

SEPTA Meeting Minutes for September 29, 2025

Minutes written by Recording Secretary Kristin Petty

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by co-president, Holly Kennedy
Pledge of Allegiance
Quorum present 33+ participants

Introduction of Board Members-

Co-Presidents- Holly Kennedy & Diana Murgoci
1st VP Membership- Justine Bruno
2nd VP Programming- Susanne Gallina
3rd VP Fundraising – Alison Scarfo
Treasurer- Amy Hoffmann
Recording Secretary- Kristin Petty

Sensory Hallway Project: Holly Kennedy

Our goal is to install sensory hallways at all of the schools. Lee Road was completed before the start of the school year. Pictures can be found on the Lee Road Instagram page. Abbey Lane is in the final stages of installation. Abbey Lane did independent fundraising to supplement the funding that came from SEPTA so they were able to install a sensory gym to supplement the hallway. East Broadway is in the final stages of planning. Next year, we will build more hallways in the remaining elementary schools. Holly thanked the members of the board, the special education department, and the community. The hallways benefit both the special education students as well as the general education students.

Secretary: Kristin Petty

Approval of May 12, 2025, meeting minutes

Kristin asks for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2025, meeting. Board member Amy Hoffmann seconds the motion. The minutes are approved and will be filed as written.

Treasurer Report: Amy Hoffmann

Amy asks for a motion to approve the budget. The budget has been unanimously approved

- Treasurer report for July- opening balance = \$25,051.35, total income = \$432.51, total expense = \$247.43, Closing balance = \$25,236.43
- Treasurer report for August- opening balance = \$25,236.43, total income= \$1,241.67, total expense= \$2,141.35, Closing balance = \$24,336.75
- An annual audit was conducted over the summer, chaired by Alison Scarfo. The books were found to be in order.

First VP Membership: Justine Bruno

- At present, we have 247 members. We have already surpassed our goal of 218 members
- We will have tables set up at as many schools' events as possible throughout the year.
- Our goal is to make this the best year yet! We want to not only increase parental/community membership but also student membership

Second VP Programming: Susanne Gallina

- Family fun night is on 11/21 in the Panther Room at Levittown Memorial
 - o Please bring a canned good or a non-perishable item
 - o This event is designed for students who have special needs who would like to connect in a welcoming, judgment-free space that emphasizes inclusion. We encourage you to attend with your family. It is a brief event, by design, so that no one is overstimulated, etc.

Third VP Fundraising: Alison Scarfo

- Welcome back, sensory night at Jump Town USA. Last-minute add-on, we had over 100 children attend—great feedback provided.
- Launched our new apparel line with a new designer. We are ordering the soft style shirts that are sensory friendly. On sale through October 18. Flyers here and on Parent Square.
- Boo Bags are back by popular demand. We will be delivering the week of Halloween
- In the back, we have committee sign-ups. Please sign up for volunteering. The color run is the biggest event.

Delegates: Holly Kennedy

- Holly announced to the membership that we do not have any delegates this year. We are looking for delegates and asked if anyone was interested.
- We have a lot of fundraising events and activities planned for the year, so we would love to have some delegates added to the board.

Communication Chairperson: Holly Kennedy

- We added a corresponding secretary position to our bylaws in July 2025. We did not have one in the past. Since we are unable to vote one in until our next voting cycle we have created a communication chairperson position. We are appointing Kristen Terraciano as the chair of communication for SEPTA for the 2025/26 school year.

- The Chair of Communication is responsible for managing all social media platforms and givebacks. All mass communication with the community will go through the chair of communication

Standing Committees: Holly Kennedy

- Melissa Cantwell was the curriculum rep for the past few years. She will attend the next one, but cannot do the rest. (after the meeting, Susanne Gallina agreed to take on the position)
- Looking for a transportation representative. (after the meeting, Kristin Petty agreed to take on the position)

Director of Special Education Report: Dawn Wang

- Director of PPS. Introduction of staff present at the meeting, including central office staff and teachers around the district
- We see a lot of value in having related providers in-house
- The third licensed BCBA is in the process of being hired
- Community trips are up and running, internships are up and running

Old and New Business: Holly Kennedy

- No new business, No unfinished business

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm by Holly Kennedy

Winner of the raffle announced at 8:09 pm (after the presentation): Yaffa Daniel. Not present at the meeting at the time, but the prize was given to Yaffa on Tuesday, 9/30/2015

Presentation by Nicole Imbrogno and Sophie Preston

Topic: Understanding Your Child's IEP

- What is an IEP?
An Individualized Education Program is designed specifically for each child, created by a team, and updated as needed. It ensures all parties stay aligned on the child's needs.
- Key Acronyms Reviewed:
 - IEP – Individualized Education Program
 - CSE – Committee on Special Education
 - FBA – Functional Behavior Assessment
 - BIP – Behavior Intervention Plan
 - FAPE – Free Appropriate Public Education
 - IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 - AAC – Augmented Alternative Communication

- **Evaluations & Scores:**
Assessments provide a snapshot of a child's strengths and needs. Standard scores and percentiles are reported to parents via meetings or calls. Results are just one piece of the overall picture.
- **Present Levels of Performance:**
Covers academic, social, and physical development, based on teacher/provider input and observations.
- **Postsecondary Goals & Transition Needs:**
Goals may include college, trade school, job training, or independent living. Plans are flexible and updated as the student's needs evolve.
- **Participation in Assessments:**
 - Paths discussed from 2nd grade onward (Regents/state vs. alternative assessments).
 - Determinations are reviewed annually by the CSE.
 - Graduation requirements evolving under NYS's new "Portrait of a Graduate."
 - Accommodations on IEPs apply to state tests.
 - Students on alternative assessments receive a credential.
- **Annual Goals:**
Provide measurable objectives to track student progress.
- **Programs & Services:**
 - Daily structure and classroom ratios explained.
 - Least Restrictive Environment emphasized.
 - Related Services: speech, OT, PT, behavioral services.
 - Program modifications (frequent breaks, check-ins) support learning but are not testing accommodations.
 - Supports for staff may include BCBA guidance.
 - Mainstreaming opportunities (lunch, specials, recess) are decided on a case-by-case basis.
- **CSE Meetings:**
Parents are active team members alongside educators and service providers. Meetings include annual reviews and amendments. Strong home-school connections are emphasized.
- **Questions Addressed:**
 - Timing of 3rd-grade assessments.
 - Flexibility of testing/diploma pathways.
 - Applicability of accommodations.
 - Availability of mainstreaming opportunities.

Presentation concluded at 8:08 p.m.