari - acsdliason@
Advocacy chair: Diane Cooper Gould - advocacy@
Awards Chair: Jenn Benecke - awards@
Communications co-chairs: Luis Larazabar (graphic design) & Helen Minor (website)
& Christina Caporale (social media moderator) - communications@
Educator: Amy LaCrosse - teacherliaison@
Events & Programming chair: Cheri Belkowitz - events@
FCCPTA delegate: Michelle Cades
Fundraising chair: **VACANT** - fundraising@
Membership & Outreach chair: Lenora Gumbs - membership@
Military Families liaison: Kait Erkkila - militaryliaison@
Mini Grants chair: Lauren McCaughey - minigrants@
Reflections chair: Jenn Benecke - reflections@
Special Ed Liaisons chair: Kate Volpe - spedliaisons@
Twice Exceptional chair: Emily Haeckel (**co-chair position available**) - 2ecommittee@
Underserved Populations chair: Margaret Behrns - underserved@
Volunteer coordinator: Cathy Greulich - volunteer@