

From: Chrissy Skurbe <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent time: 09/19/2022 04:28:10 PM
To: Melissa Storey <vpotaapta@gmail.com>
Cc: jd'antuono@njpta.org; Lisa Falco <lfalco@njpta.org>; Patty Dinsmore <Patricia.Dinsmore@monroe.k12.nj.us>
Subject: [External Email]Re: OTAE PTA membership

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Monroe Township IT Department

Thanks Melissa. I look forward to the meeting on the 29th.

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Can you also address the Facebook page please. Why was I blocked.

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From: Chrissy Skurbe <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent time: 09/19/2022 05:22:26 PM
To: Patty Dinsmore <patricia.dinsmore@monroe.k12.nj.us>
Subject: [External Email]Re: OTAE PTA membership

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Patty -

I find it really sad that I have been asking to volunteer in my child's school for the last 3 years - prior to covid and I have been denied at every turn. I had hoped this year would be different and things would be done differently. It is really upsetting as a parent.

Chrissy Skurbe
3rd Grade Oak Tree Parent

On Monday, September 19, 2022, 05:06:35 PM EDT, Melissa Storey <vpotaepa@gmail.com> wrote:

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From: Jennifer D'Antuono <jd'antuono@njpta.org>
Sent time: 09/19/2022 06:18:13 PM
To: Melissa Storey <vpotaepa@gmail.com>
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Hi Chrissy,

You and I have never met, my name is Jen and I'm on the NJPTA field service team. I meant to send this last week, but time got away from me. What I'm going to say is coming from a place as a spectator to these conversations with an observation. Please give the PTA a hot second to get themselves set up. I know you have a passion for the PTA and you want to help but you are not giving the team a moment to get themselves together. I'm sure you are aware, being a volunteer yourself, not only does this team have the PTA to get ready for the school year, but their own children.

You were not part of the transition team over the summer but you were told that they are still getting things together. You've been quite insistent that you want to be involved- but to repeatedly disrespect their responses that they are still in the organizational phase is not going to get you in any position any faster. Ever hear that you get more bees with honey rather than vinegar. From reading your emails I know that you were once in their shoes, one would think you would be more understanding. Instead of being able to work on what they need to, they find themselves consistently answering your complaints about what they are doing. I have spoken with the PTA team a few times and I know they are working on things. Please work with them because the continuous back and forth is going to create tension not only in the PTA but in the district and that is not going to help the kids that we are all here to support. They know you have a wealth of knowledge that they may tap into, but if all your correspondence compares how you did things versus how they are, your knowledge is shadowed by your actions. There has never been any part of their plan to 'ice you out', you are a member of the PTA organization just like other parent in your child's class.

Please try to give this team the time they need to get their PTA leadership legs underneath them and let them run the year with their vision without comparing it to what your leadership team did when it was their turn.

Sincerely,

Jen D'ANTUONO

NJPTA Field Service Region 2

On Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 5:55 PM Melissa Storey <vpotaepa@gmail.com> wrote:

I have no intention of blocking you or anyone else from volunteering. I am in the process of trying to learn how this all works and trying to follow the procedures that are still being explained to me. So far nothing has happened that required more help because it was planned and carried out before and as school started. Please be patient with me as I figure this all out. I want everyone to be happy but I need to be given the chance to work everything out. This is why I invited the state to come to the meeting so they can answer all our questions and make sure we are doing things the way we are supposed to.

On Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 5:39 PM Chrissy Skurbe <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com> wrote:

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I am not trying to be difficult Melissa. I have been asking to volunteer since my son started Kindergarten in Sept 2019. Long before Covid began. You were the PTA VP then and we were room parents together. I had a great time volunteering in the class as room parents, but the PTA refused to let me help at all that year. Imagine how you would feel if you were blocked the last 3 years from volunteering. I had hoped you would start the year off different. Maybe things will change after the meeting, but I am really not very hopeful as you have turned me away several times already - including offering to donate a lunch for the teachers, which I heard only pizza and a salad was provided - nice but not the type of lunch historically provided to our teachers and yet you denied me from donating anything to it. I just don't understand. This is a PTA - parent, teacher association. All should be welcomed and celebrated who want to volunteer. It isn't right.

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I understand that and that is why I have offered many times to help. I founded the PTA, went on many PTA leadership meetings and conventions. I have a wealth of knowledge that I can share.... Mrs Dinsmore can attest to that as she was Principal when I was the PTA President. It just looks like the few parents who keep asking are being shut out. Optics aren't good right now and starting off saying no every time someone asks to help doesn't look inviting to others.

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