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Bethlehem Bylines Brief

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 51

OCTOBER 2021

Equitable Funding for PA Public Schools

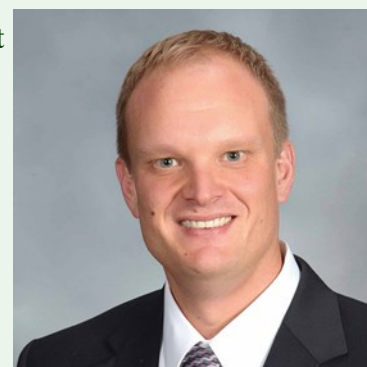
Did you know that in 2016 a Fair Funding Formula passed to provide equitable state funding to schools in communities across Pennsylvania?

What does equitable funding mean?

How was the Fair Funding Formula implemented?

How does it affect me and my family?

These are some of the questions that will be addressed by **Michael E. Faccineto**, President of the Bethlehem Area School District Board of School Directors at our October program.



Saturday, October 9, 2021
begins at **10am**
BASD Education Center
1516 Sycamore Street.

Join us to find out what impact a lack of fair funding has on our schools and our community.

The 2016 enactment demonstrates what can be achieved when both political parties work together for Pennsylvania's students. However, the formula is only as good as the funding put behind it. Sufficient resources this budget year and in years to come will ensure that all students – no matter where they live – can succeed in school and meet the state's academic standards.



public funds 
public schools

Membership Matters

The October 9th Program, *Equitable Funding for PA Public Schools*, is a Shape the Future event and qualifies visitors for a half-price membership of \$44. If you have friends or family that are interested in joining our organization, invite them to this event. A Membership Table is planned, including information, brochures, and registration sign-ups. We must have the payment at this event to qualify for the reduced membership price.

Our Membership Team is looking for another AAUW member or two interested in joining our team. Working together, we can share the responsibilities, make a difference, and focus on keeping our branch growing. If you thought you might like to join our Board but were unsure where you fit in, we have a place for you.

Call or email Kathy Kahler or Ann Brown to learn more about the position.

Thanks Annie Brown

Executive Team Message

Watching all of the news shows commemorating 9/11 has helped me to remember what happened that day, but also remember how people around the country reacted. During the first two days *after* the attack, 1.5 million units of *blood* were donated nationwide. It seemed that everyone was trying to help in some way. Food for the crews working Ground Zero was prepared and distributed. Churches opened for prayers.

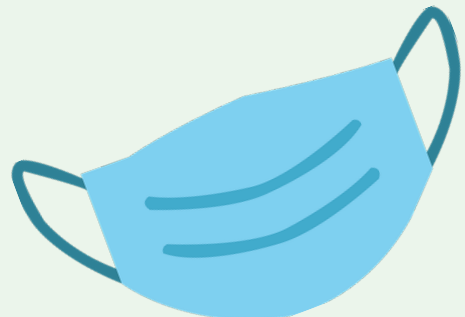
What has happened to our instinct to try to help others in a time of need? To be altruistic, to think of others, to be considerate of others instead of ourselves? Let that photo of the exhausted firefighter climbing UP the stairs of the World Trade Center inspire us.

We all know that wearing a mask is annoying. But that mask does not protect us. It protects the people around us. It is a truly altruistic act. We are not expecting anyone to donate blood (or a kidney).

Please try to be concerned about others and not just your own physical comfort. Wear a mask for someone who is battling cancer. Wear a mask so those too young to be vaccinated can get back to school. Wear a mask for my sister who has rheumatoid arthritis and for my brother who has a disease that is paralyzing all of his muscles, including those to breathe.

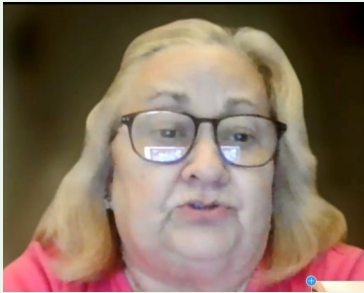
Not wearing a mask is like the childish saying “You’re not the boss of me”.

