

**SYSTEM-WIDE PARENT TEACHERS ADVISORY COUNCIL
BOARD OF EDUCATION – CONFERENCE ROOM
43 HALL AVENUE, WALLINGFORD
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015
MINUTES**

Attendance: Melissa Iles, Jonathan Chappell (DAG), Karen Hlavac (BOE), Sal Menzo, Patty Pursell, Cindy Parker (Impressions Photography), Karen Vaiana (Impressions Photography), Erin Corso (MYB), Chauntel Papallo (RH), Mike Sevigny (PH/Stevens), Shawn Parkhurst, Beth Raccio (SHS), Mike Votto (BOE), Stephanie Cerrato (PF/CH), Rob Mancusi (PPS), Linda Winters, Amy Tierney (MYB), Scott Mowerson (Moran), Rob Arciero, Nick Passariello (HES/YES), Peter Angelastro (HES/YES), Jen Palmer-Humowitz (LHHS), Kari Copeland (SHS), Gina Barrett (YES/Moran)

1. Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2015
3. Bus Camera Update and Bus Idling Laws (Linda Winters)
 - Contract has been signed for bus cameras. Program will begin soon. Redflex gathered data from 30 cameras on a variety of routes. Will place 2 permanent cameras on the outside of 2 buses. Redflex is analyzing remainder of routes with temporary cameras. Will work with town on procedures and information will be shared via district website. Camera turns on when lights turn red. May need to clarify law with the public.
 - Bus idling law review- should not idle more than 3 minutes, unless it is very cold, in traffic, repair, to maintain a safe temperature... Will ensure that signs are up at all schools about bus idling
4. Student/School Photographer Contracts (Linda Winters)
 - Received a legal opinion about going out to bid on photographers, town attorney confirmed that if there are no fees or revenues, then bidding is not required. We have been going out to bid for the last few years. Contracts are ending in June 2016. Discussion about whether rebates are considered revenues. One possibility is that the PTO could take over the photography, so they would be an outside organization. They would keep revenues, but they would have to file taxes. Because there is no cost to the school, it may not have to go out to bid. Schools use the money for field trips and to defray costs for families when needed. Prices and offerings are not consistent between schools. Straight bid, two part bid are two options. System-wide PTAC can develop sub-committees to work with principals to create bids for each level; elementary, middle, and high school. Present bid will be shared with the sub-committee.
 - Volunteers: Amy Tierney (elementary), need a rep for each level. Will work with Tammy to find middle school and high school representation. Need to get the bids back by April to be ready for next year. Issue will be updated on the February agenda.
 - Representative from Impressions spoke and described the offerings and bid process. Is a local company, made some recommendations to make sure the bid process is more clear, such as specifying retake fees. Wanted to share information about the company and the process due to comments made on social media.
5. Health and Wellness Initiatives (Patty Pursell)
 - District Wellness Management Team overview
 - Wallingford Health Improvement Plan- reviewed goals for the committee

- Physical Education and Health program audit recommendations reviewed (Wellness coordinator, increasing health instructional hours in high school, as well as many others)
- Asking for more parental involvement to the district wellness committee and sub-committees
- Asking for additional ideas of community groups for the Wallingford Health Improvement Plan

6. Healthy Food Certification and PTOs – (Tammy Raccio)

- BOE does not currently accept funding for this particularly due to fundraisers
- Feedback requested from parent groups about whether these policies could be followed and PTO could still raise funds
- Will be revisited at a later meeting after feedback is gathered
- <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/deps/Nutrition/HFC/Fundhfc.pdf>
- http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/deps/Nutrition/HFC/HFC_Fund.pdf



7. Welcoming Walkthroughs – (Kate O’Donnell) www.crec.org/welcomingschools

- Next steps- school PTACs gather information about the four areas physical environment, school-wide practices and policies, welcoming school staff, written materials.

8. Website Re-design (Kate O’Donnell) Avon and Ellington templates moving forward to the BOE for a final decision

9. Various SW PTAC Updates

- Elementary Schools Parent Night with Superintendent and BOE 11/30
- Virtual Backpacks at Schools – status update- all posted
- Parent Checklists – status update- final edits needed on some

10. Sub Committee Updates

- Underage Drinking Committee Update
 - Sub-committee has middle school parents, high school parents, and school and community members
 - Presentation last April and this October about underage house party liability for parents
 - Discussion about how to reach more parents
- Dress Code Committee (final call for volunteers)- Kari Copeland, Greg Allen, Jonathan Chappell
 - Dress code not allowed for staff members, but parent expressed concerns about staff clothing

11. School Based PTAC Roundtable

- Dag- Underage Drinking Presentation
- Sheehan- NEASC
- Moran- Thursday this week
- Rock Hill- December 2

- Lyman Hall- Athletic complex review, Students presented information about student clubs and other services and clubs, Journalism club can make videos for Channel 19, Craig Turner presentation about Project Graduation- may not happen without more volunteers
- Moses Y Beach- STAR assessment overview
- Highland-Yalesville- shared system-wide PTAC information
- PPS PTAC- Fair was very successful, Special Ed parent financial planning night at next meeting

12. Additional item- Mo Math Museum field trip, parent reported that it was not a good experience due to only 2 hours at the museum and too much time on the bus, not engaging, not enough supplies, nowhere to eat in the museum, raining outside- not a district-wide event, was a school event only, discussion will happen at the building level
13. Next SW PTAC Meeting January 19, 2016 6:00pm (11/30 parent night replaces December meeting)
14. Adjournment- 8:38pm

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