

PT Council Meeting

August 27, 2009

Called to Order 7:55 pm

Present:	Owen	Rose
	Cindi	Sheila
	Wendy	Cathy Lueders
	Regan Allen	Candy

- 1) Set dates for upcoming PT Council Meetings – next meeting is 9/24/09 at 7:30pm
 - a. Custodial presentation by Al Barbarotta will be given
 - b. Starr will be present
 - c. Mayoral candidates (Martin & Pavia) are pending attendance.
 - d. Remind PFO's that if they want to invite a candidate, must invite all.
 - e. Discuss date for a treasurer's meeting and ensure sub-members are included.
- 2) Dr. Starr – Suggestion to form a budget subcommittee to understand the budget process. Invite current BOE president for a few minutes to discuss.
- 3) PTO/PFO President's meeting – shooting for October evening meeting
- 4) Candidate's Forum
 - a. Organize groups of schools
 - b. RIP wants to host with Rippowam/Newfield/Davenport
 - c. Can we merge forums? Who is interested in hosting? If not, would you be willing to attend at another school?
 - d. PTC will service as a facilitator for the proposed PTC/PLTI forum
 - e. PTC forum with BOF – maybe league of Women Voters can co-sponsor with PTC?
- 5) Website/Facebook – do we want to get a presence on Facebook? Discussion seem to be no.
- 6) Review bylaws and determine when we need to vote on the budget.
- 7) Cindi to contact Robin re Junior First Lego League in writing for \$ contribution.
- 8) Regan to draft for Odyssey of the mind.
- 9) Need to add WHS Band and Northstar players to insurance as additional insureds.
- 10) Current Budget - \$13,000
 - a. \$900 after insurance payments.

b. Dues? \$350 most schools donate. Scholarship donation ranges from \$150-250.00

11) Chartwells is new food vendor.

12) Website – Powerpoint of proposed pages created



Stamford Youth Foundation and PT Council **Odyssey of the Mind**

Overview

Odyssey of the Mind was developed in 1978 by Professor Samuel Micklus to promote team problem solving skills. At first, the competition involved only 28 schools in New Jersey and now has grown to include most states and several foreign countries.

All participating teams are given the choice of the same five long term problems to solve, though these problems change from year to year. The nature of the problems incorporates the use of critical thinking skills and creativity. The problems usually include a “vehicle” problem, a mechanical problem, a “classics” problem, a balsa wood structure problem and a strictly dramatic problem.

The team of five to seven members selects from the five given problems and after working for several months on the solution, presents it at a state tournament. At this time, the students will compete against other teams solving the same problem in their division. Also, the first place and second place winners for each problem in each division are invited to compete at the World finals.

The teams are also given spontaneous problems to solve the day of the state and world tournaments. These problems also foster creativity and teamwork. Their solutions involve a form of brainstorming. Though teams may practice for this segment, they do not know the problem ahead of time. For more information, see www.odysseyofthemind.com and www.ctom.org

Last year was the first year of Odyssey of the Mind (OM) in Stamford as a district-wide program. After feedback from parents, teachers, and administrators asking for enrichment programs in Stamford due to budget cuts, SYF decided to start the program and PTC enthusiastically decided to help. School based teams, coached by parents and teachers, started meeting in October and met weekly or more at individual schools. Teams also participated in spontaneous scrimmages throughout the year.

This year, Odyssey of the Mind will expand to more elementary schools and all middle schools.

Teams will be meeting the week of September 29th and there is a Parent Info Session on September 14th from 7pm-9pm in the Government Center. Parents are required to volunteer for at least ten hours as coaches, administrative contacts and snack, transportation, supply and event helpers. The fee is \$180 and there is a reduced rate of \$50 for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. For more information, contact Regan Allan, regana@optonline.net, 961-1456

Volunteer Steering Committee:
Regan Allan, Stark/Dolan parent
Kelly Aronica, Roxbury parent
Kristin Cerasoli, Rippowam parent
John Haynes, community volunteer and SHS parent
Leslie Ilaw, community volunteer and SHS parent
Margie Pinto-Leite, Westover/Cloonan parent

Fact Sheet

What is Odyssey of the Mind?

