

Welcome to Fairfield SEPTA

Membership and sign up for activities!

<https://fairfieldsepta.membershiptoolkit.com>

Check out our website: <https://fairfieldsepta.org>



Fairfield Special Education PTA, Inc.

Agenda

March 31, 2021

- *Call to order*
- **SEPTA updates**
 - Welcome – Christy Vitale
 - Nominating committee [Proposed slate](#) – Tracy Pechkis
 - Fundraising/Programs – Emily Luske
 - Parent Resource group – Thursday, May 6
 - Operation Hope – May 10
 - Teen night: Friday, April 30 @Nutmeg Bowling
- **Special Ed Dept Report** – Rob Mancusi
- **Presentation: Making Time for Self-care**
 - Our friends at Inspire Inc will present ideas and strategies to help busy, special needs families prioritize self-care to improve overall care
- **Save the date: May 26, 7:30 pm**
 - General SEPTA Meeting and board elections





Resources & Activities

- LET'S PLAY BALL!
 - First game of the **Fairfield Red Storm Challenger Little League** team
 - **Saturday, May 1 @11 am** Conklin Field Milford (5 Columbia Dr)
 - Come out for a nice day and support our players!!
- Adaptive Recreation: Don't forget to register
 - The **Special Summer Playground Program** is for any child enrolled in a Fairfield Public School *Special Education* Program. Daily activities include quiet and active games, arts and crafts, movies, exercise and on-site special events. The program takes place at Burr School in air-conditioned classrooms, site subject to change.
 - Any questions regarding the Special Playground program can be addressed to Kathy Morehouse kmorehouse@fairfieldschools.org
 - Registration and details at: [Fairfield Parks & Recreation - Adaptive - Special Playground \(fairfieldct.org\)](http://FairfieldParks&Recreation-Adaptive-SpecialPlayground(fairfieldct.org))

SEPTA Board Proposed Slate 2021-2022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
	2020-2021	2021-2022	
President	Christy Vitale *	Christy Vitale *	
President-Elect	OPEN	OPEN	
1st Co-VP Fundraising	Emily Lusk	Emily Lusk	
2nd VP Membership	OPEN	OPEN	
Secretary	Kelly McWinnie	Patty Donohue	
Treasurer	Katia Garin *	Katia Garin *	
Treasurer-Elect	OPEN	OPEN	
Administrative Adviser	Rob Mancusi	Rob Mancusi	
All Elected Officers Listed Above. * indicates mid-term			
BOARD OF DIRECTORS			
Past President	Tracy Pechkis		
Past Treasurer			
Programming Chair	Emily Lusk	Emily Lusk	
Communications Chair (star)	OPEN	OPEN	
Parent Resources Chair	Scott Andraesen	Scott Andraesen	
PTA Council Representative	Tracy Pechkis		
Board of Ed. Representative	Trisha Pytko	Bonnie Rotelli	
Ed. Budget Representative	Bonnie Rotelli		
Early Childhood Center Rep	Jerrianne Mitchell	Jerrianne Mitchell	
Grants Chair	Kathleen Dunn	OPEN	

STANDING COMMITTEES	
Webmaster	Scott Andraesen
Volunteer Coordinator	
Diversity Day	
Sunshine	Maria Piccolo
Hospitality	
FOS Award	Bonnie Newman
Parks & Rec (town activities / events)	
Gifted & Talented Rep.	

SEPTA Scholarship Fund

2021 Deadline: May 7

Contact your high school counselor or Chris Librandi at CLIBRANDI@fairfieldschools.org

Organizing Principles

1. The SEPTA Scholarships are awarded each June to deserving Fairfield Special Education students. These students have spent all or part of their schooling in the Special Education Department. The Scholarship monies are intended to help students with the costs of higher education.
2. Eligible students may submit an application for Scholarship to the SEPTA Scholarship Committee. The committee includes members of SEPTA and representatives from the Special Education Department at each High School.
3. The Scholarship decisions are based on objective and subjective criteria.
 - a. Objective criteria include academic performance, school activities, sports, clubs, after-school activities, jobs.
 - b. Subjective criteria include multiple essays, teacher recommendations, interviews.
4. The SEPTA Scholarship is a one-time award. Students are monitored on an on-going basis by members of the Fairfield Special Education Department.
5. No special consideration is given to students or their families that have any connection to the Fairfield SEPTA organization.

