



## PTC Meeting Minutes: September 20, 2012

1. Welcome by new president, Candy Yeager.
  - Candy explained the purpose of PTC is to bring together all parents of Stamford students as a force to inform and discuss the betterment of education in Stamford.
  - Candy advised that all PTO BOE reps attend BOE general and even committee meetings – many things are discussed by BOE members that effect students and schools; agendas can be found prior to meetings on SPS website. Currently magnet policy, enrollment figures and facilities needs are being discussed in committees.
  - Candy urged that although everyone is welcome to contact BOE members, first point of contact should be building principal, then PTC before bringing problems or issues to BOE.
  
2. Dr. Hamilton, Superintendent of SPS spoke:
  - Dr. Hamilton has held many posts in SPS over the years and is happy to bring this experience to the system as superintendent now.
  - She believes that we are better off academically than 4 years ago, an appropriate question to ask during an election year. Even though CAPT are flat, SAT scores and AP enrollment are rising.
  - Things to continue working on are parent involvement.
  - 2013-2014 budget cycle is starting now, central office has met with administrators. Last years budget did not see a cut in staff while adding programs with the lowest increase in 5 years and that is the same goal this year. SPS needs parents and PTO support for budget, go to meetings and speak up.
  - COMMON CORE – has been adopted by 46 states so progress will be an “apples to apples” comparison CC will strengthen readiness. There are pros & cons, may have to prepare teachers for change.
  - CAC (Citizens Advisory Council) is forming.
  - GE grant is ending, has provided much needed work in math programming, need to find similar funding for literacy.
  
3. Dr. Polly Rauh, President of BOE spoke:
  - The responsibility of SPS success should be shared by all in Stamford



- Common Core covers less content but in more depth.
- Capital Budget is ongoing – using EMG facilities needs survey of 2009 \$78 M was requested over 10 years but only essential items are being funded. BOE needs parent and PTO support on capital budget as well as operating. Question: what can parents do to influence capital budget? Answer: go to BOE, BOF and planning meetings, contact members. One particular budget issue is the custodial overtime charges that have run wild. Final budget is presented to Planning Board by March 15. Candy added that there was a good deal of success with the Budget Advisory committee last year for operating budget process, perhaps a similar committee should be formed for capital? Dr. Rauh mentioned that even though capital project requests may be approved for funding they are oftentimes not bonded so that the funds so not become available. It is important to get priorities on a list and get this information out to parents. Dr. Hamilton mentioned that in creating this list Central office tries not to pit one school against others in the grab for limited capital funds. Additionally, it was pointed out that any smaller projects under \$50k are usually done via facilities maintenance funding, which is operating.
- Urges parent to come to meetings, committee and general, although members will not get in dialogue with parents during meetings she assures us they are listening to what we have to say. Do let BOE members hear from you.
- She is interested in the idea of “schools of choice” which gives families the opportunity to be more fully invested in schools.
- Dr. Rauh is interested in holding staff in place and investing in their training so they do not wish to move on to other school districts

4. Amy Livolsi-Gragg, PTC Treasurer spoke

- Presented PTC budget: will be voted in at next meeting.
- November 15 is deadline for tax return filing 990 form
- Financial records must be kept to maintain 501c3 status as not for profit agency.
- Reminder to pay PTC dues

5. Wayne Holland – Special Education Program Director spoke:

- The Parent Advisory Board is forming – 10 parents, 2 students through Office of Family Engagement, to provide a broad cross section of viewpoints for decision making going forward on special education issues.



6. Miscellaneous Items:

- Each PTC rep should have received a handbook, Part 1 has changes from last year, resources, by-laws. Part 2 has current information for 2012-2013.
- (20 candidate forums will be co sponsored by PTC and League of Women Voters, will follow up with dates.
- The PTO presidents meeting offers a smaller environment to discuss best practices.
- Common Core - this is new to all of us, school system is not wiping out what is already in place and working. An introductory session will be held at AITE on 10/22 by Mona Hanna. Good news is schools will no longer be listed as “failing” under new guidelines.
- Dr. Hamilton – system is moving away from key textbook purchases and more towards technology to prepare students for Common Core testing on tablets or laptops.
- Sarah Arnold, SPS PR person is leaving.
- PTC is on Facebook & Twitter, check Danette & Michelle technology presentation from last year (including PTC website) for helpful information on getting info out to school community.

**Meeting adjourned, next meeting 11/ 15/12.**