

Danbury City-Wide PTO Council
Meeting Minutes (Proposed)
Monday, November 19, 2018
6:30 PM
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

Attendance: Lynne Hamilton-Lukasik (Co-President/DHS), Richard Matzinger (Co-President/DHS), Janet Hamilton (Treasurer/DHS), Rachel Chaleski (AIS-BOE), Sal Pascarella (Superintendent DPS), Chrissy Maruffi (Pembroke), Joan Strauss-Evans (King Street), Kevin Walston (Ass't Superintendent DPS), Victoria Ceylan (Stadley Rough), Kathy Snow (WMSA), Lisa Ruffles (King Street), Paul Salvatore (Westside), German Sanchez (South Street), Kara Casimiro (Curriculum Resource Center), Elisabeth Mendes (South Street), Grace Castricone (DHS)

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Rich Matzinger and began at 6:30pm.

Welcome, Introductions and Updates

- Lynne welcomed attendees, conducted intros
- Next year's officers: Rich Matzinger (President) and Joan Strauss-Evans (Treasurer). Vice President/Co-President and Secretary positions are still open.
- December 3rd meeting canceled.
- January 7th meeting to be held at The Black Box at DHS.

Guest Speakers

- Brett Raphael from Connecticut Ballet was unable to make this meeting and will be at the January 7th meeting.
- Laura Mead (K-5 Math and Melissa Nadeau (K-12 Stem Administration) demonstrated things parents can do at home to help with math. We broke into groups by grade, used the program, filled out and shared our document before turning them in.
- Judith Coco and Dave Krafick (Park St) provided information on the PTO Rocking & Rolling PTO meetings. Key suggestions: keep to 1 hour, provide child care and no long speeches by any attendee. They are averaging 25-30 parents attending per month.

Approval of June Minutes

- September 17th minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

- The current bank balance is \$412.48.
- November 19th treasury report approved.

Superintendent's Report

- Friday the 3 hour delay was used for the 1st time.
- Board is exploring for the 2019-2020 school year having Pathway educate our youngsters about Veterans. Have school open but work with Veterans for programs to be held that day.
- Next year's calendar for Thanksgiving was incorrect and has now been corrected.
- Modules still are not being used pending punch list. Should be complete by 12/1/2018. Then exit doors will be worked on at Westside.
- Preschool is extremely crowded. Need to plan as they move through the grades.
- Rafter Program is a background check program that checks visitors and volunteers before entering the school. Four schools currently have them. We are hoping to receive a new grant from the state to pay the cost of \$2,500 per school for the remaining schools.
- 5 year long range plans (Level playing field for all students, Root cause analysis preventing students from learning and exceeding, Define portrait of a graduate.)
 - Draft of vision, mission and guiding principals (1 day meeting of about 50 various and diverse representatives)
 - Advisory to the Board; goals to make goals happen (1/2 - 1 day)
 - Implementation team
 - Then feedback loop and then back to advisory Board
 - Goal to have done by spring
- Still in dire need for substitute teachers
- Concern raised by some City-wide PTO members that students only had 1 week of 5 full days during the 1st 13 weeks of school and this caused a concern for parents. Dr Sal stressed the importance of full and partial PD days for our teachers so they can learn.

Updates from School Representatives

- DHS: A new Board has been established.
- Rogers Park: Praxair's painting was canceled due to their merger with another company. A new company will do with 500 volunteers (250 more than Praxair). Made \$2,100 at Book Fair. Hosted an impromptu free dance.
- South Street: Did Book Fair. Raised \$1,700 from Yankee Candle. Holding holiday shopping.
- Pembroke: About 150 kids attended the Halloween Spectacular. This was the largest turnout at any event. Will have holiday reading night, holiday shopping and Bounce.
- King Street: Raised \$5,500 scholastic dollars at the Book Fair, \$1,800 Yankee Candle and \$4,000 wrapping. Pot luck dinner for teacher's late night. Reorganizing spirit wear. December 7th wine tasting at Max Beverage. Campus Care 5th graders recycling. This year will support Pembroke accessible playground.
- Westside: School dance for 6, 7, 8 graders held in the cafeteria was well attended. Will also do Crispy Creme and holiday wreaths. Play this year will be Fiddler on the Roof. School participates in Amazon.
- Shelter Rock: 300 kids participated in Trunk or Treat. 25 teachers decorated their trunks. Other fundraisers include Book Fair and Bounce. Gift certificates at Book Fair for teachers instead of wish list. Did Election Day bake sale that HS Honor Society runs. PTO meeting called Principal Coffee Meeting - 30 minutes PTO and 30 minutes teachers.

Next Meetings (All meetings are open to the public)

- Board of Education Meetings: January 9th and January 23rd at 7pm
- City-Wide PTO: January 7th at The Black Box at DHS

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lynne Hamilton-Lukasik
City-Wide PTO Co-President