

PTC Meeting Sept 10 2020

Minutes

1. Introduction to the PTC Board Members
 - a. Jennifer Forman, Zareen Hussain, Paula Thompson, Marni Amsellem, Jeff Herz, Shalini Rangan, Jaqui Latif-Scully, Amy Callichio, Dr Washington
 - b. Introductions of all on the call:

Nancy Herz, Ripp & SHS;

Leah coleman, Roxbury

Leigh Morefoot, Rodgers

Amy Notter, Hart, Ripp,

Lisa Strom, TOR

Judy Klym, WHS

Rachel Hager, Strawberry Hill

Tracie Dinc, Hart, Rippowam

Jennifer Belton, Westover

Regan Allen & Jim Fleischer, Dolan, AITE

Jana Henderson, Hart

Gina Calabrese, Rodgers

Suzanne Pacifico, Westhill

Michelle Lesser, AITE, Scofield

Kathleen Steinberg, Stillmeadow

Nancy Kelly, Strawberry Hill

Theresa Baker, Stillmeadow

Stacy Kechejian, Roxbury

Christine Meek, Northeast, WHS

Stephanie Zelazney, Northeast and TOR

Andrea Greenburg, Westhill

Tara Shapiro, WHS

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Karen Huntoon, TOR
Stephanie O'Shea SHS
Melissa Friedman WHS
Teresa Shafir, Stillmeadow
Sylvia Stein, TOR
Susan Kunin, WHS
Linda Bricano-Stigler, Stark
Aru Nandekasaian, Hart
Ken Goldberg, AITE
Sue D, school ?
Ramya Shaw- ?
Emily Guttman, Strawberry Hill
Cheryl Devault

Special Speakers:

1. Olympia Della Flora, Associate Superintendent for School Development; Amy Beldotti answering q's

Brief update on schools on the first 3 days of school.

- c. Office of Superintendent has been checking in w staff re: how Hybrid is working
- d. 3200 (?) students in Distance learning currently
- e. Free meals for all students- was not official until recently
- f. Course selection - working to get desired courses. Lots happening now as changes are underway
- g. A priority will be social emotional needs- a lot of anxiety, managing the complexities that kids are entering the environment from different places, teachers acknowledging experiences of kids, referrals to mental health support, teacher/ staff training on: social emotional needs, race, diversity & equity, community engagement. Perhaps with smaller class size, better ability to identify needs.

PTC Agenda Items

Brief intro to PTC

What we do as PTC?

we are conduit of information

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Way to band together for group PTO insurance

PTC supports each of the PTOs- info about fundraising, tips to support, sharing information

We provide compliance info for rules & regulations when your PTO runs a program

Tax exempt status/ compliance with this status

Treasurer's report - (Jeff and Paula) - every school paid last year, each school's treasurer can reach out to Jeff and Paula re: concerns

- h. Dues cover insurance for PTO events
- i. Other expenses: Ad for Stamford Advocate for BOE Candidate Forum
- j. Questions- do we want to review and update our PTO's bylaws due to COVID? This is fine; please communicate your plan with Jeff

Vote on budget: only 1 vote for school, 1 vote for PTC Board Member; -> **Budget passes**

2. What we are working on:

-Candidates forum October 5 (Monday)- soliciting questions - send to:

stamfordboecandidateforum@gmail.com

Also being collected by jacque.latif@gmail.com and shalinirangan@gmail.com

- **Stamford Stands Against Racism** - The PTC Board voted unanimously to take action to educate ourselves to reduce systemic racism. We are considering what actions we can take as a board. We are open to ideas and open to discussions.

If your school is interested in taking part, reach out to Jennifer.

(<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnSD8xu1vzG9MNCRL0B91A4ZFpF4W-60y5veztpmlMgSPjZQ/viewform>)

- Bylaws Committee. How can practices be more inclusive? Are there any ways we are perpetuating racism unknowingly?

If you would like to join bylaw subcommittee, email Jennifer, Zareen Hussain, Michelle Lesser

- Soliciting volunteers for BOE meetings, BOR reps and BOF meetings so the PTC can stay informed.

New Business:

Brainstorming session:

Amy Notter- constitution of boards- bringing more people into PTOs, more diversity

Teresa Shafir- health of buildings, ventilation (several agree)

Gina Calabrese- importance of funding schools; Public education 101- why does public education exist?

Pasted from chat:

From Lisa Strom, Dept. Head to Everyone: (8:50 PM)

"I'm a little concern about the length that Sylvia went to. She did an AMAZING job to care for these families. But isn't that the responsibility of our city and our school system? Aren't they making these

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connections and funding these initiatives. I am worried when the public picks up the slack where a city system fails to support its own community. I gave generously as well. But I recognize that what Sylvia was able to organize is not necessarily sustainable. We can't always step in to 'save the day' when there should be systematic supports for these families. We're all blessed to live in such a strong community of people. But I am cynical about the role our school/city system plays in social services. Why can't they make this happen without someone like Sylvia spending such a herculean volunteer effort.”

zareen

“it was wonderful to see the whole community come together to help all these families. And yes, as much as I want this to be carried out in a systematic way it is wonderful to see that families still want to help others who are in need. As far as getting organizations involved with the families in need, that is already being done by passing their info on to them. My focus is to recognize those who make a difference in our communities. ”

From Lisa Strom, Dept. Head to Everyone: (8:56 PM)

“ Have people considered (staff & PTO members) other ways the city can raise revenue for schools? What do other cities do? Sometimes taxes are not the only form of funding.”

From Melissa Friedman - WHS past President to Everyone: (8:57 PM)

grants from local companies Many have left Stamford unfortunately

From Melissa Friedman - WHS past President to Everyone: (9:00 PM)

Language barrier - bilingual would help