

Danbury City-Wide PTO Council  
Meeting Minutes (Proposed)  
Monday, May 1, 2017  
6:30 PM  
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

Attendance: Lynne Lukasik (C-W Co-President/DHS), Rich Matzinger (C-W Co-President/DHS), Janet Hamilton (C-W Treasurer/DHS), Rachel Chaleski (C-W Secretary/AIS), Dr. Sal Pascarella (Superintendent), Scott Keating (Great Plain), Sharon Amalfitano (Shelter Rock), Kathy Snow (WMSA), Victoria Ceylan (Stadley Rough), Chrissy Maruffi (Pembroke)

Call to Order

- ✓ The meeting was called to order by Rich and began at 6:31pm.

Approval of Minutes

- ✓ Scott made a motion to approve the April minutes. Kathy seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report

- ✓ The current balance remains at \$958.20. Janet is expecting an incoming \$100. Rogers Park and Mill Ridge PTO's have not paid annual dues for this year or last year. Kathy will reach out to Rogers Park (Barbara Bennett). It was suggested to collect dues in two-year increments.
- ✓ Kathy made a motion to approve the Treasury Report, seconded by Sharon.

Superintendent's Report

- ✓ The Board of Education modified the 2017-18 school calendar. The start of the school year is after Labor Day. If no snow days are used within the year, the last day of school will be June 15. The built-in snow days allow a set date for graduation to help families make arrangements. School will be in session on February 20. There will be an early dismissal on November 22. There will be one PD day instead of the usual two before the start to allow for more PD during the school year. There will still be 3 days for new teachers in addition to this. There are 2 PD days in September, which are new to the calendar. These are one-hour early dismissals that allow for 3 to 3-1/2 hours of PD. Dr. Sal hopes that these will remain on the calendar. The calendar reflects a regional calendar, to align spring recess and two other dates (10/6 & 11/7) coded in green. Work is being done on the next year's calendar. The BOE is concerned about being in session during the warmer temperatures. There is a heat index that if reached, students are dismissed. Schools are not permitted to be in session in July.
- ✓ The CT State's budget deficit continues to grow. The City will approve the education budget tomorrow. The school budget assumes alliance grant money from the state. Other districts have already cut staff in anticipation of budget cuts, but Danbury will not. The state budget will be decided on by the end of June; if not, then the Governor will decide on July 1.

- ✓ There are 3 Principal job openings at South Street, Shelter Rock and AIS. Parents will be contacted.
- ✓ There are no updates on the charter school that is still being worked on.
- ✓ More modules (about 4 or 5) are being considered for installation. There are only 2 or 3 schools that would still provide ample parking with the additional space. ACE is being considered, but not likely. They would more likely be placed at WMSA, so as not to increase student population at the other middle schools. There is some uncertainty how the additional space would effect the program at WMSA. The contractor for the Shelter Rock modules will evaluate possible sites.
- ✓ Rachel asked if there would be a hiring committee that would allow for parent feedback on principal candidates. Dr. Sal is aware that teachers have been asked to volunteer, but will confirm with Kim Thompson about parents. Schools that have an Advisory Board must also be included in the process. After national publication, there were about 35 - 40 applicants for the 3 principal openings. Dr. Sal later heard from Kim Thompson that PTO representatives would be invited as part of the process.
- ✓ Lynne asked if there were any other job openings. Dr. Sal confirmed there are about 60 openings across DPS.

#### CoDA (Celebration of Danbury Arts) Update

- ✓ Lynne reminded members that CoDA will be held on May 20, from 11am - 4pm, at Broadview Middle School. She has been in contact with Donna Bosworth and Kim Noone, who are leading the event. They welcomed the PTO to come, bring a tent, and provide an art-related activity. Janet has some pricing on the sand art.
- ✓ There was some question about the layout of the festival and whether the activity would see enough traffic. Lynne spoke about possible getting a City-Wide PTO banner and offering shifts at the festival, depending on members' availability. Lynne will e-mail members to sign up for times. Sharon offered her experience with sand art and general information on set up. Kathy suggested small containers.
- ✓ Janet said a banner that could be reused would cost about \$40. Dr. Sal offered a Danbury Schools banner. Lynne will reach out to Debbie about the banner and will ask Donna and Kim if students could create a sand art poster.
- ✓ Janet found that ColoredSand.com offered better pricing than Oriental Trading for sand art supplies. Pricing was 100 pieces for \$140 or 500 for \$700. The bottles are 3-3/4". There was discussion about how many attendees in past years. It was agreed that 200 would be a good amount to try.
- ✓ The activity would probably need about 3 tables. There will be a donations jar.

