



PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 17, 2011

1. Hugh Murphy spoke about the upcoming budget season and the CBAC – Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, if anyone wants to participate contact Hugh. They will be meeting 12/6 to 12/12. Departments have provided budgets to Dr. Hamilton for review. Target date for community review is 1/13/12 and submit final to BOE on 1/24/12, revise and submit to Mayor 3/1/12, BOF 4/4/12, BOR 5/4/12.
Goal is to keep current level of funding to all departments, but may come in lower after realized savings.
2. Dr. Rauh was not in attendance at this meeting
3. Superintendent search focus groups – there was no new information provided. Good initial response to survey, suggested to change survey link to SPS home page.
4. Financial – Amy & Regan to meet with pro bono financial advisor to review standings.
5. Community events – All school musical flyers will be provided by central office and go home next week.
6. Regan asked if anyone wanted to man the PT Council table at Black CT MLK day at UCONN as she will be away that weekend.
7. Dollars for Scholars – Tony D’Amelio to rally the community around funding scholarships, many cities around the nation already have this valuable organization at their disposal. Tom Brokaw will speak at fundraiser on January 10, at the Palace Theater. Link: Stamford.dollarsforscholars.org. They intend to begin giving out scholarships for 2012. Applications will be due mid-January. Cathy Drenckan is PT Council liaison to Dollars for Scholars. May need volunteers to raise community awareness for fundraising and applications.
8. Money Matters – discussed various fundraising events (see attached list)
It was agreed that simply asking for donations provides a good deal of contributions with very little work.
9. Next meeting (1/17) falls on same night as BOE meeting, Regan will advise on date change.



Parent Teacher Council Fundraising Ideas- 2011

Hart:

Half Day Movie Afternoons

Combine fundraising events (i.e. book fair) with Open House, science fair

Boxtops on the monthly flyers

Newfield:

Move-A-Thon: Students get friends/family to pledge money for them to participate in a move-a-thon. Kids can walk, run, jog, etc. We held this during our annual family picnic this year and hired a DJ. We also gave out raffle prizes. With this fundraiser, 100% of the proceeds go directly to the school instead of to a company/vendor.

Raffle: Last spring, we sold raffle tickets for \$1. We have four prizes, the top prize was the ipad2 which was just being released. The other 3 prizes were donated by families/restaurants. Again, 100% of the proceeds came back to the school. We raffled the prizes off at a family ice cream social. You do have to apply for a permit through of the State of Connecticut and there are very strict guidelines on what can be on the raffle tickets etc. If needed, I can provide more on how to go about obtaining a permit.

Silent/Live Auction adult only evening: We do this every other year.

Northeast:

Children's Auction: In conjunction with our school auction, we sent out a letter to parents asking for donations (money or gift) for a Children's Auction and got a great response. The items were put together in baskets & the money was used to buy a few big ticket items. We had the kids come down a few days before to preview the stuff, and then sold tickets. If children did not bring in money they got one free ticket. Tickets were \$2 each. We also sold tickets at parent pick up for a few days (had the prizes there as well) and brought them to the auction for parents to view & buy tickets. Our principal pulled the tickets the Monday after the auction. I contacted parents so that they could pick up the items at the end of the day.

Spirit Wear: Instead of offering the same sweatshirt & shirts each year, I have changed what we sell for the fall & spring each year. The colors are different as well as styles & I also offer more than one color choice per item offered and have found that people tend to buy each season as the items have changed.

Mixed Bag Fundraiser: As a last minute fundraiser last spring, we offered Mixed Bags (reusable fashionable bags in many styles & patterns). We hung samples by the auditorium and had a two week window to order. To our surprise, we made some money - it was a big hit. I would not do

this fundraiser every year as the bags are reusable & I think the impact would decrease if offered constantly.

Rogers:

Auction & Raffle: An adults only evening event with about 50-60 silent and live auction items up for grabs. We also have raffle baskets which we start selling about 2 month before the event.

Turtle Trot: This a walk-a-thon the whole school participates in. Students walk the loop at Cove Island Park. Parents are encouraged to participate as well. We raise money by having students get sponsors for the walk itself, as well as have a Health & Wellness fair the week leading up to the big day which includes a pasta night sponsored by Chartwells. At the dinner we had Health and Wellness industry vendors come in and set up a table for a fee.

Genevieve- This is your typical wrapping paper sales type of promotion.

Roxbury:

Boxtops: An enthusiastic parent took over our boxtop program last year that helped get our students involved. We went from having a box in our front foyer, to regular contests every other month. A "themed" flier goes home (which I'm have to provide a copy) with 20 squares where students can post boxtops on each square. Students can fill as many sheets as they want, and there is a deadline. The winning student from each grade gets a small prize (i.e., a mini pumpkin in October) and the winning class from each grade gets a popsicle party, for example, in the warm months or some other simple-themed party. We went from very few boxtops to one of the top boxtop collecting schools in town. The kids enjoy being part of the process, which I think makes this a big success.