Odyssey of the Mind (OM) is the largest worldwide creative problem-solving competition for children. The program begins anew with each school year, when five “problems” are delivered to anxiously waiting, creatively juiced kids.

State and country association finals are held in March and April of each year, and the Odyssey of the Mind year culminates with World Finals, where the best of the best match wits, imaginations and personalities to become world champions.

What is the purpose of Odyssey of the Mind?

OM’s mission is to foster the development of creative thinking and problem-solving skills. Importantly, OM teaches that great minds don’t necessarily think alike – and often march to different drummers; that there are no right answers; that creative solutions come from teamwork, cooperation and risk-taking. Wouldn’t you love to find that skill-set in a future employee?

Who participates in OM?

Teams of children from kindergarten through college-age participate. All receive the same problems; however, their solutions vary – not simply because of age grouping but mostly due to the innovation and imagination of the creators.

Why should kids participate?

Participation in Odyssey of the Mind provides the student with both cognitive and affective experiences. Students are challenged to develop their critical thinking potential and their divergent thinking skills through creative problem solving. They are encouraged to plan, organize and set long-range goals. During this process, they gain sensitivity and experience with group dynamics. Learning to take risks allows the students to become more self-confident and independent thus making successes and defeats easier to place in perspective. Experiences with OM problems prepare students to solve real-life problems using specific skills and behaviors.

What are the goals of the program?

1. To develop creative thinking abilities.
2. To increase student ability to apply known principles and facts to “hands-on” situations.
3. To improve communication skills.
4. To learn how to use a creative problem solving process.
5. To develop and utilize skills of all team members.
6. To develop and use local resources.
7. To develop and use research skills.
8. To exercise and use the higher order thinking and critical thinking skills, especially analysis, synthesis and evaluation.
9. To have fun while learning all of these very important skills.

ACCEPT (Special Needs Children)

“All Children Can Enjoy Playing Together” (Fall and Spring, all ages)

ACCEPT is an after school adaptive sport-play program for children with special needs. This very special population, together with typical peers, can enjoy a “fun” rather than “therapy based” program. Two sessions of ACCEPT are offered during the school year, and classes are held Tuesday afternoons at Stillmeadow Elementary School.

ACCEPT contact: Moira Bryson at MoiraBryson@optonline.net or 977-4430



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Fun Fit Club – co-partner/sponsors: SYF and Stamford Hospital, (Fall, Winter, Spring, grades PreK – 6)

Under the “5-2-1-0 Kids’ Fans” initiative to build healthy families, the ‘Fun Fit Club’ combines fun fitness (by ‘Bodywise by Betty’) and nutritional education (by Stamford Hospital Nutritionists). Three 9-week sessions are offered per year, and classes meet on Saturday mornings. Activities include rebounding, jump ropes, hula hoops, yoga, pilates and kick box aerobics, and each session concludes with a family fun event.

Fun Fit Club Contact: Lisa Flaig at alvinf@optonline.net or 274-5699

SPORTS



Field Hockey (Fall, Winter, Summer)

Operating under the leadership of Mary Michailidis (two time All-American Collegiate player), SYF’s program is instructional in nature, with goals of creating new interest in Stamford’s diverse population while nurturing future growth of the sport. Middle school teams practice 3x a week after school and play games on Saturday mornings in the fall. Winter indoor field hockey and summer field hockey clinics are offered to all age groups.

Contact: Mary Michailidis at ultimatefh@yahoo.com or 975-7220



Football and Cheerleading (Fall, grades 2-8)

SYF’s most popular programs of football and cheerleading currently draw over 1200 participants each fall! SYF offers three divisions of FB and Cheer spanning Elementary and Middle School grades. The Elementary teams practice 3X a week, and play games on Sundays at Rippowam Middle School. Middle school football teams practice daily after school, and play games on either Saturday or Sunday at Rippowam MS or Stamford HS. Middle School cheerleaders practice 3X a week. SYF also offers NFL Flag Football for boys in grades 2-6. Flag practices and games are held on Saturday mornings. Registration for all FB and Cheer programs opens in the spring, and is strictly closed in early September.