Wearing a mask is a truly altruistic act we can all do.



Notes from the Program Team

Let me begin by saying our September program was fantastic!
The four business women were extremely dynamic.



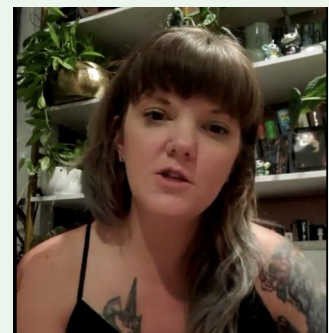
Joanne Turcotte from the Knitter's Edge shares ownership with her daughter. Together they built a yarn shop that is the largest in Pennsylvania. They saw a need in the Lehigh Valley, and on opening day 200 people visited the store! I guess they were right. Not only does the shop sell yarn, but classes are held in a variety of needlework art.

Krista Lichtenberger's Abode Home Decor started at her dining room table, moved to her garage, and now is located in a brick and mortar show room. In addition to her store, she is a full time registered nurse and has a family! Talk about a full plate. She loves what she's doing. One problem brought on by the pandemic is the inability to get products from overseas which she has turned into a positive by supporting U.S. companies.



Rachel Griffith runs one of the top restaurants in the Lehigh Valley and employs 50 staff - all of whom she considers her family. It was interesting to hear her say that restaurants are a very intimate industry. She said she has become a part of everyone's family - including the customers'. She used her contacts to help find Government loans to insure her employees were paid during the pandemic.

Jenny DeLorenzo's The Curious Plantaholic store opened in the heart of the pandemic and soon it was a bustling business due to people who were stuck at home, needing something to brighten their surroundings. She feels plants provide a lot of positivity which was in great demand throughout the pandemic.



The four women agreed that success requires creativity, a 100% commitment to your business and supportive family and friends. They were all in accord when it came to identifying the biggest challenge — balancing family and work.

Information :

Bacchae: The next meeting of Bacchae will be held in person at Fran's and Jeanne's house on Thursday, Oct. 14 at 4:00. We will be having our normal wine tasting and a light dinner. Please let Fran know if you will attend or not. Any questions? Contact Phyllis Wargo

Mystery Paperback: Attention: Mystery Lovers! The October meeting of the Mystery Book Club will take place Tuesday, Oct. 26 from 1:30-3:00 PM. The book is "The Last Equation of Isaac Severy: A Novel in Clues" by Nova Jacobs. New members are always welcome. Please contact Mary Dawson for more information.

Out to Lunch Bunch: Amy and Joan look forward to organizing a lunch as soon as it's safe to eat in a restaurant again. Until then, stay safe everyone. Thank you, Amy Fields and Joan Howe

Diversity: Deeds and Dialogue: The Diversity Deeds and Dialogue group has changed its name to DEIB. Our September meeting is Wednesday September 27 at 7:00pm via Zoom. We are reading *The Sum of Us-What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee. We are reading the introduction and Chapters 1-5 for September. Our October meeting is Wednesday October 27 at 7:00pm via Zoom. For October, We will be reading Chapters 6-10 of the above mentioned book. If you have any questions please contact me. Thanks. Rosemary Baker robaker356@gmail.com

Paperback I: Paperback I meets in the homes of members and discusses fiction and non-fiction books available in paperback. Meeting day and time are new this year. We now meet the third Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Meetings are not held in December, July, and August. In September we discussed "The Pioneers" by David McCullough. In October we will discuss either "Just Mercy", a non-fiction book by Bryan Stevenson or "The Leavers", a novel by Lisa Ko. New members will be warmly welcomed. Contact Mardi Metzger [484 951-7023](tel:4849517023).

