

## **PTC Meeting Minutes 1-29-15- Presidents Meetings and General Meeting**

### ***Elementary School Presidents Meeting:***

Representatives from: Newfield, Hart, Rogers, Toquam, Roxbury, KT Murphy, Stark, Stillmeadow, Westover.

No representatives from Springdale, Davenport, Northeast

Danette Melchionne, PTC 1<sup>st</sup> VP opened the meeting at 6:30 pm

### **PTOs shared fundraising best practices:**

- Read-A-Thon
- Jog-A-Thon (did well at Toquam and not as well at other schools)
- Bi-annual auctions (most schools do this)
- Donation letter sent at the beginning of the year which describes what the PTO funds and what the fundraisers will be.
- Chocolate (Gertrude Hawk) does well at Stillmeadow
- Yankee Candle does not do as well
- Parents want to know where the money is going, so some put in their weekly eblast things that are funded by the PTO
- School store at some schools (at lunch or first thing in the morning) for about 45 minutes. Sell erasers, pencils, etc. nothing more than \$2 and they net about \$400.
- Success with Lyman Orchards Pie
- Newfield is holding a 5K Fun Run in the spring, in the neighborhood. Have permits done and lots of sponsors
- Art to Remember is successful at most schools
- PTO puts together an annual report at the end of the year, which is a summary of what the PTO has funded over the past year
- Raffles do well at most schools. Some PTOs have them created by grade level

### **PTOs shared ideas on how they work with staff:**

- Some schools give teachers “stipends” (\$50-\$150) for all teachers and staff. PTOs have different ways of accounting for this. It is expected that teachers spend the money on classroom supplies.
- Some schools give the principals a budget and it’s up to the discretion of the principal on what to use it for.
- Differences in what administrators care about or focus on-
  - Some schools where parents have to buy all school supplies at the beginning of the year (pencils, crayons, etc.) and some schools where parents don’t buy any supplies.
  - Some principals care about beautifying building or improving facilities



**PTOs shared ideas for parent involvement:**

- For many PTOs, it's the same 5 people who do everything.
- There's a misconception that parents have to physically be at the school building in order to volunteer.
- Many PTOs focus on community building such as a picnic, coffee socials (first thing in the morning for 30 minutes), international night or day. (At K.T. Murphy, it's on a Saturday from 11am-2pm. 20 countries are represented and families do a display and food/dance from country. \$3 admission for tastings and they sell pizza and bake sale).
- Some PTOs have Facebook, but some principals don't allow it. It's important to boost your likes so you get more shares.
- All schools have some sort of eblast. Some use Twitter.
- On 2/24 there will be a presentation to the Board of Ed about the use of social media.
- Many schools like to have free events, such as an ice cream social at Newfield. They do have basket raffles at this event in order to raise money.
- Toquam has a potluck dinner which is free. PTO supplies paper products and plain pasta.

**Other:**

- Check with CT Department of Charitable Revenues for raffles.

**General Meeting:**

Began at 7:30pm

- STEMfest on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at Mill River Park. Please publicize to families.
- Budget hearing on 2/5 at 7pm at Westover. Please come out and support your desired part of the budget. Overcrowding and mental health are big issues.
- SPS is conducting a school climate survey from an outside vendor. Please spread the word and get parents to participate.
- AITE has a meeting on 2/4 at 7pm which is open to all about mental health. It will be a Q and A with a panel of experts.
- Wright Tech is interested in becoming a submember of PTC. Jackie will be in touch with Susana to pursue with attorney.
- PTC Handbook is being updated. It will be available to all and includes insurance info, etc.

**Middle and High School Presidents Meeting:**

Representatives from: Dolan, Rippowam, TOR, Cloonan, SHS, Westhill and AITE  
No representatives from Scofield

Began at 7:45pm

**PTOs shared meeting themes and forums to encourage attendance:**

- Mental Health Forum – SHS, AITE and Westhill have hosted forums on this topic with good attendance. Suggestions were to open forums to all feeder schools
- Dolan has hosted “the talk” for parents of adolescents
- Prescription Drug forum (SHS hosted Ginger Katz from Courage to Speak Foundation)

**PTOs discussed student transitions ES to MS and MS to HS:**

- TOR invites 5<sup>th</sup> graders to visit TOR
- “Moving up Readiness” through Mike Meyer’s office. A two week orientation for ES to MS transition. Students are asked to navigate buildings, carry books, practice opening a locker, etc. Program is currently being presented to principals.
- ES introductions to guidance departments and to Naviance
- Shadowing is available for students transitioning from ES to MS or from MS to HS
- TOR will do a resource fair at KT Murphy

**PTOs discussed fundraising efforts:**

- Dolan sells candy canes and lollipops, preordered school supplies (<http://www.suppliestoplease.com>)
- TOR hosted “Titan Challenge” with PE department. A successful and enjoyable fundraising event in which all students participated. Students raised money through their participation and getting sponsorships
- All PTOs agreed magazines, pies, etc require man power that is not readily available

**PTOs discussed parent involvement/volunteerism and publicizing events:**

- Several schools use “Sign Up Genius” to organize events and volunteers (<http://www.signupgenius.com>)
- Suggested that the high schools tap in to their alumni network
- Advertise in the “Community Briefs” sections of our local news outlets
- HS After Prom Parties exist at WHS and SHS. AITE is looking to establish a After Prom Party for their students.
- WHS has their own version of “Donors Choose” to offer om support
- SHS has a grant program called Dare to Dream to support teachers and departments

**PTOs discussed how they support teachers and the classroom:**

- MS provide financial support through various channels
- WHS has their own version of “Donors Choose” to offer om support. Parents are able to select whow/where they would like to donate
- SHS has a grant program called Dare to Dream to support teachers and departments. Teachers submit proposals and a committee evaluates proposal and awards grants.

**PTOs discussed misc. topics:**

- All HS shared frustration with lack of support and volunteers
- AITE questions relationships with SHS and WHS regardin team sports
- AITE student travel time to districted school interferes with classroom time
- AITE feels unrepresented in team sports

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Minutes Recorded and respectfully submitted,  
Regan Allan and Nora Taylor, Recording Secretaries