Football Contact: Tony Spadaccini at tspad@aslauto.com or 914-755-0050

Cheer Contact: GERALYN PETRAFESA at stamfordcheer@gmail.com



Volleyball (Winter, grades 6-8)

SYF Girls’ Volleyball continues to grow with popularity, and this year we hope to field Varsity and JV teams at every Stamford Middle School. Players practice 3x a week after school, and play games on Monday evenings at Cloonan Middle School. Registration will open in January.

Volleyball Contact: Becky Zaro at rebecca_zaro@yahoo.com or 329-1776

Wrestling (Winter, grades 2-8)

This year, SYF will sponsor its 6th season of Wrestling! Our Middle School teams practice after school and compete in intramural meets on Friday evenings at Cloonan Middle School. An instructional Elementary school program practices 2x/week. Boys of all sizes, weights and ability levels are welcomed.

Wrestling Contact: Jaime Camacho at tcamacho@optonline.net or 515-2073



Baseball and Softball (Spring, Girls: grades 6-7, Boys: grade 8)

SYF’s baseball and softball programs are run in partnership with Stamford Babe Ruth Softball, and the Matthew Kosbob Memorial Fund. The seasons runs from late April through early June, and are intended to provide additional early-season experience to Stamford baseball and softball players to supplement their Babe Ruth or American Legion seasons.

Baseball Contact: Marc Lyons at lyons4@optonline.net or 223-4316

Softball Contact: Charles Pia at CRPia14@aol.com 667-2174



Lacrosse – Boys and Girls (Spring, grades 2-8)

SYF brings the “fastest game on two feet” to Stamford! SYF offers both boys and girls elementary and middle school programs which run from April through early June. Practices and/or games for the elementary players are held twice a week. Middle school players practice 3-4 times each week with games included during the week as well as on Saturdays. In addition to their school-based team play, travel team games are offered to all 8th grade boys. Lacrosse registration opens in March.

Lacrosse Contact: Bob Cavaliero at rjcv7@aol.com or 968-1082



Track & Field – Boys and Girls (Spring, grades 6-8)

Together with program sponsor “The Athlete’s Foot”, SYF hopes to boost this growing program, and host track teams at each of Stamford’s middle schools. Practices are held after school, and intramural meets are held on Saturdays at the Rippowam track and field facility.

Track & Field contact: Kitty Brown at kitjim@yahoo.com or 223-3908

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Odyssey of the Mind- Grades 2-5, Sept-March

Odyssey of the Mind (OM) is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities which range from building mechanical devices to presenting interpretations of literary classics. OM provides teams with the opportunity to learn teamwork, brainstorming, self-reliance, and respect for individual strengths. Teams of students will meet after school for several months to develop solutions to one of six Long Term Problems, while practicing for a Spontaneous Problem. They may then bring their solutions to competition on the local and state levels. Parents are an integral part of the program and will be required to volunteer for their child's team. Odyssey of the Mind Contact: Regan Allan at regana@optonline.net or 961-1456



Chess- Grades K-8, Fall and Winter

The Chess Program offers a one-day per week lesson for each ten week session, and includes a family event and tournament. The goal is to provide a fun learning experience while providing tools for future intellectual development in an environment where children are eager to play the game of chess. Lessons are taught by trained teachers with assistance from community, parent, and corporate volunteers and high school chess mentors. The program offers classes in most elementary and middle schools and a Saturday morning program for Grades K-1. Chess contact: Regan Allan at regana@optonline.net or 961-1456

High School Internship Program- year-round, grades 10-12

High School students with interest in journalism, sports writing, photography, web site design & maintenance are invited to work with us at SYF. SYF interns must be approved through their guidance department and will receive high school credit for their work experience. SYF also welcomes HS mentors to assist in the leadership of many of our various programs. HS Intern Contact: Bob Cavaliero at rjicav7@optonline.net or 968-1082

SYF Background

The Stamford Youth Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that currently provides after school and weekend activities, serving over 2600 Stamford students. SYF provides a full range of program offerings and aims to meet the diverse interest levels of our City's children. SYF includes all children, and provides scholarships to economically challenged families. Our Board of Directors and program steering committee members are 100% volunteer.

