

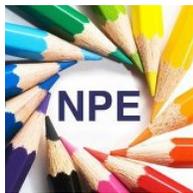
PARENTS ACROSS AMERICA

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4th Annual Conference - Oakland, California
October 14-15, 2017



Take action for public schools!



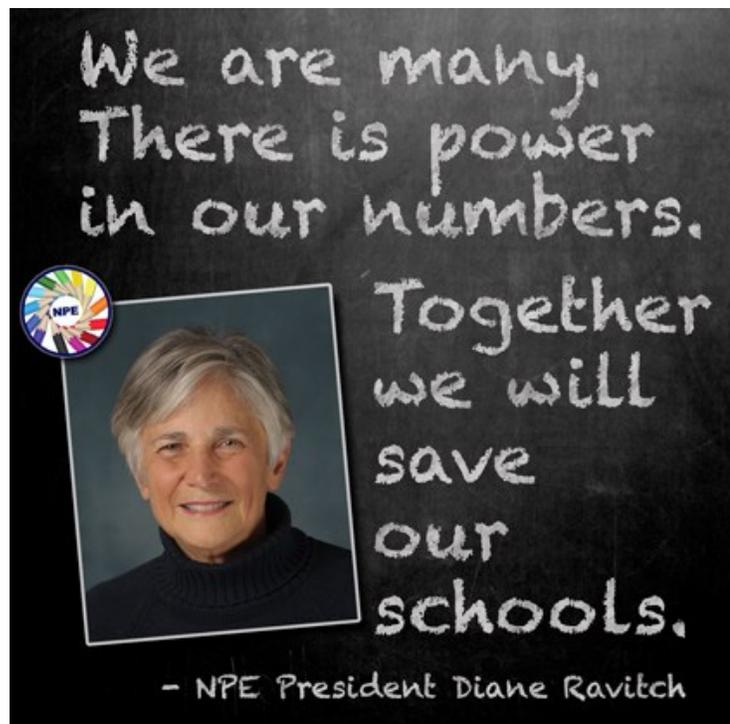
The Network for Public Education is holding its 2017 conference in Oakland from October 13-15, and PAA will be well-represented. See below for the schedule of workshops with PAA presenters, and how you can participate even if you can't meet us in Oakland!

PAA ACTION OF THE WEEK

Get ready for the NPE conference!

The Network for Public Education is the nation's foremost public school advocacy group. NPE connects all those who are passionate about our schools - students, parents, teachers and citizens - to preserve, promote, improve and strengthen public schools for both current and future generations of students.

The [annual NPE conference](#) is a time when advocates get together to share ideas, challenges and successes. It's a great time to meet face to face with people you know so well online (Diane Ravitch!!!), and to refuel for the ongoing battle to save public education.



PAA will be well-represented among presenters at the conference. The scheduled for panels including PAA leaders is below.

Meet up with us! Or...

If you can join us in Oakland Oct. 13-15, great! There are still a [handful of tickets](#) left.

We are always looking for opportunities to meet up with PAAers or anyone who would like to consider starting a chapter of PAA in your area. We are meeting for dinner in Oakland on Friday Oct. 13, and invite you to join us. Please contact PAA interim executive director Julie Woestehoff at JulieW@parentsacrossamerica.org for details.

But we know that most people are not able to travel to the West Coast for this event. We will keep you posted about opportunities to join long-distance. NPE will live-stream many of the workshops, and post recordings after the event is over.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Get ready for Network for Public Education "Now More Than Ever: Fight for Public Education".

<https://events.bizzabo.com/NPE17CA> [#NPE17CA](#) via [@bizzabo](#)

PAA NEWS

Schedule of NPE workshops with PAA panelists

[Real Parent Voice - Real Parent Choice: How Parents Across America Connects the Dots](#)

Saturday, Oct. 14, 1:20 - 2:35 pm

All PAA panel

Moderator: **Dora Taylor**, past PAA President, leader of PAA-Seattle

Panelists: **Khem Irby**, newly-elected PAA President, founder of PAA affiliate The Mothers' Agenda (NYC) and PAA-Greenville (NC)

Zerlina Smith, PAA Board of Directors, PAA-Chicago

Mary Battenfeld, QUEST, Boston MA



Khem Irby

While public school parents/families bear the brunt of corporate education reform, our voices are too often drowned out by well-funded astroturf groups and politicians pandering to their donors' pet causes. This session will demonstrate how Parents Across America (PAA) helps connect, equip and empower parents to more effectively address the national privatization agenda as well as their local struggles, producing a stronger national voice of progressive parents to counter the false narratives about parent "choice." By sharing stories and strategies, we hope to encourage parents and others to keep fighting, and to model the ways we learn from each other and are able to put that knowledge to work. In the first half of the session, PAA leader/presenters will briefly share some of their recent challenges and successes fighting corporate reform, and touch on some of the PAA and

other resources and strategies they use. There will be time for questions and answers. In the second half of the session, we will ask attendees to sit at tables with others from their state or region. Additional PAA leader will lead each table in a discussion of shared concerns and ideas for ways we can better support each other locally and have a stronger national voice, capturing action ideas on butcher paper. We'll end with a brief report out time focused on sharing any big ideas that got people excited.



