



MAKE IT MATTER MEET UP—MARCH 2020



The ACPTA in partnership with the AISD Parent Engagement Support office is providing a learning opportunity at the March 2020 Make it Matter Meet Up.

Date: Monday, March 2, 2020

Time: 12 pm - 1:30 pm

Carver Library | 1161 Angelina St, Austin 78702

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/MakeItMatterMarch2020>

Lunch will be provided—INTERPRETATION in Spanish available!

TOPIC: Supporting Families Served by Special Education and 504 in AISD

This session will provide an introduction to special education and 504 plans provided to children in our schools. We'll discuss evaluations and qualifying diagnosis, services, supports, and disability rights law. We'll also review the current state of special education in Austin ISD. We'll conclude by discussing resources, advocacy groups including VELA and CSEE, and possible roles the PTA can play in supporting children with disabilities and their families.

The session will be led by Ms. Maria P. Hernandez, Founder and Executive Director of VELA, Ms. Deborah Trejo, member of CSEE and AISD parent of 3 children served by special education and 1 child on a 504 plan; and Mr. Jon Lees, member of CSEE and AISD parent of a child served by special education.

About the speakers:

Maria P. Hernandez. Maria is the Founder and Executive Director of VELA, a nonprofit organization based in Austin, Texas. Before creating VELA, Maria worked in AISD as bilingual speech and language pathologist across school and clinical settings providing services to children with special needs ages 0-21. Her incredible papa has MS and her brilliant brother has dyslexia - different has been her normal. She is originally from Bogota, Colombia.

Deborah Trejo. Deborah is an AISD parent with 3 children served by special education and 1 student on a 504 plan. Her children currently attend: the 18+ Transition to Living in the Community Program at the Rosedale School, Travis High School, Kealing Middle School and Lively Middle School. She is a founding member of CSEE. She serves on the board of the Travis High PTSA and on the Travis High CAC. She is also on the Dual Language Committees at Lively Middle School and Travis High School and was the former PTA President at Becker Elementary. She has been a bilingual teacher and is now a lawyer. She is currently on the board of a statewide organization that she founded 22q Texas, dedicated to supporting people with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome. She is also an active volunteer with the Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas and Texas Parent to Parent Network.

Jon Lees. Jon is an AISD parent with 2 children, one receiving special education. He is an active founding member of the Coalition for Special Education Equity in Austin AISD. He is also a member of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas. He is a software engineer for an Austin based cloud software company.

Can't join in person? see below to join by Zoom web conference using your Computer or Phone

1. From your COMPUTER: <https://zoom.us/j/417530377> (Meeting ID: 417 530 377)
2. From your PHONE: Call +1 669 900 6833 OR +1 929 436 2866 (Meeting ID: 417 530 377)

First time to join a Zoom meeting? Watch this 1 minute video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFhAEoCF7jg>



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