

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

In attendance: Tammy Raccio, Karen Hlavac, Peter Angelastro, Chauntel Ebbeka, Nick Passariello, Cherul Wolansky, Sal Menzo, Beth Raccio, Bill Pursell (guest), Carol Renna- Moran (guest), Jonathan Chappell, Greg Allen

1. Call to Order – 6:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2015

New Business

3. Budget Status for 15-16 – BOE Vote on budget 2/23/15

- Capital Improvement Projects Update – including Lyman Hall Athletics Complex
- I am Proud Video, Buttons for Budget Season <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leB3-BcM4V4>

Review prioritization of strategic plan 2015-2016, discussed expansion of Medical Careers program, review of facilities additions (HVAC specialist and groundskeeper), review of additional technology support staff, guidance coordinator, many additional positions driven by department audits, health and wellness curriculum resource teacher addition, DESSA program used by staff to assess emerging social/ emotional issues, PBIS is also in response to social emotional growth of students, responsive classroom consultant also improves social emotional growth of students

Need parents to contact mayor (call, write letters, show up to meetings) to encourage him to support the BOE budget. Just because Full Day Kindergarten has been supported by the BOE does not necessarily mean that the BOE will be given a sufficient budget to support it. WPAA- Citizen Mike- On Demand- discussion about Full Day Kindergarten

Bill Pursell- Lyman Hall Athletics Complex- meeting tomorrow night, February 18, 6pm, LHHS- Bids have been sent from Central Office, waiting for town to process- discussed how meeting was advertised to Lyman Hall parents, discussed bid, grant and budget procedures

Discuss making buttons based on I am Proud video concept for people to wear during budget season, Sal has button maker, will investigate getting supplies

4. Bad Weather Notifications – Should calls ever return? Daytime emergencies?

Teachers still get phone calls, still under contract with the current service, going out to bid (infosnap)

5. Update on Safety line – new voice mail, next steps, posted on district page and on each school page, will add section on district page to archive all attachments (Kate will contact Marie Szeligowski to get parent email blasts to post in a virtual backpack model.)

## 6. Underage Drinking Awareness Opportunities –

- Buttons were handed out at a previous meeting with “Parents Who Host, Lose the Most” logo.
- A meeting was held on 2/6 that included Dr. Menzo, high school athletic directors, Craig Turner, Sheehan principal, and Cheryl Wolansky. Through the athletic departments, a presentation will be made in June for fall athletes and their parents, to talk about the risks of underage drinking. The schools will also work on developing a captain’s code for behavior, and training for captains to work with students to serve as role models. This effort will also look to train a cohort of parents in the fall who can speak at the winter sports meeting.
- The Coalition for a Better Wallingford gave presentations at the middle school Open Houses which were very well received, and SW PTAC expressed interest in possibly expanding this to high school.
- Project Graduation was discussed, and the group recommended that a letter be sent from the BOE to show support for this program as an alcohol/substance free celebration and encouraging parents to have their seniors participate in this program. (This was done in the past, but not recently. Karen Hlavec will look for a copy of the letter.)
- At the previous meeting, PTAC talked about wanting to do something to raise awareness for all parents about the risks of underage drinking, especially heading into prom season. Tammy asked if anyone would be interested in working on a subcommittee to address this gap. Beth volunteered to chair the subcommittee, and Greg Allen, Carol Renna, Cheryl Wolansky, and Dr. Menzo agreed to participate. Possible activities could include a presentation, a PSA for television (possibly using the media interns from Quinnipiac), and additional collaboration with Project Graduation leaders.

## 7. Dept. of Education Friday Café (Community and Family Engagement) [www.fridaycafe.org](http://www.fridaycafe.org)

- Welcoming Walkthroughs <http://spdg.serc.co/index.php/program-evaluation/data-collection-tools/23-welcoming-walkthrough> Discussion about how to include climate committee representatives can visit other schools and evaluate, parent engagement strategic plan goals can address the needs through the action plans, discussed possibility of obtaining business funding to have a parent liaison
- Ongoing/Carryover Items

8. Balanced Score Card Criteria – how to get feedback, share handout – will skip until next month so more information is available

9. TEAM – Together Every Alum Matters, next steps, trying to reach out to alumni, need someone to organize it, need marketing, leverage social media, will revisit at next meeting

10. Parent Checklist – Updates by School, next steps, Beth Raccio sent email with checklists that have been created so far- Sheehan, Lyman Hall, Dag, Moran, Yalesville/ Highland- Beth will follow-up with missing schools. The group indicated that elementary school checklists were the most important to publish. The group identified that there are probably many school based committees that would welcome parent volunteers, but there is no easy way for parents to find those opportunities. Shawn will e-mail the management team to request input regarding committees that would be interested in soliciting parent involvement.

11. PTAC Officers/Minutes/Agendas for K-5 schools update, reviewed PTAC website information, updates to officers made, add links to each school PTAC page to SW PTAC page, district virtual backpack should be added to every school checklist

12. Sub Committee Update- School Ambassador Program- Chauntel Ebbeka Papallo and a Highland parent reached out for more information, updates to Moving to Wallingford recommendations from parents,

Competency Communications- Sheehan is creating something, but will be superseded by district documents, Dress Code committee has new member- will occur after budget season, Parent Budget Group- can access parent directory for fact-based information only- can't be advocacy, District Leadership team- cancelled for snow, will meet in March

13. School Based PTAC Roundtable (5 PTAC meetings since last SW PTAC) Yalesville/ Highland- went over budget, math common core difficulties- [www.learnzillion.com](http://www.learnzillion.com) given as a resource: PPS PTAC- presentation by Duane Samuel about using Disney movies to teach emotional literacy: Rock Hill- minutes from SW PTAC reviewed- score card and checklist discussed- tip line

14. Adjournment- 8:48 pm