**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE- BIOGRAPHIES**

**Joseph Harding**

Mr. Harding is a former New Jersey public employee who retired from Ocean County government after serving 34 years in public service. He was the Director of Management and Budget and Purchasing at retirement after serving 30 years in those positions.

Another area of service includes 20 years as a member of the Ocean County Vocational Board of Education and 28 years as a member of the Ocean County Library Comm., the largest system in the State. Additionally, he was responsible as owner representative for over 30 building projects and the Bidding officer for over 300 construction projects.

Joe currently lives in Worton with Julie and their two Portuguese Water dogs, Cashel and Galway. He currently serves on the Kent County Library Board, Commission on Aging, and is on the Board of Homeports of Kent County.

**Francoise Sullivan**

Mrs. Sullivan and her husband moved to Kent County in 2003, and she began her company, Moo Productions, in 2004. Her clients are primarily in and around Kent County and has been fortunate to work with many local businesses, non-profits, artists and individuals developing marketing materials and website designs. In 2014, she was awarded the contract to redesign, host and maintain Chestertown’s website. She has two daughters, one is currently attending KCPS. She is a member of the Galena Elementary School PTA and the Chair for the American Education Week events at GALES. She has served on a number of boards including:

* Past President of the Chestertown Tea Party Festival where I was also the Chair of the Programming Committee;
* Co-chair of the Marketing Committee for the Garfield Center for the Arts;
* Former Co-Chair of the Creative Advisory Board for RiverArts’ children’s center – KidSpot;
* Co-Founder of Hebe’s Garden which organizes and coordinates free children’s programming at the Chestertown Farmers Market

In 2015 a group of “moms” got more involved and active in our school district and local government. In attending meetings and asking questions they developed a better understanding of the challenges facing our rural schools with decreases in enrollment and funding. In an effort to help inform and engage other KCPS parents in our community, they started a grassroots organization called Support Our Schools (SOS). They have an extremely active Facebook group of 740 members, sharing information about our schools and upcoming meetings and events. In 2016, they organized a successful fundraising campaign called Random Acts of Kindness (RAOK) which will be an annual campaign.

**Dr. Jeffery Grotsky**

After teaching blind and visually impaired children in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Dr. Grotsky began a career in educational leadership. He worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Education in the areas of Special Education and Strategic Planning. Then he was appointed Executive Director for the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. He then took a position in Milwaukee Public Schools as Assistant Superintendent of Planning, Budget, Research and Evaluation. He was Superintendent of Schools in Grand Rapids Michigan and Harford County Maryland. He was then hired by the Baltimore City Public Schools as an Area Superintendent and was Chief of Staff for two years. He then took a position with Towson University as a Senior Researcher in the Education Department and directed a project in the Cherry Hill schools in partnership with the Baltimore City Public Schools.

After moving to Chestertown, he began teaching graduate courses and supervised principal interns for Salisbury University. He then coordinated a three-year project for Salisbury University that trained 25 aspiring leaders on the Eastern Shore, Lower Eastern Shore Leadership Institute. Dr. Grotsky was a member of the Kent County Public Schools Consolidation Advisory Committee and during the 2016-2017 mentored two principals.

**Shelley Heller**

Shelley Heller has been the County Administrator for Kent County since August 2015. She attended Kent County Public Schools 1st through 12th grade. After college, Shelley started her professional career in procurement and finance working for the Department of Defense, both as a civilian and in private industry. Upon her return to Kent County in 2010, Shelley started a career in local government working as a Circuit Rider/Town Manager for Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC). MRDC is the Community Action Agency for Kent County, and Shelley continues to serve on the Board of Directors of her former employer. Shelley also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), the insurance trust for local governments in Maryland. Representing Kent County, Shelley is a member of the Legislative Committee for the Maryland Associations of Counties.

**Tracey Williams**

Tracey Williams is a native of Kent County and is a 1986 graduate of Kent County High School. Tracey, received her BA in sociology and history from Washington College in 1990, MA in special education from Loyola University in 1997, and earned her certification in Administration in 2002 from Western Maryland College.

Tracey has been in the field of education for 27 years. In 1991, she began her teaching career in Cecil County in 1991 where she taught at Elkton Middle School for one year. She then received a special education teaching position at Queen Anne’s County High School where she taught for the next seven years before making her way home to Kent County. She has held several positions at Kent County High School over the last 18 years: social studies teacher, career & technology resource teacher, instructional specialist, assistant principal, and ultimately principal. She is currently serving the county school system as the Supervisor for Student Services and Secondary Education.

**Joseph Wheeler**

Kent County Public Schools Supervisor of Operations, Joseph Wheeler, earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Special Education from University of Maryland, Eastern Shore and his Master’s Degree in School Administration from Wilmington University. Mr. Wheeler began his career with Kent County Public Schools as a special education teacher from 1998-2007. He also served as Assistant Principal of Chestertown Middle School from 2007-2012 and Assistant Principal of Kent County High School from 2012-2017.

**Richard Kalter**

Richard Kalter has had a house in Kent County since 1986 and has lived here a s full-time resident since 2002. He was a senior partner in a major Philadelphia law firm and specialized in public/private joint ventures.

In Kent County Mr. Kalter has served on the Board of the Kent County Public Library from 2011 – 2015. He was President of the Board from 2013-2014. He also served as Chairman of the Foundation of the Kent County Public Library from 2012 – 2015. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Chester River Association and also the River Club.