

Danbury City-Wide PTO Council
Meeting Minutes (Proposed)
Monday, May 14, 2018
6:30 PM
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

Attendance: 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), Chrissy Maruffi (Pembroke), Rich Matzinger (C-W Co-President/DHS), Charles Tucker (King Street), Stephan Dore (Stadley Rough), Sharon Amalfitano (Shelter Rock), Kathy Snow (WMSMA), Grace Castricone (DHS), Joe Martino (DPS), Judith Coco (Family & Community)

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Lynne and began at 6:35pm.

Welcome, Introductions and Updates

- Lynne welcomed attendees, conducted intros
- The Secretary position for the City-Wide PTO is still open; Janet Hamilton will take minutes tonight. If no volunteer for 2018-2019 calendar year, will be done on a rotating basis.

Guest Speakers

- Judy Coco, Family & Community Engagement Center Danbury Public Schools, DPS Equity Grant
 - Work with students, parents, teachers, community, etc to identify educational inequities.
 - "Life of Privilege - \$100 Race" video shown and discussed.
 - Giving students what they need to succeed. Equity vs Equality.
 - Data collection and interpretation included in grant. Does not include implementation. Grant ends March 2019.
- Stephen Dore, Stadley Rough PTO
 - Link each school PTO to city-wide website. Set up shell for all school PTOs to use.
 - Looking for ideas to use website for fundraising.
 - Cannot connect to school website if you want to do fundraising (ie pay pal)
 - Dr Sal would need to protect and secure safety if people were to donate. There is an inherent link to district which would imply district ownership. Reluctant to do so.
 - As a first step, school PTO should be linked to city-wide PTO. Rachel will work with Stephan to discuss and explore this linkage. Each PTO would manage their website.

Approval of February Minutes

- Motion made by Kathy Snow and seconded by Charles Tucker to approve the February minutes. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report

- The current balance is \$917.24.
- Motion made and seconded to approve Treasurer's report.

Superintendent's Report

- Requested \$7M budget for 2018-2019 school year, was approved for \$5M. The shortfall was covered with no staff cuts. Restored reading and math coaches and paraprofessionals. Hoping for savings from retirees. Won't do new things we wanted to do.
- Added 5 FTE and 2 Special Ed teachers at High School. Added 2 fulltime FTEs at Westside.
- Growing 1.5% to 2% per year in student population.
- Bid for 8 modules for Westside is out.
- Thinking of adding 3 hour delay to schedule.
- Fans to be added to some rooms on upper floors to keep air flowing since school is ending so late.

Updates from School Representatives

- Shelter Rock: Did typical fundraisers (Braided Breads, etc). Teacher/Staff appreciation very successful. Note to parents suggesting \$5 per family donated for this function. More successful than their other fundraisers. Teachers get list of all students who donated.
- Westside Middle: 7th grade trip to Philadelphia. 8th grade trip to Boston. Junior National Honor society induction. Won STEM grant.
- DHS: Jr Prom successful. Not much fundraisers happening. Having info sessions (vaping presentation by students). Teacher/staff appreciation lunch held (cost of \$1.2K).
- Broadview: 6th grade social held. Manhunt. Talent Show. History night. 8th grade promotion. Water filtration a go. No parent participation in PTO meetings.
- Pembroke: Start with Hello started with a luncheon. Talent show. Kids marathon program. Teacher appreciation (1/2 catered, 1/2 donated). Spring BOGO book fair. Planning end of year bash.
- WCAIS: Teacher luncheon catered and parents donated money. Talent Show. 5th grad dance. 5th grade moving up/promotion.
- King Street: Subsidized buses for field trip. Catered teacher appreciation lunch. APEX fundraiser. School shirts for 5th graders. Ice cream social. New position "Mill Ridge Liaison" to help close the gap as MSP kids move to KSI - voting on tomorrow.
- Stadley Rough: Subsidize field trips. Running deficit due to not doing APEX (problems last year) and no readathon due to snow days and teachers being stretched. Low parent participation in PTO meetings.

Next Meetings (All meetings are open to the public)

- Board of Education Meetings: June 13, June 27 at 7pm
- City-Wide PTO: June 4 at 6:30pm (Hope to have in new Freshman Academy)

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lynne Hamilton-Lukasik
City-Wide PTO Co-President