

PTC Meeting Minutes 3-19-15- General Meeting

Representatives from: Newfield, Hart, Rogers, Roxbury, Stark, Dolan, AITE, Scofield, Cloonan, Davenport, SHS, Springdale.

No representatives from Northeast, K.T. Murphy, Westhill, Toquam, Stillmeadow, Westover, TOR, Rippowam

Handouts included a PTC pamphlet, Stephanie and Susana's testimony to State of CT Appropriations Committee, petition to State Delegation about state budget cuts, folder from Stamford Hospital and STEMfest flyer. Tax ID letters were distributed to individual schools and PTC budget shared.

- I. Welcome and Introductions- everyone introduced themselves. Non PTO attendees included representatives from Stamford Hospital, Beth Eiseman and Tamu Lucero
- II. Announcements
 - a. BOR/BOF Budget Hearing- Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30pm at Westhill- it is very important for people to come or at least submit testimony through email to the BOF and BOR. We are in danger of the budget getting cut. Stephanie and Susana attended presentations and the BOF do not understand the real overcrowding issue in Stamford
 - b. State Budget- the decrease in state funding will affect our local funding. Stephanie and Susana submitted testimony to the Appropriations Committee. Other members from PTC submitted testimony on a moratorium on charter schools.
 - c. Charter School petition- signed by 307 residents so far, which asks the State to make cuts related to education and social services.
- III. Treasurer Report- no changes. Waiting on scholarship contribution from 4 schools. Some confusion on whether or not Westhill Northstar pays dues or contributes to scholarship.
- IV. Guest Speakers
 - a. Stamford Hospital Hope in Motion- Ginny Landle and Kari Pollak- event is on June 7th in Columbus Park. Walk/Run to raise awareness of cancer and to raise funds. They would like us to get the word out to schools. Many schools have teams, but they'd like to raise greater awareness. They suggested coin drive, bake sale, a homework contest, etc. They are also looking for cheerleaders or music groups to entertain participants. Also, they are looking for volunteers. They passed out a folder of info to each school.



- b. STEMfest- Beth Eiseman- the event is on May 16th from 10am-4pm in Mill River Park. It is sponsored by SPS, GE and Mill River Collaborative to raise awareness of all things STEM, STEM in every day life and careers involving STEM. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). It will highlight also what's going in in STEM already in the schools. Raindate is May 17th. It is free. There are 90 activities already, including rotating science projects from Grades 6-12 and the ESPN production van. Businesses will have pre-activities- Did Ya Know, where kids can get prizes. Headliners include Ne ton's Football author (Deflategate) and Ira Flatow from NPR. There will also be a STEMweek leading up to the event which include a possible astronaut Skype, the KTM Penguin Challenge and egg drops at middle schools. Volunteers are needed. Food trucks will be on hand. Flyers were distributed and the website is www.stemfest.us
- c. Anand ?? parent at Newfield presented his website, www.mykyds.com It's a calendar sharing program. He is looking for beta testers.

V. New Business

- a. Scholarship committee- 5 members are needed. Lori Johnston, Tina Rella, Gail Munsch and Susana volunteered. We will ask Danette to chair.
- b. SCOPES- a subcommittee of PT Council which supports parents of children with special needs. 2 Events are coming up- April 8th- Real PPT at Stark school, where parents can observe what happens in an actual meeting. May will be a networking luncheon. New representatives for schools are needed.

Minutes Recorded and respectfully submitted,
Regan Allan, Recording Secretary



Petition submitted on 3/19/2015 to the Education Committee of the CT General assembly, 307 signatures

Letter to Stamford, CT State Legislators:

State Senator Carlo Leone

State Representative William Tong

State Representative Livvy Floren

State Senator L. Scott Frantz

State Representative Patricia Billie Miller

State Representative Daniel Fox

State Representative Caroline Simmons

State Representative Terry Adams

As a Stamford voter, I urge you to oppose Governor Malloy's proposed budget which cuts funding to traditional public schools and social services, while at the same time, increasing funding to charter schools. Governor Malloy claims to be the "education" governor, , in order to offset the state's large deficit, he has proposed massive cuts to both education and social services across state, including cuts to afterschool programs and summer school, School-Based Health clinics, the Office of Early Childhood, Higher Education, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Children and Families, and Voluntary Services of the Department of Developmental Services. Also, there is no increase in funds allocated under the ECS formula to Alliance districts such as Stamford. In addition, the proposed budget includes flat funding for Education Cost Sharing - this is basically a cut, since there is no accounting for contractual and inflationary increase. As you know, Stamford only receives 47% of the fully funded, outdated formula, a shortfall of \$11 million dollars.

Despite all of these cuts to the fundamental services that our children, young adults and families need and depend on, Governor Malloy was able to find the funds to for charter schools. He has proposed a \$12 million increase to expand the number of Charter schools statewide (including \$4 million for the Stamford Charter School for Excellence) and a \$20 million increase in charter school funding over the next two years (an increase of almost 34%), while the public schools across the state will see a cut of close to \$70 million dollars.

As you know, the approval of the Stamford Charter School For Excellence and other charter schools statewide was overwhelmingly opposed by our Stamford community and Board of Education. Almost 1000 Stamford residents signed a petition last year to oppose the opening of the school. This opposition was ignored by the State Board of Ed and the school has been fast-tracked for the 2015-16 school year. Governor Malloy's cuts are unacceptable and the funding must be restored to help our schools continue to educate our children. The solution is not to funnel money to charter schools that simply do not and cannot serve the majority of Stamford students.



