



Mailing Address:
 c/o SCPS
 31 Stafford Ave
 Stafford, Virginia
 22554
 ATTN: SEPTA
 540-809-8033 or
 202-285-1637

SEPTA NEWS 2013

November 2013—Stafford Special Education PTA

SEAC Needs YOU!

Do you know about the Stafford County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)? A SEAC is a group of stakeholders that provides input on special education issues to its local school district. The purpose of the committee is to provide an opportunity for parents and other school board appointees to have a voice in the way that school divisions provide services to students with disabilities. There are many reasons for parents to join their SEAC, including:

- To help other families and children with disabilities in your school district.
- To make a contribution to this community.
- To learn information and skills that may help you to work more effectively with your school district.
- To meet others with similar goals, both parents and school professionals.
- To build positive relationships with others in your district.
- To become more knowledgeable about special education.
- To share your unique perspective and insights as a parent, which may help the school district work more effectively with families and improve outcomes for children.

Stafford County welcomes any citizen to participate and encourages you to complete an application. The application form is available at the Alvin York Bandy Administrative Complex or by visiting <http://stafford.schoolfusion.us> and clicking on school board on the left side and choosing advisory committees from the drop down menu.

Congratulations New School Board Members!

SEPTA would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the new school board members and especially one of our own, Ms. Irene Eagan, on her recent win of her seat on the Stafford County School Board, Aquia District. We know that each of you will work very hard to ensure all of the students attending SCPS are successful!

Inclusion

When referring to inclusion in education there are many differing perspectives.... Inclusion remains a controversial concept in education because it relates to educational and social values, as well as to our sense of individual worth. Think about how you feel when you're included? Most people will use the words happy, accepted, welcomed, friendship, valued and togetherness. When people describe the opposite, being excluded, they use words like, isolated, lonely, dejected, angry, sad, abandoned and depressed. There is a difference between being included and just being "there." A great definition of inclusion in education is: the act of attending regular education classes, with the supports and services needed to successfully achieve the individual's IEP goals, **while actively participating in activities as a member of the class who belongs.**" Often there are discussions about inclusion in education as if it were a policy to be adopted or rejected. Special education, however, is not a program or a place, and inclusive schooling is not a policy to be dismissed outright. Since 1975, federal courts have clarified the intent of the law in favor of the inclusion of students with disabilities in general education classrooms (Osborne, 1996; Villa & Thousand, 2000a, 2000b).

To learn more about inclusive education and how to make it work, check out the following websites:
www.paulakluth.com; www.weac.org; www.nichcy.org



SEPTA Board Meetings

* = General Membership Meeting

All meetings to be held at Stafford Hospital Center

Sep 10	Private Dining Room	7:30 - 9:00
Oct 8*	Private Dining Room	7:30 - 9:00
Nov 12	Private Dining Room	7:30 - 9:00
Dec 10	Private Dining Room	7:30 - 9:00

Upcoming Events

- 11 November: CiCi's Pizza Fundraiser
- 12 November: Executive Board Meeting
- 16 November: KD Kids World (every 3rd Saturday of each month)
- 30 November: Alpaca Farm Tour

PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE AT

WWW.STAFFORDSEPTA.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS, MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP – SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN SEPTA.

Executive Board:



President: Dali Burgado
 President-Elect: Vacant
 Treasurer—Marilyn Matula
 Secretary—Vacant

Don't forget to check out the Parent Resource Center and the disAbility Resource Center for some really fantastic upcoming workshops!

You can find Stafford SEPTA on-line
www.StaffordSepta.com



Search: Stafford: SEPTA

StaffordSEPTAmembership@gmail.com