Paperback II: PPBII BOOK GROUP will meet on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 7:00pm. Our book for October is *Chasing Fireflies* by Charles Martin. Hostess is Debbie Spinney, reviewer is MaryLou Vernon. Please contact Deb Spinney via email, text or phone call if you can attend. We welcome new members. Please contact me 610-392-0891 if you would like to join our book group. Happy Reading, Joanne Wagner



at

Our November program is confirmed!

Dr. Sharon Gavin-Levy, Adjunct Professor of Literature at Northampton Community College will be our speaker
on Saturday, November 6 at 10 am.

The program will be held in Alumni Hall at the Community College, 3835 Green Pond Road, Bethlehem. Dr. Gavin-Levy will speak about **Women in Literature**. She will share insight into the impact women have had in literature both as authors and as characters. Join us for a look into some of these women and discover how they have added to the richness of the novel.

This is a Shape the Future Event and is open to the public.



Public Policy Update

One hundred years AFTER women won the Right to Vote, and we are still pushing that boulder uphill to enact laws that create fairness!

The following are some updates nationally and state wide that affect us all.

Washington:

Paycheck Fairness Act: Failed along party lines.

For the People Act: Voting rights action failed

U.S. Women's Soccer team pay equity case: Failed. It is being appealed. AAUW has signed on to an amicus brief by the Women's Law Project to help with this appeal. CNN recently aired an interesting program about the Women's Soccer team's 20 year quest for equal pay. Check It Out!

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act: Appears like it will pass Congress with huge bipartisan support. **FINALLY, SOMETHING POSITIVE!!!!!!!**

Harrisburg:

Education: PA School Funding lawsuit went before PA Commonwealth Court on Sept. 9th.

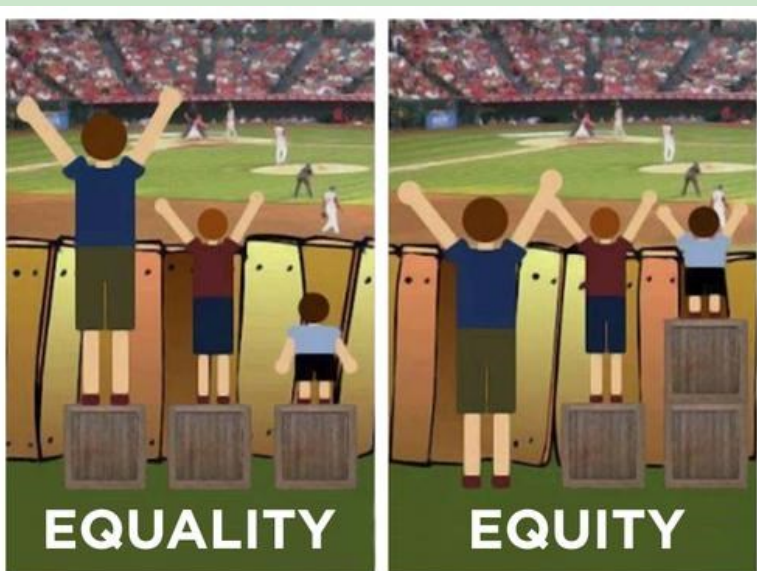
Redistricting: Fair Districts report that the House and Senate committees are supposed to be working together, but are not holding joint hearings. Each committee is using their own difficult to find caucus websites for updates. **Why is there not one easy to find joint, non-partisan information???**

For agenda, sign-ups, and other information. contact:

Senator Argall (dargall@pase.gov)

Representative Grove (sgrove@pahousegop.com)

On November 2 we will be voting for important judicial and local elections. It's important to know how the candidates stand on women's issues and not just their glossy mailings.

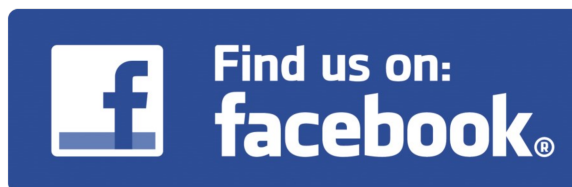


Can you explain the difference between EQUALITY AND EQUITY?

Does your candidate know the difference?



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