



2022 National Parents Union Town Hall

PANELISTS

An NPU One on One with Librarians

Let's Get Real About What is Happening in Libraries

MECCA PATTERSON-GURIDY



Mecca Patterson-Guridy is currently a senior theater major at The Creative & Performing Arts High School in Philadelphia. She is the first place winner for the Voices To Power 2022 Art Competition and the 2nd place recipient of the ASAP Drama 2018 Broadway Division Award. Over the Summer of 2022 Mecca was the first Youth Voice Intern for the National Parents Union. She is very passionate about writing poetry, performing in plays, and releasing her directorial debut film, 'A Quick Guide to Getting Reposted'.

DEBRA L. GARRETT



Debra L. Garrett has over 10 years of experience as a community and family advocate. She holds or has held several positions of leadership and service in the state of New York (Troy, NY, and Brooklyn, NY). She served as a Troy City Council member in 2019. I started the first Parent-Teacher Association at KIPP Troy Prep, where her four children attend. She is a former New York state delegate for the National Parents Union and now a part of the family advisory council. Debra is the founder of a nonprofit called Shades of Cocoa offering opportunities for young ladies of color to affirm their identities and gain confidence within education.



2022 National Parents Union Town Hall

PANELISTS

An NPU One on One with Librarians

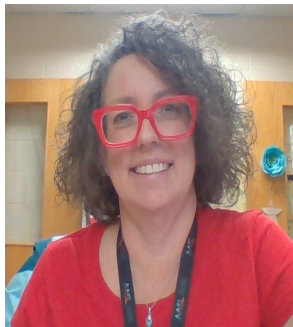
Let's Get Real About What is Happening in Libraries

LAURA GARDNER



Laura Gardner is a National Board Certified Teacher in Library Media and a longtime middle school librarian. Laura was awarded the School Library Journal School Librarian of the Year co-finalist award in 2016 and the AASL Reader Leader social media superstar award in 2019. She's a HUGE reader and reviews books professionally, however she's taking a break from that to be on the 2024 Newbery Award committee.

BARBARA JOHNSON



Barbara Johnson is a graduate of Rhode Island College with a BS in Mathematics and from Mansfield University with my MLIS. I am currently President of CECA, the ISTE Affiliate in Connecticut, Past President of CASL, the AASL Affiliate in Connecticut, Chair of the AASL Chapter Assembly, member of the AASL Best Digital Tools and Websites committee, member of the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology, member of the CSforCT Steering committee, member of the CT Department of Education Media Literacy, Digital Citizenship, and Information Literacy Taskforce, 2018 CT State Teacher of the Year semi-finalist, 2018



2022 National Parents Union Town Hall

PANELISTS

An NPU One on One with Librarians

Let's Get Real About What is Happening in Libraries

Colchester Teacher of the Year, 2016 CT School Library Program of the **Year, and a Teacher-Librarian at Jack Jackter Intermediate School in Colchester, Connecticut.**