Pies: I think the company is Meadowbrook Farms? We have never sold pies since I've been at the school, so in addition to having our wrapping paper sale, we also sold pies. I think the reason this worked for Roxbury isn't necessarily the pies themselves, although I have heard they are successful at other schools. I suspect that mixing things up sometimes, trying something fresh, keeps parents interested. Additionally, our school has a wide economic gap, and the variety gets more people to participate.

Cinema Sitting: While this fundraiser requires some regular volunteer involvement, it has been successful because it involves very low-expenses *and* provides a service to families who need the extra hours on those early dismissal days. We offer it six times a year and in general, have had a very high turn-out. The rise in dual-income families likely has a lot to do with that. Our main problem lately, on the flip side, is finding volunteers to work there (likely a problem at all of our Stamford schools!)

Stark:

*Pasta Dinner night-*For \$5 a person they get unlimited pasta, salad and bread. Everything was donated from local businesses or school families. We held a raffle and bake sale.

Jeanine pie and catalog fundraiser.

Raffles and bake sales at family fun nights-implemented last year during Bingo for Books.

Stillmeadow:

Wine Tasting: Run every two years, we netted XX. Admission was about \$100 per

couple, however we gave a discount to teachers and staff of \$25. Ticket sales, auction items and program ads brought in money. The event had four components: 1) live auction for 5-6 big ticket items; 2) silent auction broken into 2 categories (about 50 donated items worth \$50 – 200, and 30-40 teacher/staff donations of things 3) about 4-6 themed raffle baskets (donated by groups of parents); and 4) instant prize (called pick a cork) of 30-40 donated items all worth about \$20-50

Holiday Fair Run every year in early december. Runs over 3 days, during parent teacher conferences. Has baked goods for sale (both small and big), donated by parents. Has a variety of small items \$1.00 or less, medium items about \$5.00 and larger items \$10-\$20.00. Many craft items donated by parents and many items bundled up with candy by volunteers. The kids enjoy shopping for gifts for teachers and family. Flyers go home with money envelopes for each student which get brought back to the teacher and if necessary they can assist student with shopping (particularly for the K and 1st grade students). The chairperson spends a lot of time shopping for bargains and trinkets that kids like, which get packaged up.

Plant Sale

Run three times a year. There is Fall Mum sale, a Holiday Plant sales (poinsettia and new this year, an amaryllis kit) and a Spring Plant sale. The spring plant sale is the money maker. The first two consist of a straight pre-order system via flyers sent home offering a smaller plant for \$10 and 8" for \$20.00. The spring plant is usually the week before Mother's Day. We do a pre-ordered selection of spring plants, baskets and flowers, and also herbs (from \$5, \$10, to \$20). We have a courtyard where all the plants can be kept safely. Ahead of time we get extra dirt, many small pots and planters, then volunteers make cute pre-potted plants that we sell. We send envelopes home with the flyer for each student for shopping money. Then the teachers let each class come and shop. The kids enjoy shopping for their moms and families, we try and keep the prices low around \$2-4.

Westover:

Tech toy raffle,

Teacher experiences auction- parties with teachers

Jog-a-thon fitness fundraiser

Cloonan:

We really have one consistent profitable fundraiser and that is *Pizza Day*. At Cloonan Middles School, with the full cooperation of Administration and Teachers, we sell pizza and Gatorade on Early Release days. The kids are sent down to the cafeteria in the hour preceding release to purchase pizza for \$2 and Gatorade for \$1. We net some where from \$400-\$600 for each Early Release Day.

Dolan:

Recycled bag fundraiser
candy cane/lollipop fundraiser
frozen pies

Rippowam:

Magazine Drive,

Cookie Dough/Pie Fundraiser (both through Jeanine Fundraising) and a Gala/Art Auction (only done every other year - to give people a break).

In terms of new ideas - we have a new one we're doing through *Hoffman fuel*, that involves the state funded "energy audit" program, where for a small fee (\$75.00) Hoffman comes to your home for 3 hours, does an energy assessment, and figures out how to best cut your fuel consumption. They provide a whole variety of services during the audit, including 25 new light bulbs, etc. For every Ripp generated family that does one of these sessions, Rippowam gets \$25.00. This is our first year trying this one, so we don't know how financially successful it will be, but we thought it was an interesting new idea (and environmentally friendly, to boot).

AITE:

Mum sale
scholarship gala
membership donations
spiritwear.

Stamford High:

Simple, no thought/time commitment involved elements like a giveback from a restaurant or recycling ink cartridges (Funding Factory).

NOTES:

Jogathon :



www.stamfordptcouncil.org