Danbury City-Wide PTO Council

Meeting Minutes (Proposed)

Thursday, January 21, 2021

5:00pm via ZOOM

Attendance: Tim Maroney (President), Jade O’Connell (Vice President/AIS), Paul Salvatore (Treasurer), Kathy Snow (Secretary), Julie SanSevirino (Broadview) Christine Sweeney (Rogers Park), Gina Alladin (WSMSA), Tara Carl (King Street), Christine Fournier (Mill Ridge), Estela Camacho (Morris Street), Chrissy Maruffi (Pembroke), Janna Masella (Stadley Rough), Rachel Chaleski (BoE liaison), Kate Connetta (BoE liaison).

Mayor Joe Cavo.

Call to Order

* The meeting was called to order by Tim Maroney at 5:00pm.

Welcome, Introductions and Updates

* Tim welcomed attendees, meeting was held via zoom.
* Purpose of the meeting was to have a “meet and greet” with Mayor Cavo and to ask him questions.
* Kathy took attendance and each School Rep introduced themselves as well as the school they represented.
* Tim introduced Mayor Cavo.

Mayor Cavo:

* Gave a brief background on himself. On the City Council for over 18 years, as President since 2006.
* Has worked with Mark Boughton a lot over the years and is very familiar with the difficulties and struggles the City is experiencing.
* Mayor Cavo answered questions from attendees.
* Covid vaccine - there are several sites coming. Regarding vaccines for teachers, tried to get teachers over 60 years old in 1A phase for vaccines, but did not get approved. Mayor Joe will confirm teachers are part of 1B roll-out.
* Mayor is very concerned about money the City has had to spend on Covid related items.
* Question about high speed internet as a “city utility” that was discussed a few years ago.
	+ Mayor Joe was aware of past discussions. He is learning more about it, and there is a 21 town collaborative working to develop city wide internet for their towns.This is still moving forward but going slowly. Hopefully it will be available to all city residents, not just certain areas.
* Cap on internet usage recently invoked by Comcast was brought up. Folks were concerned about extremely high bills during time students are home on distance learning in addition to parents working from home. Joe had heard about it but not many details. He will ask his staff if they have any information.
* There is a meeting with the State Delegation and BoE lobbyist next week.
* Mayor Cavo’s stance on Education
	+ He supports public schools & education.
	+ ECS under-funds Danbury. Danbury won lawsuit concerning this but it is low in funding as it is to be done over a 10 year period.
	+ He has to balance families with children, senior citizens, renters etc. when determining how to fund City services.
* Youth sports. Mayor Joe said they would have to be done safely and in accordance with State guidelines.
* Rental units with multiple families renting - large numbers of people and children in schools yet families rent so a burden is put on the school district yet the CIty is not getting the taxes from renters. Mayor Cavo is aware of this and it is also a health and safety issue. He is working with the UNIT to identify these buildings and contact the landlord. Difficulty is that many of the landlords claim the families living there are all relatives.
* Summit School at the Matrix. This will be for grades 6 - 12. Mark Boughton is the committee chair. There will need to be a referendum taxpayers will need to vote on. Goal is to have students in the Summit for the fall of 2023.
* Summer School. Will it be offered? Can students who have technically passed the State guidelines to transition to the next grade yet feel they are not adequately prepared attend? Even if there is a small fee, can parents sign up their child? Deferred question to BoE, Rachel Chaleski said she will ask at the next meeting.
* Substitute teachers. Mayor said hiring of substitutes is a function of the Board of Education.
* Charter Prospect School. Charter of the school was approved by the State, but not funding. That still needs to be approved by the State. Mayor is in favor of offering alternative means of education to parents.
* Mayor Joe thanked Citywide for inviting him on the call and welcomed everyone to email him with any questions or concerns. j.cavo@danbury-ct.gov

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00pm