SYF was founded in 2001 by Marc Lyons with its flagship football and cheerleading programs. Since then, we have ambitiously expanded our program base, while demonstrating SYF's commitment to enrich the lives of our children in as many ways as possible.

There is no other organization in Stamford managed by parent volunteers that has, together with other community partners, committed itself to 'filling the voids' resulting from city and school budget restraints. Students are therefore enabled to participate in healthy productive after school activities. This keeps children off of the streets, away from TV screens and far from trouble.

Today, our program categories have evolved into the following five pillars:

- (i) Academic Enrichment,
- (ii) ACCEPT (for special needs children)
- (iii) Art and Music
- (iv) Health and Nutrition, and
- (v) Sports

Stamford Youth Foundation...

Making a difference



The mission of the Stamford Youth Foundation is to create and operate quality programs accessible to *all* of our City's children through its unique ability to link resources, while seeking to inspire attributes that develop sound character, build a connected community and motivate our youth to achieve their personal best.

www.stamfordyouth.org

Stamford Youth Foundation is a not-for-profit organization. Programs are funded through participant fees, donations & grants, and other fundraising efforts. SYF includes all children, providing scholarships to economically challenged families. SYF's Board of Directors and program steering committee members are 100% volunteer.

8:51 PM
08/26/09
Accrual Basis

Stamford PT Council
Profit & Loss
July 2008 through June 2009

	<u>Jul '08 - Jun 09</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Dues	7,000.00
Scholarship Donation	5,250.00
Total Income	<u>12,250.00</u>
Expense	
Bank Service Charge	59.13
Contribution	
PLTI Stone Soup	500.00
SPEF	500.00
Total Contribution	<u>1,000.00</u>
Insurance	3,927.00
Printing & postage	190.98
Programs	
JFLL	1,649.60
Odessey of the Mind	500.00
PTO Presidents' meetings	77.46
Total Programs	<u>2,227.06</u>
Total Expense	<u>7,404.17</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>4,845.83</u>
Net Income	<u><u>4,845.83</u></u>

PTC Meeting Minutes: October 1, 2009

Introduction

- Asked for volunteers for Yerwood Center this Saturday
- Discussed overview of candidates forums
- Mayoral Debates: Oct. 3 at uConn, 10/21 Italian Center and 10/15 Stamford Plaza Hotel (\$65 charge)
- Introduced candidates

Candidates

- Pavia
 - School issues: teacher retention & moral, The watering down of Westover's success, the achievement gap, negative publicity
 - Will be advocate for schools
- Martin
 - Role of mayor with superintendent: need to have influence but not run a bully pulpit
 - Education issues: Achievement gap, developing kids across the potential spectrum
 - Noted Pavia cut the education budget

Dr. Starr

- Good news
 - Spoke about gains relative to state—handed out data that is on website
 - 68% of families recommend their schools
- Budget
 - 0.3% increase this year—means cuts in staff, overtime but generally got no major cuts-- used a scalpel approach
 - Offered to have budget education sessions
 - We did get the \$1MM in stimulus money that we got reduced from the BOR
- What's going on
 - 3rd year of putting in everyday math
 - 7th grade math program is new
 - Standardizing math curriculum across schools
 - 2nd year of literacy work—kids reading more and better books
 - Revamp K-2 literacy curriculum—put in across about 5 schools—3 year roll-out
 - Middle school transformation underway in 6th grade, started 7th grade training now
 - Will report on enrollment at October board meeting
 - KT Murphy applying for a magnet grant
 - Looking for the Stamford High principle

