

## **12:30 – 1:15PM: OVERCOMING THE NEXT BIG HURDLE: PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR THE CHANGING DEMANDS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL & BEYOND**

### **WORKSHOP TOPIC:**

What are the most common, age-appropriate changes and challenges I can expect my child to face academically, socially/emotionally and physically during the transition from Elementary to Middle School? How are these magnified in a child with developmental differences? Given this new terrain—and my child's unique developmental needs and differences—how can we set my child up to succeed?

Educational Therapist, Richard Bograd, will provide an overview and discuss how the needs of students often do not fit the new demands of Middle School and how these changes create a significant educational and therapeutic gap that requires re-assessment of each child's changing needs to establish new and effective long term plans and accommodations. Our expert panel of parents will then, "make it real," addressing some of the tough, real-life challenges they've faced transitioning their own kids with special needs as well as strategies they've employed to overcome some of the obstacles outlined by Mr. Bograd.

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

- A better understanding of the increased complexity of work across the curriculum
- Approaches to developing ways to mitigate these circumstances
- Better awareness of the raised expectations of teachers for student work
- Strategies for adapting to a departmentalized school day
- Strategies for putting your student in the best position to be successful academically and socially in middle school
- Social and academic adaptations and approaches for the new 'digital age'

### **ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:**

**RICHARD BOGRAD, M.A., M.S., M.S.W., LCSW** is an Educational Therapist who has worked with throughout Chicago, for more than 25 yrs as a teacher, early child development specialist, clinical social worker, consultant and advocate.

**ROBERTA (BIRDY) PAIKOFF HOLZMUELLER, PH.D.** is a developmental research psychologist who specializes in the transitions into and out of adolescence. She is Associate Professor of Psychology at the Institute for Juvenile Research and the proud parent of two unique sons, a high school freshman and junior.

**ELLEN STERNWEILER** is the mother of three exceptional children and the owner of The Sensory Kids™ Store. She is a private product consultant, Co-Chair of the NPN Chicago Developmental Differences Support Group and one of the founders and key organizers of NPN's Annual Developmental Differences Resource Fair.