

# To Our Fellow Caregivers of Children with Special Needs:

Raising a child is a big and often worrisome responsibility, but for parents, guardians, and other caregivers of children with physical or emotional problems, learning disabilities, or social difficulties, these challenges can feel even larger. In Woodbridge, the Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG), a parent-led group, has been working with Woodbridge Township School District and others in the community to help support families and others who face these challenges every day.

SEPAG's goal is to support parents whose children have unique challenges, whether or not they receive special education services; and to advise the district on matters related to special-education policy and programs. SEPAG does this by hosting meetings for parents and other caregivers, sharing information about resources in the community, and sharing its views on selected program and/or policy changes and other relevant initiatives being considered by the district. SEPAG meets during the year, when school is in session, to discuss current issues. Meetings can also include presentations from knowledgeable speakers on a wide range of topics, or simply informal gatherings to allow caregivers to share ideas, network, and bond and support one another.

You can join SEPAG as a voting member by attending our meetings or as a non-voting member by emailing us at [WSDSEPAG@gmail.com](mailto:WSDSEPAG@gmail.com).

## **Our Next Virtual Meeting of the year will be on December 7, 2021.**

Additional General Meeting dates: February 8, 2022, March 22, 2022, May 10, 2022

All Special Education Meetings and Events are on the districts events calendar.

Zoom information for all Meetings:

**Meeting ID: 365 915 5925**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3659155925>

**Time: 7 PM – 8:30 PM**

Ann Cote (Co-President)

Kimberly Nunez (Co-President)

Connie Neroda (Vice President)

Susana Bonilla (Secretary)

## **LEGAL BACKGROUND**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, last amended in 2004 (IDEA 2004), encourages parents and educators to work collaboratively, emphasizing that as a team they are uniquely suited to make decisions that help improve the educational experiences and outcomes of children with disabilities. In New Jersey school districts are required to have a special education parent advisory group (SEPAG):

Each board of education shall ensure that a special education parent advisory group is in place in the district to provide input to the district on issues concerning students with disabilities. [New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:14-1.2(h)]