Leonie Haimson, PAA co-founder and executive director of Class Size Matters, NYC, will be part of two panels:

[Myths, Dangers and Reality of Online Learning](#)

9:30 - 10:45 am, Saturday, Oct 14

Including illusory benefits of ed teach with specific examples on how the ed tech lobby distorts and/or obscures negative research findings.

[New and Existing Risks to Student Privacy and How to Combat Them](#)

1:20 - 2:35 pm, Saturday, Oct 14

PAA past President **Dora Taylor** will also serve on the following panel:

[Ed-Tech Today: Providing Hope and Opportunity or a Pathway to the Gig Economy of Tomorrow?](#)

2:45 - 4:00 pm, Saturday, Oct 14

Our society is mesmerized by the combination of technology, innovation, and the promise of progress. Will the re-engineering of our public schools with the introduction of ed-tech and personalized learning pathways bring more opportunity to students? Or is the opposite true? Could impersonal algorithms narrow children's education options to tiny slivers of skill-based competencies more suitable for the gig economy? Why are educational software programs not vetted as school textbooks have been in the past? The future is now. Let's talk about the pros and cons of personalized learning, the open market that has been created with educational software privatizing the area of curriculum in our schools and the possible futures our children will face.



Eileen Brown, leader of PAA affiliate PAA-North Bay (CA), will offer strategies to combat charter school expansion in two sessions:

[Charter School Accountability: Common Sense Regulations & How School Districts are Pushing forward for Better Transparency, Oversight & Accountability](#)

2:45 - 4:00 pm, Saturday, Oct 14

We will briefly present public opinion research that shows broad bi-partisan support for common sense charter school legislative reforms. Panelists will offer perspectives from

different positions in three California school districts. Panelists include a school district superintendent, a school board member and a parent. They will describe how current charter law in California prevents accountability and harms existing district schools. They will also describe their work under the current law and organize at the grassroots to make charters more accountable and protect public schools.

[Tactics and Strategies for Successfully Fighting Charter Schools](#)

8:30 - 9:40 am, Sunday, Oct 15

Moderated by Robert Ovetz, parent and professor who co-organized a successful campaign to block a charter school in West Marin, California The panel will include activists from two diverse communities who have and are currently organizing campaigns to stop charter schools. It will be organized as an open discussion including several activists who have successfully fought charter schools and some who are engaged in current campaigns to fight them. After short presentations the moderator will engage those attending to discuss tactics and strategies they are using in their efforts in order to provide activists with sources of new ideas for tactics and strategies to use in their own existing and future campaigns. The objective of the panel is to brainstorm new tactics and strategy for fighting charter schools as the basis for developing a guide for fighting and defeating charter schools.

Pamela Grundy



Pamela Grundy, PAA founding member, former PAA Board member, and leader of PAA affiliate Mecklenburg ACTS (NC), will be a panelist on the following:

[School Integration: Changing the Conversation](#)

8:30am - 9:40am Oct 15

This panel will address efforts to create new local and national narratives around school integration, and to build a national network of families who have the commitment and understanding to help fashion integrated school communities that benefit all of a school's students. While attention to the value of integrated schools has risen in recent years, the parallel rise of "choice" has complicated efforts to promote racial, ethnic, and especially economic integration. In many districts, schools can only be effectively integrated if families deliberately choose integration. That choice, however, often requires families to look beyond dominant narratives about school "quality," which focus on facilities, test scores, PTA fundraising, and other criteria. The panelists, who have chosen to send their own children to integrated schools in Los Angeles, Charlotte, and New York, have spent years working to create new local narratives about integrated schools.



Stick around long enough and you can hear from PAA interim executive director **Julie Woestehoff** on a panel with FairTests's Monty Neill!

Testing Panel

11:00 am - 12:10 pm, Sunday, Oct 15

The full conference schedule is [here](#).

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JOIN US!

If you share [our overall goals](#) of progressive, positive education reform and more parent input in education policy making, we invite you to affiliate with us if you are an existing group, or to form a new PAA chapter. The more of us there are, the stronger our voice will be at every level. [Here's how!](#)

If you have questions, comments, suggestions or stories to share, please e-mail us at info@parentsacrossamerica.org or visit www.parentsacrossamerica.org.

Looking for regular updates on key education stories? Join the PAA News List by e-mailing PAAnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Parents Across America

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