*Petition submitted to the State Board of Education on April 2014, 921 signatures
Resubmitted to the Education Committee of the General Assembly on 3/19/2015*

Letter to

Education Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education Connecticut State Board of Education

To the State Board of Education:

As a Stamford resident, taxpayer and a parent with children in the Stamford Public Schools, I request that the application for the Stamford Charter School for Excellence be denied. The authors of this proposal from BCSE do not understand the needs of the Stamford community and failed to engage Stamford residents, and misrepresent the achievements of the Stamford Public Schools while cherry picking their own successes. In Stamford we have worked very hard to ensure that our student population represents the diversity of our residents. The proposal by BCSE for the establishment of a charter school in Stamford erases the 40 years Stamford has fought for integration in our public schools.

As a parent I fully accept the challenges that the City of Stamford faces. I fully support the efforts of our Superintendent, Dr. Hamilton, and the LOCAL Board of Education in their commitment to closing the achievement gap, to excellence in education, and to preparing all of our children to succeed in the 21st Century. I understand that this requires adequate resources. As you know, despite the student need in our district, the state only provides Stamford's public schools with less than \$600 per student in ECS funding. If our state officials want to help Stamford's students, I respectfully request that they start by fixing our broken funding systems so that our schools get the money they need to succeed. A charter school will only drain precious resources from our already financially strapped district.

I ask you today to vote against the proposed Stamford Charter School of Excellence and vote yes to Stamford Public Schools. Vote to EDUCATE ALL of our children, not just a select few.



Testimony submitted on Mar 3, 2015 to the Appropriations Committee of CT General Assembly

March 3, 2015

Connecticut General Assembly Appropriations Subcommittee on Elementary & Secondary Education
Public Hearing March 3rd, 2015

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Education Subcommittee Chairs Senator Slossberg and Representative Fleischmann, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee:

The Parent Teacher Council of Stamford wishes to thank the committee for the opportunity to submit our concerns with HB 6824, An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2017, and making appropriations therefore and other provisions related to revenue.

To quote from our CT Department of Education: "Wraparound Services are Collaborative Partnerships. Schools cannot do it alone. In order to achieve maximum success in their education reform efforts, schools need to engage a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. These partnerships develop a unified focus on academics, services, supports and opportunities that leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities."

The proposed budget is an attack on the efforts of the State's Department of Education to close the Achievement Gap by underfunding our public schools and other agencies that are integral parts of these key "wrap around services". We specifically object to:

- Flat funding for Education Cost Sharing (ECS)-this is basically a cut, since there is no accounting for contractual and inflationary increase. Stamford only receives 47% of the fully funded, outdated formula, a shortfall of \$11 million dollars.
- \$6.4 million cut to struggling school districts to cover the cost of afterschool programs and summer school to help raise achievement
- No increase in the funds allocated under the ECS formula to Alliance districts such as Stamford
- \$1 million cut to Department of Public Health School-Based Health clinics
- \$6 million cut from the Office of Early Childhood
- \$61.3 million cut from Higher education (UCONN, Office of Higher Education, Board of Regents)
- \$6.3 million cut from the Department of Social Services
- \$15.7 million cut from the Department of Children and Families
- \$20 million cut from Voluntary Services, Dept of Developmental Services (programs to children and adolescents who have emotional, behavioral, or mental health needs)

Despite all of these cuts to the fundamental services that our children, young adults and families need and depend on, Governor Malloy was able to find the funds for charter schools, which includes:

- \$12 million increase to expand the number of Charter schools statewide
- \$4 million to fund the Stamford Charter School For Excellence opening next year
- \$20 million increase in charter school funding over the next two years (an increase of almost 34%),
- while the public schools across the state will see a cut of close to \$70 million dollars.

We strongly oppose these proposed budgets cuts to the ever-shrinking education, social services, and higher education budgets, and the misguided appropriation of limited resources to support charter schools.



The solution is not to funnel money to charter schools that simply do not and cannot serve the majority of CT students. The solution is to reexamine the ECS formula and fully fund local school districts.

We ask you to reconsider the proposed cuts and to impose a moratorium in the expansion of Charter Schools in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Susana Vidan
Co-President PT Council, Stamford

Stephanie O'Shea
Past Co-President of PT Council, Stamford

Save the Date



When: Saturday, May 16, 2015

**Rain Date: Sunday, May 17*

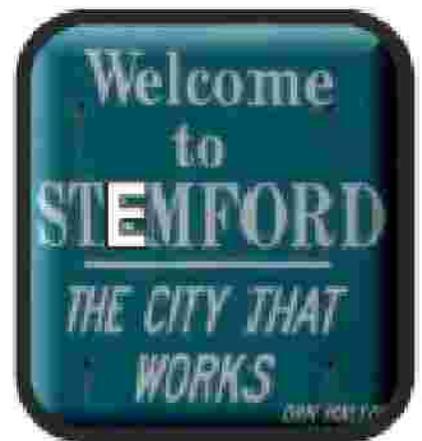
Where: Mill River Park, Stamford, CT

Time: 10AM - 4PM

What: The STEMfest is a variety of activities and displays centering around Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) for students and their parents. This event is **FREE** and open to the public.

Who Can Help: We are looking for two types of volunteers: (1) those who have an expertise in Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Math (STEM) to do an activity or (2) those who want to help out at the event in another way.

Goals: (1) to build awareness about STEM for students (and their parents), (2) to demonstrate to students how much fun these disciplines can be, (3) to show students how these disciplines are inherent in many of the things we do every day, and (4) to have students learn about the career and college opportunities in STEM.



Stamford Public Schools
2015-2016
Excellence Is the Point.

Kids Draw Free



 Stamford STEMfest

www.stemfest.us

 @CTSTEMfest