

PT Council Meeting Minutes 9/22/16

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Guest Speaker, Mr. Earl Kim, Superintendent of Schools
 - Beginning in the summer since his official appointment Superintendent Kim has visited schools and classrooms. He's expressed that the district had a "good foundation" and that the "core was strong." Areas to address include: 1) strategies to the approach of learning, 2) implementation of those strategies. Greatest challenge that district faces are those students entering ELL later (70% graduation rate).
 - District positives include: 1) an increase in AP classes in all ethnic groups/increased 2) increased AP passing rate 3) special AP scholar recognition awarded to select students 4) support from many outside agencies 5) good core curriculum
 - Facilities: need to address aging "relocatables", capital budget not seen as a priority, need to fundraise for capital projects in other ways such as seeking funding from the state (i.e., Rogers expansion school on Strawberry Hill)
 - Co-curriculum programming (i.e., clubs, sports, afterschool programs) is "spotty". Would like to see city try to fund wanted programs.
 - Sports Championships as part of positive school culture (i.e., Westhill hockey district champions)

- Special recognition: AITE recognized as best magnet HS in CT, National Merit Program winners, US presidential scholar winner, Fairfield Business Council
 - Engagement – teacher’s proactive (i.e., attending/volunteering in activities outside of school responsibilities such as the hackathon). Good engagement in elementary school. Project based engagement in middle school. At level of high school, engagement can be improved upon.
 - RFP going out for the districts’ “vision and strategic planning process”. There will be one seat of 17 on the steering committee designated for parent participation. Parents will also have an opportunity to serve on an advisory council that the committee will seek input from as well as focus groups.
- III. Mr. Geoff Alswanger , Board of Education President
- Projections are that school districts 20 years from now will reflect the same demographic of Stamford Public schools today.
 - BOE role to ensure a smooth transition of new superintendent
 - Facilities situation most frustrating - capital budget request was for 30 million only granted 3 million this year
- IV. Safety statement from Asst. Chief Jim Matheny
- How does crime affect our schools? Stamford is 2nd safest city for cities our size
 - So little crimes in our schools

- Police reporting has moved to field based reporting whereby officers can complete their reports in their patrol cars. Police officers often park in front of schools for the purpose of completing their reports.
- V. Claudia Wolen: Historical Society presentation on Enrichment for new Social Studies Curriculum
- Bring social studies back to the elementary classroom including the use of economics and language arts
 - Hoyt Barnum Museum moving across the street from the Stamford Museum and Nature Center
 - Integrated Literacy into 2nd grade (The Little House book) and 4th grade (Tory Hole & Hennick of Fairfield books) curriculum. The 2nd grade will receive visits from a Stamford Historical representative to teach the curriculum beginning in February. The 4th graders will be bused to the Hoyt Barnum House in May.
 - The historical society is need of \$2500 to cover the cost of busing to make it free to students. Program will proceed despite shortage this year.
Recommendation made to reach out to individual school PT council to see if they would help fund shortage if interested in field trip. Funds may already exist in busing budget.
- VI. Treasurer Report
- \$1000 donation made to new Roger's Magnet extension. Waived the scholarship fund donation for them.
 - Not all monies spent
 - Spent an extra \$1000 on scholarships

- Pay down equity /\$3000 loss
 - Transition to a new treasurer
 - Treasurer meeting next Wed. President's meeting to be determined.
- VII. Candidate Forum – 10/27? (need to confirm)
- Tarzia & Alswanger will take seats unopposed (don't know if they will participate in forum).
 - Savage, Burke and Gorla will require election.
- VIII. Status ECS Lawsuit
- Lawsuit began 11 years ago/Stamford involved when Malloy was Mayor
 - Judge ruled state had 180 days to fix problem. Noted that amount appropriated by state is sufficient to educate students, however, way in which funds are distributed is problematic
 - Judgement will be appealed by the state
- IX. Communications
- Reach out to Lori if not getting e-mails
 - Handbook almost ready to go on website
 - Meeting dates included on PT council website
- X. Other business
- Odyssey of the Mind is resuming and looking for student participants
 - Stamford had highest ranking team in CT and our girls team ranked 6th in the world
 - Any questions reach out to Kim on Stamford's Odyssey of the mind website

Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Bilicznianski,
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