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PPS Executive Director Anne Foster Serving on National Policy Group

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Anne Foster, Executive Director of the national organization Parents for Public Schools, has been named to serve on the Washington DC-based National Family, School and Community Engagement Working Group to advise the Obama administration on education policy.

“Parents for Public Schools works to give ordinary parents a voice at the table when policy is being made at the local level or in the nation’s capital,” Foster said. “Our members across the country are dedicated to making sure decision-makers listen to parents as well as other interest groups. We are proud to be working on ways to increase parental involvement in all levels of education.”

The group is working to inform federal policy related to family, school and community engagement in public education. It is dedicated to mobilizing partnerships among families, schools and communities to improve schools and increase student achievement.

Members recently met with Roberto J. Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the President for Education Policy, White House Domestic Policy Council, in Washington DC and are continuing to work on recommendations for the U.S. Department of Education.

“All of us believe that strong family and community engagement leads to increased student achievement, improved social skills and behavior, and increased likelihood for graduation,” Foster said. “Parents want to be active participants in their children’s education.”

The group’s priorities for building a strong foundation for family, school and community engagement include:

- Providing a comprehensive strategy for family, school, and community partnerships that will assure student academic and developmental success.

- Proposing a three-tiered federal, state, and local infrastructure that will elevate family, school, and community engagement as a necessary reform strategy for the success of all students.
- Promoting research, and especially evaluation, about innovative family engagement programs and practices that will improve student learning outcomes.
- Improving data systems for family engagement that will enable timely reporting, relevant learning and greater accountability.

Other members of the group include: Mishaela Durán (PTA National Office of Programs and Public Policy); Arnold F. Fege (Public Education Network); Sue Ferguson (National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education); Anne T. Henderson (Annenberg Institute for School Reform); Catherine Jordan (National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools); Karen L. Mapp (Harvard Graduate School of Education); Susan Shaffer (Maryland State Parental Information and Resource Center); and Heather B. Weiss (Harvard Family Research Project).

Parents for Public Schools is a national organization of community-based chapters working with public school parents and other supporters to improve and strengthen local public schools. Founded in 1989, there are 19 PPS chapters in 11 states.

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