FPS Special Education Report

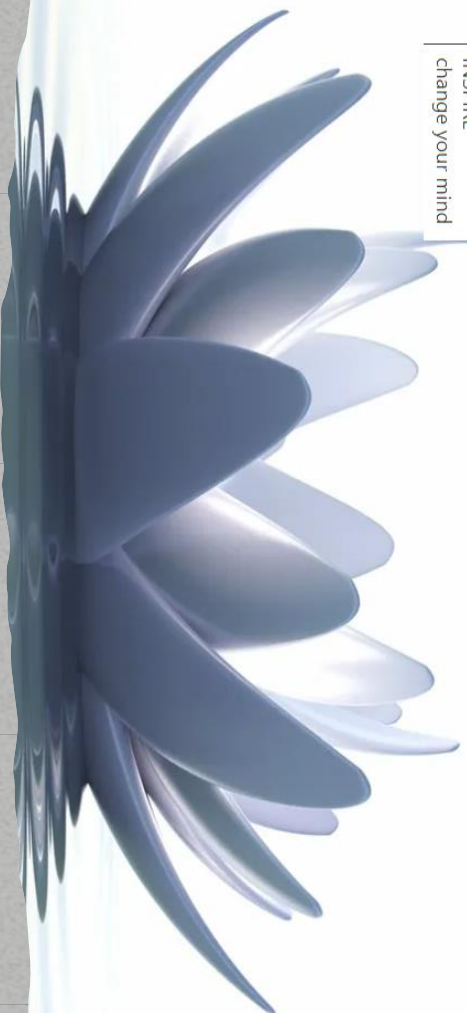
Rob Mancusi, Director Special Education

- Update on district plans for ESY (July 6-Aug 13)
 - ECC at Warde
 - Elementary at McKinley
 - Middle/High at Roger Ludlowe Middle school
 - HS Credit recovery at Roger Ludlowe Middle school
 - Unfinished Learning program
- Update on status of contract bid for OT/PT services for Fairfield Public Schools
 - Decision from town still pending

INSPIRE

change your mind

INSPIRE
change your mind



HOME A CHANCE TO DANCE EVENT ▾ ABOUT ▾ PROGRAMS ▾ CONTACT DONATE

CHECK OUT
OUR PARENT
WORKSHOPS

CLICK HERE

Making time for self-care

Lauren Lanham and Nancy Billington

- www.inspireinc.org
- Parent trainings to online videos focused on meditation and self-reflection
<https://inspireinc.org/resources>



BACKUP

SPED Team
SEPTA Reps





SEPTA Roles and Responsibilities

Executive Committee	
President	Coordinate the work of the officers and committees to ensure that the mission and responsibilities of SEPTA are met
President-Elect	Watch and see! This is a learning role. Will fill in for the President if he/she cannot attend
1st Co-VP Fundraising	Coordinate fundraising efforts, support efforts of the collective executive committee and board
2nd VP Membership	Coordinate active membership campaign with board support, track and maintain via Membership Toolkit
Secretary	Accurately record and prepare the minutes of all PTA business at membership and board meetings and maintenance of business correspondence
Treasurer	Keep accurate financial records of all PTA gross income, receipts and disbursements
Treasurer-Elect	Assist the Treasurer in his/her duties. learn the Role!
Administrative Adviser	Liaison on behalf of district to provide support and encourage active communication
Board of Directors	
Past President	Advise the incoming leadership, function as Nominating Committee Chair
Past Treasurer	Support to incoming treasurer
Programming Chair	plan and coordinate programs across membership to include parent as well as student activities
Communications Chair (star)	Coordinate communications including social media and bi-monthly newsletter
Parent Resources Chair	Coordinate parent-focused resources and oversee SEPTA resource recommendations
PTA Council Representative	Liaise on behalf of SEPTA with PTAC, attend meetings and coordinate shared activities
Board of Ed. Representative	Listen and report back goings on at BOE
Ed. Budget Representative	Listen and report back goings on at BOE and BOF
Early Childhood Center Rep	Coordinate information event b/t SEPTA and the ECC
Grants Chair	Coordinate committee to oversee grant application and delivery process
Committees	
Webmaster	Know a little word press? Help keep www.fairfieldSEPTA.org up to date
Volunteer Coordinator	Help reach out to the SEPTA community to staff/run in person events or fundraisers
Diversity Day	Connect SEPTA diversity goals with elementary Diversity Day efforts
Sunshine	When someone needs a little SEPTA love, help to send a little something to let them know we are thinking of them

SPED Team

- Welcome Rob Mancusi, Director of Special Education, and the Fairfield SPED Coordinator Team

Rob Mancusi

Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services
rmancusi@fairfieldschools.org

Mary Ellen Betzler

Coordinator of High School
Special Education (Ward)
MBetzler@fairfieldschools.org

HS

Chantelle Palumbo

Coordinator of High School
Special Education (Ludlowe)
cpalumbo@fairfieldschools.org

HS

Amanda Kirik

Special Education Coordinator,
Walter Fitzgerald Campus and CPP
akirik@fairfieldschools.org

HS

Kristin Bruno

Coordinator ECC
kbruno@fairfieldschools.org

Pre-K

Zoe Dolan

Coordinator of Elementary
Special Education
LSCHWARTZ@fairfieldschools.org

Ele: K-5

Jon Goodison

Coordinator of Middle School
Special Education
jgoodison@fairfieldschools.org

Mid: 6-8





SEPTA

Fairfield Special Education PTA, Inc.



