

Danbury City-Wide PTO Council  
Meeting Minutes (Proposed)  
Monday, February 5, 2018  
6:30 PM  
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

Attendance: Rich Matzinger (C-W Co-President/DHS), Lynne Hamilton-Lukasik (C-W Co-President/DHS), Janet Hamilton (C-W Treasurer/DHS), Rachel Chaleski (AIS-BOE), Sal Pascarella (Superintendent DPS), Jennifer Benson (BMS), Kathleen Hock (King Street), Chrissy Maruffi (Pembroke), Lisa Ruffles (King Street), Kathy Snow (WMSA), Paul Salvatore (WSMA), Amy Spallino (BOE), Grace Castricone (DHS), Kristina Hislop (King Street), Anna Rocco (Principal, Ellsworth), Stephanie Furman (Principal, Hayestown)

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Rich and began at 6:38pm.

Welcome, Introductions and Updates

- Rich welcomed attendees, conducted intros (January meeting cancelled due to weather)
- The Secretary position for the City-Wide PTO is still open; Lynne Lukasik will take minutes.

Guest Speakers

- Brett Raphael, Artistic Director & CEO, Connecticut Ballet
  - New, exciting, in-school 50-minute dance assembly, “Backstage at the Ballet” available for elementary and middle schools for \$225 (one show) or \$350 (two shows). Performance incorporates classic and contemporary dances and demonstrates what goes into being a dancer. May & June dates are available. Contact: Brett at [ctballet@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ctballet@ix.netcom.com)
  - Scholarships and other special programs available for children who otherwise could not otherwise participate in dance as a performing art.
- Lauren Contorno, Program Support Specialist, EdAdvance (Tobacco 21 – tobacco-free schools)
  - Western Connecticut Alliance for Tobacco-free Communities (partners with schools and communities to advocate for smoking prevention and cessation including vaping)
  - “Tobacco 21” is a newly launched campaign to raise the tobacco sale age from 18 to 21 in Connecticut ([Tobacco21CT.com](http://Tobacco21CT.com))
  - Lauren is available for school presentations, handouts, and Qs&As (all schools). Contact: Lauren at [contorno@edadvance.org](mailto:contorno@edadvance.org).
- Gaia Mistriel, Danbury High School Student (Vaping) – CANCELED due to illness.

Approval of December minutes

Kathy made a motion to approve the December minutes. Paul seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer’s Report

- The current balance is \$767.24.
- Paul made a motion to approve Treasurer’s report. Kathy seconded. All were in favor.

## Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Sal and Tina Hislop commented on the discussion that took place at the December meeting regarding stressful climate in the schools and the impact on teachers.
- Anna Rocco and Stephanie Furman presented the transition to standardized report cards for K-5 (including pilot results, trimester format, and progression scores 1 – 4).
- School calendar review including required Professional Development days for teachers, requirement of ending school year by 6/30, declaring 185 school days guarantees graduation, 5-snow days built in this year, and positive feedback in starting school after Labor Day.
- Transportation change for next year: Elementary schools will have the same daily start time.
- Lottery for Westside Academy; may expand with 4-6 modules
- Budget: Asking for \$7 million (5.5% increase). Need \$860,000 for high school expansion. Show support by going to City Council and Board of Ed meetings and ask them to pass the education budget.

## Updates from School Representatives

- Deferred to March due to late hour (9:10 p.m.)

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

- Board of Education Meetings: March 14 & 28 at 7pm
- City-Wide PTO: March 5, 2018 at 6:30pm

## Adjournment

Rich thanked the teachers and representatives again for their attendance and utilizing the City-wide PTO. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lynne Hamilton-Lukasik  
City-Wide PTO Co-President