

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**  
**MEETING HELD AT EASTCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA**  
**CENTER ON OCTOBER 5, 2011**

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.
- Old Business:
  - Minutes from June 2011 meeting approved
  - Officer's Reports:
    - Membership: 252 members (131 general/121 faculty)
    - Programming: Naomi Brickel – WIHD
    - Corresponding Secretary: SEPTA received thank you's from three scholarship recipients
    - Treasurer: Raised \$25,000 at Bingos/Brownies event; Currently have \$52,000 in SEPTA funds
    - Introduction of New Board Members
- New Business:
  - Lord & Taylor Fundraiser coupons on sale for \$5
  - Puss in Boots Movie scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.
  - Music Therapy to continue with \$3,000 grant subsidized by SEPTA
  - SEPTA is supporting the School Bond
- Official Meeting Adjourned and followed by presentations:
  - Brief presentation by Dr. Marilyn Terranova and Scott Wynne regarding the middle school bond and school expansion and to answer questions pertaining to special education classrooms/other accommodations
  - Presentation by Noreen Urso including brief powerpoint presentation and announcement of nomination of Theresa Cherry (Principal of Anne Hutchinson School) by the Westchester Foundation for Autism.
  - Presentation by the following teachers/special education professionals regarding structure/highlights of certain special education classes:
    - Christina Molinari – High School Social Studies Teacher focusing on strategies to respond to “DBQ” = document based questions
    - Ann Vitale – co-teacher
    - Kathy Reilly – High School Resource Room Math Teacher discussed how she helps students in the Resource Room
    - Lena Martino – spoke about access to transition services and her role to help families access such services at the appropriate time
    - Nora Flynn – High School Teacher in Communication Development Alternate Assessment School to Work Program where she teaches students ranging in age from 14-21 functional life skills and oversees the Friday Café
    - Kate Hemsley – High School Speech and Language Services
    - Kristin Palmieri – Middle School Speech and Language Services who touched upon working on memory strategies including: visualization, repetition, note-taking, association and “chunking”
    - Lindsay Valentine – Elementary School (AH) Learning Specialist/Co-teacher who described some of the games/strategies

she uses to break down lessons and to modify the lessons such as using manipulatives and scavenger hunts

- Joe Ginnane – Elementary School (AH) Communication Development Teacher who focused on his assessments (both initially and during the school year) to implement a curriculum that is tailored to each child’s specific needs and tied to each child’s IEP goals. Mr. Ginnane mentioned his “reverse inclusion” efforts to integrate a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade general education class into his class for ½ a day each week.
- Carly Spana – Elementary School (GV) co-teacher
- Lydia Margolis – Learning Specialist (GV) who spoke about small group work and literacy centers
- Kelly Cavalli – Waverly Special Education Teacher
- Gina Lerner – Waverly Communication Development Class Teacher
- Allison Hand – Waverly Intensive Needs Class Teacher – who reviewed a visual schedule and how such schedule is used in the classrooms for skills such as daily living skills, leisure activity schedules and literacy activity schedules
- Christy Garin and Melissa Schaer – discussed the SOS Program at Waverly which includes the following components:
  - Pull out sessions which can include: direct instruction, modeling, and structured role plays
  - Peer Mentoring in which mentors receive training sessions, buddies are paired up during lunch and recess and weekly supervision sessions
  - Community building to strengthen the sense of community, sense of fairness and sense of self and others
  - Parent support including an SOS notebook to communicate and generalize topics, choices and provide homework activities

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.