



PTC General Meeting Minutes: September 29, 2014

Schools represented included: Westover, Hart, Northeast, TOR, Westhill, Newfield, Scofield, Davenport, Roxbury, Springdale, Stark, Stamford High, Dolan, AITE, Cloonan, K.T. Murphy

Welcome:

Susana introduced herself and explained what PT Council is.

Announcements:

- Dr. Hamilton's presentation to the BOR on Monday, October 6th at 8pm: The Sacred Heart property is not necessarily going to be a school. Dr. Hamilton needs to prove this to the various Boards. If it does become a school, it wouldn't be ready until September 2016. The meeting won't necessarily start at 8pm. The BOR is often late in starting due to political caucuses.
- Dr. Hamilton and staff presents to the PT Council on October 23rd: Dr. Hamilton will present the potential new school information and current capacity of schools. We asked her to include plans or recommendations regarding how to deal with the overcrowding in September 2015, including the future of 5th grade in middle school.
- BOE Candidate's Forum on Wednesday, October 29th in the Government Center, 5th Floor Board Room. 2 incumbents are seeking re-election (Julia Wade and Jackie Heftman). 1 Democrat (Betsy Allyn) is seeking the position. 2 Republicans are seeking the position (Andy George and Mike Altamura). 1 Green Party candidate (Cora ?) who we have not been able to contact. Regan Allan proposed the addition of the name "Angela Lorenti Memorial" Candidate's Forum. Angela was a former Board of Ed member, PTC, Springdale, Dolan and SHS president and board member. She also served on SPEF's board and passed away earlier this year due to breast cancer. We are renaming the Forum to reflect and honor the type of person she was- dedicated and selfless. There were no objections. There will also be a debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters on October 22nd in N. Stamford.
- BOR/BOF Public hearing TBD: for residents to share their thoughts on the potential new school. Susana will send out contact info for BOR and BOF reps.
- PT Council meeting dates: 11/20, 1/15, 3/26, 5/21, 6/11
- President's meetings: we will have 2- one for elem and one for middle/high in order to share ideas
- Treasurer's meeting: 1 to share insurance and financial matters.

Treasurer's Report: will vote at next meeting



Guest Speakers:

Chartwell's SPS Food Service

Al Benjunas, Director

Rita Crocco, Assistant Director

Billy Weitzer, Chef

Dietician and new marketing specialist who speaks Haitian Creole

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. He provided prices for each meal.
- Discussed PAM payment program: student pin numbers, can go online check account and what your child purchased.
- They are using more local produce, the display was an example of that.
- This year, they started a "Second Chance" breakfast at Ripp. It's a cart in the 6th grade wing, because Ripp starts so early and some kids might be hungry from an early bus ride.
- Breakfast in class at Scofield
- Chartwell's follows the national guidelines of healthy food. Policies about point of sale are BOE policy, not Chartwells
- 5 food groups need to be present in order to be considered a meal.
- There have been some issues with Powerschool for categorizing students as free or reduced lunch.
- Very important: parents must fill out forms for free and reduced lunch by 10/15 in order to qualify for the following year. Al asked us to announce at a PTO meeting or via email.
- Overall participation rate is 28-30% at HS, 40-42% at MS and 50% at elem.
- He will try to have menus online on time this year.
- Breakfast on the go cart at SHS this year which has been successful. They will try to start at Westhill.
- There were some questions and discussion about what to do with excess food.
- Chartwell's offers catering. Contact Rita for info. It is reasonable and easy.
- They will donate what they can to Jog a thons, school events, etc.

Stamford Symphony

Enid Lieberman

- The symphony offers 5 concerts over the course of the year.
- Advance the Arts is a program where the Symphony gives PTOs tickets for \$2 to a Sunday 3pm concert. Students under 12 may also attend a Musikids program at 2pm. PTOs can charge what they want for tickets and keep the difference. Seats are upper balcony. The tickets retail for \$29.
- Proceeds are asked to be used for school arts programs.
- They are starting a program for high school kids to be ushers.
- This year, 3rd graders will experience a Carnegie Hall program to learn recorders and play with the Symphony at Westhill in the spring.
- 4th and 5th grade American Experience will continue this year.

New Business

- Amy Gragg and Lynn Rule introduced SCOPES- group for helping connect parents who

Parent Teacher Council of Stamford, CT

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- have or should be receiving special services. Can be academic, social, or emotional needs
- Call for help with PTC website.

Adjournment at 8:45pm

Minutes Recorded and respectfully submitted,
Regan Allan, Co-recording Secretary