Al Barbarrota-- Facilities

- New formula on how overtime is covered
- Developed to help facilities manage within their budgets
- Shared between schools and PTOs
- Allocation based on school size, number of free and reduced kids
- 90% of PTOs should not be effected based on historical use
- Does not include HS sports and band
- Working on other 10% with Al to figure out solutions
- Waived fees for programs that were 98% used by kids (soccer, SYF)
- Charged groups who make money from using the fields
- Explained how the forms need to be submitted as part of the process

Susan Nabel/Angela Lorenti/Jackie Heftmann

- Important for parents to stay together
- Greatest challenge in coming years will be money
- Working meetings mid Tuesday, full board last Tuesday of each month

PTC Budget

- Closely mirrors last year
- Budget passed
- Treasurers meeting, Oct. 20th, 7PM

PTO EXEC BOARD CONTACT LIST 2009 – 2010

School	Office	Name	Phone	Email
Davenport	Co-President	Jodi DiPreta	461-9142	snt969800@sbcglobal.net
		Jill Wendell	326-0833	jkw1114@aol.com
	Treasurer	Tina Stietzel	231-1115	christinastietzel@sbcglobal.net
	PTC Rep	Kim Kempton	595-0745	kkempton@optonline.net
Hart	Co-President	Kristen Lucente	461-9782	klmemories@hotmail.com
	VP	Deb Basile	358-9598	basile4@optonline.net
	Treasurer	Jennifer Edwards	356-0372	jenniferedwards@ge.com
		Lisa Hansen	975-7931	calihansens@yahoo.com
	BOE/PTC Reps	Jennifer Edwards	356-0372	jenniferedwards@ge.com
		Chris Kanaris	322-1843	cpapadakis@hotmail.com
KT Murphy	Co-President	Danette Melchionne	223-9129	ktmurphypto@gmail.com
		Lorraine Masone	975-7530	lmasone@yahoo.com
	Treasurer	Jim Masone	975-7530	jmasone@yahoo.com
	Co-Treas PTC Rep	Rosemarie Foley-Sileo Danette Melchionne Lorraine Masone	223-9129 975-7530	poszony1@optonline.net ktmurphypto@gmail.com lmasone@yahoo.com
Newfield	Co-President	Jennifer Lupinacci	461-8048	jtelupe@aol.com
		Camelia Herndon	461-8178	dcherndon@peoplepc.com
	Treasurer	Liz Buzzeo	348-2235	lizbuzzeo@sbcglobal.net
	PTC Rep	Randi Leeds	329-2599	rhleeds@yahoo.com
Northeast	Co-President	Jennifer Yamron	329-3699	jenyamron@sbcglobal.net
		Teresa Fritz	322-1524	wftf94@aol.com
	Treasurer PTC Rep	Melissa Friedman Zoe Schwartz	329-6567 595-9185	melijim@optonline.net danzoe@optonline.net
Rogers	Co-President	Belinda Basile		belindabasile@optonline.net
		Michelle Fine		saintfine5@sbcglobal.net
	Treasurer PTC Rep	Sabine Neuman Lois Mattaboni		sabinen@optonline.net lmattaboni@yahoo.com
Roxbury	Co-President	Deb Ehret	968-8054	dlauter@aol.com
		Sara Reeve	968-9829	sara@reevejobs.com
	Treasurer	Julie Hollenberg	595-8392	juliefh@optonline.net
		Suha Buckey	703-2029	suha928@yahoo.com
	PTC Rep	Allyson Wallen Michelle Cooney	968-8862 968-6186	aawallen@aol.com cooneysofstamford@sbcglobal.net
Springdale	Co-President	Tina Rella	326-2953	trella1@optonline.net
		Danielle Mattura	358-9309	daniellemattura@aol.com
	Treasurer	Sue Rutz	968-0869	tsurutz@optonline.net
		Vicki Downer	355-0617	kenky219@aol.com
	PTC Rep	Debbie Gibb	322-3128	the4gibbs@optonline.net
Stark	Co-President	Suzanne Curto	359-4257	ett3111@optonline.net
		Tracey McGuinness	359-9782	trmcg27@yahoo.com
	Treasurer	Suvarna Sarnikar	569-3648	ssuvarna@yahoo.com
	PTC Reps	Stephanie O'Shea	967-8721	stephanieo@optonline.net
		Liz Dugan	358-0511	yellwlab@gmail.com
Stillmeadow (cont. next page)	Co-President	Renee Gordon	219-1891	rlg08@optonline.net
		Karen Herckis	324-1966	kherckis@yahoo.com
	Treasurer	Lara Kavanagh	325-0789	larakavanagh@gmail.com