- **Fairfield SEPTA is an independent PTA representing students, parents, and teachers across the 18 schools in Fairfield who share an interest in Special Education**



- **Improve** access to social and educational activities and resources for all students, especially those who learn differently



- **Educate** and connect parents to support resources, workshops, and other parents



- **Sponsor** and create adaptive programs and events, many free for member's students (and their families)



- **Support** professional development and new ideas for teachers in classrooms through the SEPTA grant program

Visit us online at: <https://fairfieldsepta.org/> OR Reachout to your school SEPTA Rep!

SEPTA Reps

Pre-K	Early Childhood Center (ECC) Parent – Jerrann Mitchell Teacher – Jerrann Mitchell
RLA	Remote Learning Academy Parent – Wendy Papageorge Teacher – Wendy Papageorge

Elementary	Dwight Parent – Kelcey King Teacher – Laura Webster (TBC)	Mill Hill Parent – Teacher –	Riverfield Parent – Teacher –	Sherman Parent – Katia Garin Teacher – Lauren Ward
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Elementary	Holland Hill Parent – Teacher – Brie Roberts (TBC)	Osborn Hill Parent – Laura King Teacher –	Jennings Parent – Cynthia Rodriguez Teacher – Steven Udal	North Stratfield Parent – Katie Flynn (TBC) Teacher –
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Elementary	Burr Parent – Trisha Pytko Teacher –	McKinley Parent – Erik Hayden Teacher –	Stratfield Parent – Meg Ryan Teacher – Jennifer Tinelli-Biondo
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Middle	Roger Ludlowe Middle School Parent – Ann Asher Teacher – Kim Mullen (TBC)
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Middle	Fairfield Woods Middle School Parent – Susana de Moura Teacher – Nancy Winstead
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Middle	Tomlinson Middle School Parent – Bonnie Rotelli Teacher –
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HS	Fairfield Warde Parent – Kelly Takacs Teacher –
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HS	Fairfield Ludlowe Parent – Maria Piccolo Teacher –
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HS	Walter Fitzgerald Campus Parent – Teacher –
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HS	Community Partnership Program Parent – Teacher –
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As of October 15, 2020. Contact Scott Andreason (scottandreason@hotmail.com) to learn more about how to represent SEPTA at your school!



The Role of the SEPTA Rep

It is Fairfield SEPTA's goal to **improve access and information sharing** across the 18 schools in district, that each school should have **2 SEPTA representatives: 1 parent and 1 teacher**

Responsibilities

- **Be (or Become) a SEPTA member**
- **Be Involved:** Attend a minimum of 2 SEPTA meetings each year and introduce yourself to the current Board to encourage information sharing and relationship building
- **Be Aware:** Know what SEPTA offers and be aware of events and priorities for the year, direct parents or staff to SEPTA website (<https://fairfieldsepta.org/>) or to board members based on questions
- **Be a Facilitator:**
 - Your name is available at a school-based level to the local parent population via PTA website and/or SEPTA website
 - Proactively engage with school principal/social worker etc. Introduce yourself and encourage they share your contact information with ALL families with an IEP/504 (or as appropriate)
 - If appropriate, share your details directly with SPED department teachers (liaising with the School's Staff SEPTA rep is key) and introduce yourself to parents
 - Encourage local PTA in development of Diversity Day material and promote SEPTA's Diversity Day Grant program (available to each elementary school)
 - Ensure that your school's website has active and easily identified link(s) to SEPTA website
- **Staff Rep (specific):**
 - Refer families to SEPTA or to the school parent SEPTA rep, encourage relationship building, and share information about navigating the school and finding resources
 - Share information about SEPTA resources with school-wide staff via staff meetings, encourage staff to refer families to you for information about SEPTA
 - Share information with SEPTA on challenges or programs that you think SEPTA might be able to support, implement, or problem-solve
- **Be a Communicator:** Disseminate information about SEPTA events, meetings etc with home school via local PTA blasts/meetings. Proactively report to the SEPTA Parent Resources committee and the board about *innovative ways your school has included our population* of different learners so we can idea-share across schools
- **Be friendly!** Engage parents/teachers by speaking positively about the school, the district, and the programs SEPTA offers. Answer questions based on your experience and direct parents to resources for broader information. **We do not expect you to have all the answers, but to be open minded and inviting, demonstrating the camaraderie we believe SEPTA can offer to parents**
- **By being involved** we hope you will not only encourage membership and resources but also work with reps across the district to brainstorm ways to encourage and facilitate improved access to traditional PTA events for your special education population

Email SEPTA Parent Resources (scottandreasen@hotmail.com) or info@fairfieldsepta.org with questions about being your school's SEPTA Rep!