#### Updates from School Representatives

- ✓ Great Plain's Apex Fun Run was a huge success. Scott has not yet heard on the final profit. There is a Book Fair this week with an Ice Cream Social on Friday night. There is an upcoming PTO meeting and a Staff Appreciation breakfast at the end of the week.
- ✓ The Science Fair recently held at Shelter Rock was well attended. Students from all grade-levels participated and were divided by grade in different areas of the school. Last

week, the school held Kindergarten orientation and story time for incoming students and their families. The school partnered with the WSCU Science Department. Professors worked with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade on a project around global warming/climate changes. The Kindness Club is organizing a spirit day this week and collecting donations to go towards a charity or cause of their choosing. (This month is PANDAS awareness.) The PTO is putting together a Teacher Appreciation Lunch this week. Their last PTO meeting is this Thursday evening. The Book Fair will be held during the first week of June.

- ✓ Testing is happening at WMSA. There will be a neon dance on Friday. Last week, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders went to Philadelphia. Last weekend, some students went to the state-level competition of Invention Convention. The school was given a grant for an outdoor classroom. Students are raising additional funds to go towards the project. Thursday is a luncheon for the teachers as part of Teacher Appreciation Week.
- ✓ The AIS PTO is busy with various treats and things for their teachers. The next PTO meeting will be held tomorrow evening.
- ✓ Next week, the DHS PTO will cater lunch for their teachers. The Teenage Driving Safety meeting was held a few weeks ago. Attendance was low. Two police officers and a representative from Thayer Driving School helped with the presentation. Many questions were asked and there was good discussion. There was a raffle for driving lessons, valued at \$600. The water station was installed and works well. There are more in the works. The last meeting, "Parent to Parent", will be held in a few weeks and geared toward incoming students to help them transition into the school.
- ✓ Vicky gave updates for both Stadley Rough and Hayestown. Stadley Rough continues to have issues with their Apex Fun Run. Vicky felt uneasy about how quickly they retrieved their payment. The PTO took in \$12k. It was an easy fundraiser. Vicky feels it was not well-managed and things were promised that were not given. Vicky will be looking into other companies for their next fun run. On Friday, there was a "Don't Dis My Ability" dance. The funds raised by ticket sales were donated to a cause. The Kindness and Compassion Club is wrapping things up for the year, after raising money for various causes. Stadley Rough sent 2 finalists to the state competition this weekend. Her son, Ryan, was one of them and was also among five Danbury students who received a recognition award. Dr. Sal asked that Vicky send him their names.
- ✓ The Hayestown PTO began Teacher Appreciation week today with a Red Carpet theme. They had a successful Bounce fundraiser, which made over \$1k. There was a pizza and Bingo night last week, which was well attended. It was held at the cafeteria of Henry Abbott Technical School to accommodate the number of attendees.
- ✓ The Pembroke PTO brought in the typical \$600/700 through the Butter Braids Fundraiser last month. The PTO supplemented the science curriculum with a "Mad Science" program. Each grade is able to customize their program to align with what they're doing already in the classroom. The kids receive something to take home. The PTO is celebrating Teacher Appreciation week this week, providing something for the teachers everyday. This includes a luncheon. There will be an art show and ice cream social at the end of the month. Pembroke did not participate in Invention Convention this year, but the Cub Scouts offered to open up their Science Fair to all students. Rod Dixon's Kids Marathon is

ongoing at the school. Over the course of 6 - 8 weeks, kids run the distance of a marathon. The final mile is usually run at DHS, but due to the construction will be in New Fairfield this year. Rod Dixon runs the final mile with the kids and the kids each receive a medal.

### Wrap Up

- ✓ Last year, the City-Wide PTO held the last meeting in May. Lynne asked members if they would like to meet in June. Kathy suggested to meet in order to give an update on CoDA.
- ✓ Kathy asked when the PTO's held elections. Scott said Great Plain is doing theirs now. Stadley Rough held theirs in April.

### Next Meetings (All meetings are open to the public)

- ✓ Board of Education Meetings: May 10 and 24 at 7pm
- ✓ City-Wide PTO: June 5, 2017 at 6:30pm

### Adjournment

- ✓ The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Rachel Chaleski  
City-Wide PTO Secretary