	Asst. Treasurer PTC Rep	Lisa Harris Erin Bellusci	348-4064 363-0070	lharris467@optimum.net erinopera@yahoo.com
Toquam	Co-President Treasurer PTC Rep	Judy Klym Dora Polo Marivic Eldredge Mary Hines	322-6199 461-8800 969-0778 613-8838	jklym@optonline.net dorapolo@hotmail.com mvelredge@optonline.net marybridget1@optonline.net
Westover	Co-President Treasurer PTC Rep	Jennifer Noonan Heidi O'Grady Barbara Farrell Heather Tozzoli Lisa Wise	323-5522 325-3546 595-9183 324-1140	jennifer_noonan@hotmail.com heidiogrady@optonline.net barbarafarrell@optimum.net tozzmom@optonline.net gaprop@optonline.net
Cloonan	Co-President Treasurer Asst. Treas. PTC Rep	Karen Hart Missy Barkin Carolyn Conte Risa Pollack Arda Arslanian	322-6677 968-1623 967-1984 967-4756	harts@optonline.net missybar@yahoo.com crconte@optonline.net risalisa@optonline.net arda.arslanian@ubs.com
Dolan	Co-President VP VP Treasurer PTC Rep	Deb Gibb Colleen Henkel Stacy Cascio Virginia Ambroseccchia Deb Gibb	322-3128 461-9578 325-2066 322-3128	the4gibbs@optonline.net jimsducky@optonline.net stacee0504@optonline.net gynnx442@yahoo.com the4gibbs@optonline.net
Rippowam	Co-President Treasurer PTC Rep	Monica Rao Julie Rakowitz Cathy Danna Randi Leeds	322-8656 322-4358 324-4096 329-0377	mar0627@hotmail.com julierak@aol.com cathy.danna@cenvéo.com rhleeds@yahoo.com
Scofield	Co-President Treasurer PTC/BOE Rep	Evelyn Simpson Laura Burwick David Rubin Janet Acuna Dominick Bria	327-9694 323-1960 323-4871	echsimp@yahoo.com laurabur@yahoo.com davrub@sbcglobal.net yacuna421@sbcglobal.net dombria@yahoo.com
TOR	Co-President Treasurer PTC Rep	Zoe Schwartz Cindy Grafstein Julie Nelson Carol Hurley	595-9185 461-9943 322-8244 595-9545	danzoe@optonline.net cdje123@aol.com jag1124@gmail.com pchurley@optonline.net
AITE	Co-President Jr. Co-President Treasurer PTC Rep	Carin Carlson Larissa DeMott Betty Thacker Joanne Berns	550-4839 667-6988 858-5072 329-8862	sunflowers821@gmail.com lbdemott@gmail.com staniulis@aol.com joanneberns@sbcglobal.net
Stamford	Co-President Treasurer PTC Rep	Carolyn Marr Hazel Katz Randi Leeds Lynn Yanicky Randi Leeds	356-1381 322-8580 912-2599 554-1253 912-2599	carolynkmarr@aol.com hayday@optonline.net rhleeds@yahoo.com L821957@aol.com rhleeds@yahoo.com
Westhill	Co-President Treasurer PTC	Lisa Hilsenrath Karin Marzullo Vicki Phillipson Orna Anker	461-8407 323-1877 968-8985	lmhilsenrath@aol.com karinmarz@aol.com phillipsons@hotmail.com ankerfamily@optonline.net