



SWR SEPTA MEETING MINUTES FOR Tuesday 3/17/26, 7:00pm SWR High School Library

Members in Attendance: Lara Gutheil, Deborah Aiello, Tara Gosman, Tracy Von Eschen, and Laura Riekert.

- I. **Call the meeting to order – Pledge of Allegiance**
- II. **PTA Mission and SEPTA Mission Statements**
- III. **District Updates:** Tracy Von Eschen, Director of Special Education & PPS, Tracy pointed out that teachers cannot get grants for software, because it's a much more complicated process. She did put budget through for the requested software and the teachers received grants for another classroom activity. Tracy also spoke about our partnership with Stony Brook Cares, the free monthly parent workshops, and the referral process.
- IV. **President's Report – Deborah Aiello**
 - a. **Old Business:**
 1. 1/7 Meeting Speaker: Dodie Daniels, Parent to Parent NYS: Understanding Supports and Services Administered by the OPWDD
 2. Our Parent Square group has 112 members
 3. 2/11 Teacher Grant Presentation. We awarded 6 grants of \$300 each for inclusive classroom projects & resources.
 4. Revised Scholarship Application, we changed the scholarship application criteria so only students with 504 plans or IEPs are eligible and their family must have a SEPTA membership.
 - b. **New Business:**
 1. Rock Your Socks Fundraiser: we will sell socks for \$5 a pair at the High School's production of Grease, March 19,20, & 21st (World Down Syndrome Day). The sale is to create awareness and promote inclusion. We are donating the proceeds to the Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation and Special Olympics.
 2. Scholarship Committee forming, scholarships will be given out on Senior Awards night.

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3. Autism Acceptance Month banners will be created and we will distribute them to all schools. Students can sign and show their support for autism awareness & acceptance; showing that we all fit together.
 4. Parents' Night Out: Thurs, 4/23 6pm-9pm@The Backyard Middle Island
 5. Unity Ball: Fri 5/15 @Wading River School
- V. Approval of 1/7/26 Meeting Minutes:** Laura Riekert, approved.
- VI. Treasurer's Report:** Erin Saunders-Morano, approved.
- VII. Guest Speaker:** Randy Young, LI Regional Partnership & Family and Community Engagement Centers: How Families Can Actively Contribute to IEP Development. It was a very informative evening. All slides are available to us from the presentation. Randy let us know about all of their upcoming workshops and how parents are essential in the IEP process.
- VIII. Announcements/Discussion Items:**
- a. Door Prize Raffle Drawing
 - b. Next Meeting: May 6 @Wading River School Library
Topic: Topic: Traveling with Your Special Needs Child/Adult (Dodie Daniels from Parent to Parent NYS)

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