



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



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