



SWR SEPTA MEETING MINUTES FOR Monday 9/29/25, 7:00pm at Wading River School

Members in Attendance: Daniel McGuire, Jessica Sztabnik, Michelle Storz, Jen Norbury, Lara Gutheil, Stephanie Stolfa, Erin-Saunders-Morano, Lou Parrinello, Tracy Von Eschen, Lisa Medici Perez, Arianne Thompson, Colleen Johnson, John Johnson, Marie D’Alessandro, Angela Blanchard, Deborah Aiello, and Laura Riekert

- I. Call the meeting to order – Pledge of Allegiance**
- II. PTA Mission and SEPTA Mission Statements**
- III. SEPTA Board Introductions**
- IV. District Updates:** Tracy Von Eschen, Director of Special Education & PPS
 - a. Ms. Von Eschen’s position handles special education as well as guidance and mental health programs.
 - b. Special Education teachers and Elementary teachers will be taking the Science of Reading Microcredential as apart of their professional development. Ms. Von Eschen is taking it as well. At the Secondary level, professional development includes ICT training, SDI (specially designed instruction in small group), and UDL (universal design for learning) workshops. RISE teachers will continue Teach Town training.
 - c. In mental health, there is a new school psychologist at the elementary level, Patti Aretakis is now at the high school and Pete Delena will be retiring this year.
 - d. There are new special education teachers and guidance counselors that have been hired.
 - e. We have a new Behavior Consultant Brook Costello.
 - f. Parents are continuing to use the Collaboration Portal to receive notices and documents. Parents who prefer to receive mail just need to ask.
 - g. Lydia Kessel, the new soccer coach, put together an Adaptive Soccer Clinic which will be Saturday, Oct 11 at the high school. Ages 7 and up. It’s \$10. Proceeds benefit SWR SEPTA.
 - h. Over the summer the district updated its Wildcats with Character traits.
 - i. We have a new partnership with Stony Brook Cares for mental health support. Ms. Von Eschen sends out their notices through Parent Square. September focused on school refusal. Each month’s newsletter will have a different focus. Starting in January will be our next phase of partnership with them, which will

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include the opportunity for a direct line between the district and Stony Brook, with access to the Riverhead and Stony Brook offices for short term treatment referrals. They can also assist us with difficult cases.

V. Treasurer's Report: Proposed Budget Vote – Erin Saunders-Morano

VI. President's Report – Deborah Aiello

a. Old Business:

1. Summer BOCES Regional Program Lunch
2. Early Bird Membership Drive
3. Meeting Speakers Booked
4. Canva Account for Non Profits
5. Open Houses

b. New Business:

1. Cookie Dough & Carleton Fundraisers Scheduled
2. Adaptive Soccer Program
3. Teacher/Staff Membership Drive
4. WHAM Craft Fair
5. Sensory Santa
6. Awareness Days
7. Parents' Night Out
8. Unity Ball
9. Scholarships
10. Duck Pond Day
11. Financial Review/Audit Committee
12. Teacher Grants
13. Panera Fundraiser for PTA Council

VII. Guest Speaker: Jackie Waldman, MS.Ed, ACC, ADHD & Executive Functioning Coach

VIII. Announcements/Discussion Items:

a. Door Prize Raffle Drawing

b. Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct 30, 7:00 PM at Miller Avenue School

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