



# PTC President's Meeting

April 26, 2010

## Minutes (Middle School PTOs)

All five middle schools were represented (Cloonan, Dolan, Rippowam, Scofield Magnet and Turn of River).

Meeting began at 7:15pm.

### SPS Budget Recap/Information from downtown/PTC

The BoR Fiscal Committee vote is Wednesday, April 28 on the SPS proposed budget for next year. Every question to date from the BoF and BoR members has been answered. Remember, if there are cuts at this point, they are not from the Board of Ed and Dr. Starr. So if you speak at the June BoE meeting please suggest areas to cut from with a reason, and mention areas where it is important to not take away funds.

Stamford High School has been without a steady principal for eight years now. The current search did not come up with a large pool of candidates, and some BoE members are not behind the appointment of the leading candidate. Starr and the search committee feel very strongly that this candidate will be a good fit. The vote is tomorrow, April 27.

CCJEF (the CT Coalition for Justice in Education Funding) plans on holding a forum with Stamford's Board of Finance and Board of Representative members to discuss ECS funding. PT Council has been asked to be a co-sponsor, along with SPEF, and SEA. More information to follow.

Our next PT Council meeting is May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. PTC is putting together our Board for next year. Anyone who would like to nominate someone (or themselves) should contact any board member (see website [StamfordPTCouncil.org](http://StamfordPTCouncil.org)).

### Planning for next year's board (budget, schedule/events)

Reminder to follow your school's by-laws when filling board positions for the following year. If there is ever a question or dispute about how the board was selected you must be able to go back to your by-laws to support your decision.

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**Parent Teacher Council of Stamford, CT**

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Also, be careful not to let folks get burned out. Switch positions, take a year off, and if co-position do divide the duties so each person truly handles only a part of the overall job requirements.

Most of the boards for next year are still in the nominating stage. If, during the election process, you find you have to extend position terms, amend your by-laws to reflect this decision. This is especially important for co-president positions.

For schools who have already been successful – helpful suggestions. Tap into your feeder schools for parents who have been active at the elementary level.

Transition meetings between the old and new boards typically occur in June or over the summer. The previous treasurer often sets up the budget, while the new board typically sets the calendar of activities.

One of the biggest on-going challenges is to get people to join the PTO, and to volunteer at events. It was agreed that the primary functions of the PTO on the middle school level are fundraising and social activities. Try to coordinate with your feeder and future schools to avoid meetings on the same nights.

Tidbit: Scofield has been successful offering brown bag lunches with speakers. They last around one to one and a half hours at the school building. No food/refreshments provided. It is just a time for the parents to get together and learn something relevant about the school or parenting.

### Stone Soup

Regan Allen handed out flyers about the next Stone Soup event, scheduled for October 2, 2010 at AITE. Stone Soup is a resource event open to ALL Stamford residents. Last year it attracted over 1,000 visitors. Workshops, “Midway” activity booths and arts performances are geared for all ages from birth to seniors! Please refer to the two attached flyers for more detailed information. Sponsored by SPS, PTC, PLTI and Domus, the Stone Soup Committee is looking to have the PTO from each school provide one person to act as the Outreach Coordinator for their school. The primary duty is to communicate the event to their school community. This position would be a good stepping stone for a parent that is just beginning to get involved since it is a low key position. Regan Allen would like to come to each PTO either in May or June to make a ten-minute presentation explaining what Stone Soup is, and how parents can volunteer. There are many, many types of volunteer opportunities for this event. The biggest need right now



is to make phone calls to follow up with vendor participants from last year to see if they are interested in coming back.

### Effect of Economy on Fundraising and Family Involvement

Cloonan is definitely feeling the pinch of the economy. Their PTO efforts are down 30 – 40% across the board, and they don't expect to make it up.

Successful events: Pizza on early release days, hypnotist evening program, Night at Spazio's with a Chinese raffle. The dinner out at a restaurant is easy to put together and run. Sell tickets about \$10 over the cost of the evening, and gather some silent auction and raffle items.

Two other restaurants that always work nicely with our schools are Luigi's and California Pizza Kitchen. Idea: Have a social evening at a restaurant with draw (i.e. Gather together to raise funds for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip).

### Other Business

There was a general request that perhaps the PT Council could create a "Local Preferred Vendor" list on our website. PT Council could get low negotiated rates for all schools to benefit from. Vendor categories suggested: Spirit wear, coach buses, movie license.

The problem about having one movie license to cover all schools is that since all our schools have a different tax ein we cannot hold one license, we are all considered individuals by the movie license company.

Scofield opened a discussion on school building cleanliness. How clean are the schools? It appears this is the direct outcome of the custodial personnel in each building. The other four schools did not appear to have any issues in this area.

This brought up recycling in our schools. Dan Colleluori, Supervisor of Solid Waste and Recycling for Stamford is interested in making presentations at our PTO Meetings to explain Stamford recycling, and to push for higher participation by residents. He also offers a 35 minute tour of the waste treatment plant. Overall, this verbal presentation has been rated as "very dry", and most likely would not entice parents to come back for another PTO presentation!

Unfortunately, not every custodial staff is open to taking on the additional responsibility or work needed by recycling in their school buildings. At Rippowam the grade levels are responsible for gathering the recycled 'stuff' and



getting it to the recycling center. Any money collected is then kept by each grade and used for field trips.

Meeting ended at 8:50pm.