



PTC Meeting Minutes: January 9, 2014

Parent Teacher Council Meeting Minutes

01/09/2013, 7:30 pm

Attendees include: Nandita Kotian, Betsy Allyn (Newfield and Rippowam), Monika Twal, Susana Vidan (Hart), Marcella Branca (Rogers), Tina Rella, Danette Melchionne, Mary Hines (Toquam), Carrie Jachimczyk, Lynn Rule, Lori Johnston (Roxbury & Cloonan), Lydia O'Hagan (KT Murphy), Lisa Wise (WHHS), Nora Taylor (SHS), Liz Kitay (AITE), Shelagh Corporon, Anna Hallett, Sharon Beadle (SPS), Susan Austin (SPS)

Stephanie O'Shea, PTC Co-president opened the meeting at 7:30 pm

Dr. Hamilton addressed the group on the following topics:

School Calendar

Dr. Hamilton presented the 2014-15 SPS calendar to the BOE. The development of the new calendar took in to consideration the recommendations from BOE Policy committee. 181 days for students, 186 teacher days, 5 days of teacher professional development were moved back to Wednesday afternoons, and both spring and winter breaks have been reduced to long weekends. Board will vote on the 2014/2015 SPS calendar on 1/28. Dr. Hamilton recommended anyone who has an opinion regarding the calendar to contact board members or attend the 1/28 meeting and take advantage of the time allocated for the public to be heard. The calendar draft version may be viewed at: http://www.stamfordpublicschools.org/sites/stamfordps/files/u127/122013_draftschool_year_calendar_2014-2015.pdf

Enrollment

Dr. Hamilton summarized the 2014-15 school year proposal to alleviate enrollment in our most over crowded elementary schools. Three magnet choices will be made available (by adding 4 additional classes to 3 magnet schools) for incoming Kindergarteners: 2 classes at Westover, 1 at Toquam, and 1 at Hart. Additionally, current 4th graders will be offered the option to apply for magnet seats at Scofield and Rippowam for newly created 5th grade sections at Scofield and Rippowam.

Misc. topics

- Common Core testing will take place April-May
- SARA Buttons that were piloted in Newfield School to be installed in all SPS elementary schools



- Newfield and Springdale orientation dates for current 4th graders interested in moving up to middle school for 5th grade will be held 1/27. Student visits/tours to be announced in February.
- City is investigating/negotiating the purchase of Sacred Heart School property on Strawberry Hill Avenue with the intent of adding a new k-5 or k-8 school for the district.

Hugh Murphy, Director of Finance for SPS

Mr. Murphy shared a reference document prepared by SPS to help PTOs manage bus trips and payment of teachers. PTOs are discouraged from booking and paying for buses directly. They are also discouraged from paying teachers directly. Extra Service Vouchers are available through the district and teacher hourly rates are available on the SPS web site. Mr. Murphy stressed that the district has approved policies and procedures for processing payments and ensuring all bus trips are covered by the SPS liability insurance. The process is not complicated and payments are prompt.

For more information, please reference the SPS document via this link:
<http://stamfordptcouncil.org/downloads/ptobustrips.pdf>

Chartwell's SPS Food Service

Al Benjunas, Director, 203-977-4732, abenjunas@stamfordct.gov
Rita Crocco, Assistant Director, 203-9774738, rcrocco@stamfordct.gov
Billy Weitzer, Chef
Sarah Mavler, Dietician

Al Benjunas presented Chartwell's food service program

- Chartwell's provides breakfast, lunch, after school, and summer feeding programs to SPS and the community. NO child is ever turned away (cheese sandwiches are provided).
- Discussed PAM payment program: funding, student pin numbers, refunds
- All students have an account
- Uses ParentLink to notify parents of negative account balances
- Students are encouraged to try something new
- Students are required to select a balanced meal by taking 3 of 5 meal components

Chartwell is interested in working with PTOs and looking to launch/expand in-school programs such as:



- Conducting nutritional awareness programs in the classroom
- 5th Grade Nutritional Leaders, a program to encourage students to try something new
- Wellness Committee (seeking student and parent volunteers)
- Food Advisory Committee (seeking student and parent volunteers)
- Breakfast in the Classroom, done at Scofield and looking to expand this to other buildings
- Willing to work with PTOs for food needs for events (morning or after school)

Where Angel's Play Foundation, Gina Aiello

<http://www.thesandygroundproject.org>

Where the Angels Play Foundation has selected Stamford as a recipient of their pay it forward program called "Pennies for Playgrounds." Angel's at Play will gift a playground to Stamford, pending city board approvals, at West Beach. Stamford PS will participate in "Pennies for Playgrounds" to collect donated funds to pay for a playground in another community. SPS elementary school administrators have been briefed on the program and posters and large water bottles (to collect donations) will be distributed to all ES to promote the event.

Sharon Beadle, Public Affairs Officer, SPS will be organizing this event and volunteers or those seeking additional information on Where the Angels Play should contact Sharon Beadle at: sbeadle@ci.stamford.ct.us or Gina Aiello at: aiello@sbcglobal.net

Misc PTC Business

Treasurer's Report

- Original tax certificate for all PTOs is available on the PTC web site.
- It is recommended that all PTOs refer to official PTC tax certificate to confirm tax ID number

Next meeting February 13th, 2014, 7:30 pm

Minutes Recorded and respectfully submitted,
Nora Taylor, Co-recording Secretary