

Niskayuna SEPTA Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2022

6:30pm

In attendance (31): Nicole Normandin, Amanda Mahar, Christine Clark, Joanna DiPasquale, Jennifer Samaniuk, Roberto LoBianco, Becca Fiveland, Genevive Murphy, Les Murphy, Howard Schlossberg, Jamie Feuerbach, Beth Halayko, Lena Eason Roe, Jeff ____, Laura Priestley, Jen Dominelli, Sabrina Ricci, Marie Digirolamo, Stephanie Franca, Casey ____, Stephanie Barlow, Mindi Modiano, Stephan ____, Stephanie France, Amy Alantiz, Katee Cufari, Irene Her, Aliya Saeed, Tim Fowler, Stacy Marzullo, Andrea Marques-Clarke

The meeting was called to order at **6:31pm**.

Member business

The [minutes from September 15, 2022](#) were approved without changes.

Presidents' reports

A. Mahar reported on behalf of the co-presidents. She noted that the majority of this month's meeting will be devoted to the SEPTA speaker series. Tim Fowler, Stacy Marzullo, and Andrea Marques-Clarke will present information and hold a Q&A for this meeting.

A. Mahar reported on district outreach. SEPTA has continued to work with:

- Elementary school principals - supporting inclusive events and ensuring self-contained classrooms consistently have homeroom parents
- PTOs- ensuring many in-person events have quiet / break rooms, information about event setup sent in advance, etc.

M. Bulger reported on Leah White's memorial. Funding reached its goal today; any additional funds donated will be used to support an event around the memorial's installation. The installation is set for the first week of December. She also noted that another co-worker, Jackie Conway, passed away very recently. Members expressed condolences at this loss.

A. Mahar noted that National Special Education Day planning is well underway. Partners include C.R.E.A.T.E. Community Studios and NCSD's art department. Funding is provided by Niskayuna Community Foundation.

A. Mahar reminded all that member dues are due. Dues are \$10/person, \$5/student, \$5/teacher.

Treasurer's report

Tabled for speaker series.

Board of Education report

Tabled for speaker series.

Faculty advisor's report

Tabled for speaker series.

New business

T. Fowler, S. Marzullo, and A. Marques-Clarke presented on behalf of Pupil Personnel Services. [A copy of the presentation is available online.](#)

R. LoBianco opened a [ThoughtExchange on special education services](#) in the district. The ThoughtExchange will remain open for approximately a week, and a message will be sent to special education parents and guardians via ParentSquare.

Questions and answer topics included:

- Staffing shortages, including TAs, special education teachers, mental health professionals, bus drivers, and HR staffing - permanent hires and substitutes.
- Improving communication.
- Evaluations, eligibility, and progress metrics.
- Meeting needs that are not supported with current intervention programs.
- Integrating special education information into other communication channels like PowerSchool, and having IEP portal again.
- Addressing after-school program needs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Our next meeting will be on November 17, 2022 at 6:30pm, with in-person and virtual options.