

Mount Pleasant Blythedale SEPTA Speaks!!!



On November 24th, parents, students, legislatures, Regents, teachers, and administrators gathered at a town hall meeting to discuss funding inequities for students with special needs. Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Gaby Mileti, shared information about the laws and regulations that govern special act public schools and how they affect students with special needs. She called for **equitable** funding, **elimination** of unfunded mandates, and **approved** regulations providing equal funding for special education. She reminded

parents that *the Laws demand EQUALITY for special students; however, NYS regulations DISCRIMINATE against them.*

Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer addressed the audience reminding them that:

- There needs to be a coordinated effort with schools, staff, parents, and Albany.
- Collective action is the way to achieve fairness and make change for students.
- Assembly and Senate –both are important!
- The Regents are important – they recommend laws and regulations.
- Parents –know your legislators, not just the legislator representing the school.
- Provide personal stories that make the problem real.
- Stay connected to the process.
- Your voice is necessary. Keep in touch – one call is not enough!
- VOTE!

