

PRC Meeting April 11

Attendees: Denise Fogleman, Paula Steere, Jeanne Stevens, Beth Lazor, Nancy Tong, Lisa Rollins, Tina Phelan, Jen Conroy, Jen Lyons, Carolyn OConnell

1. March Minutes need to reflect a change from "Read" to Grow to "Give to Grow" under Roundtable/Ryerson. Aside from that change, there was a motion to approve minutes from last meeting, seconded and approved.

2. Superintendents Report

- a. Town Budget and Brd of Ed last public hearing will be April 22.
- b. Tom spoke about new CT laws with regard to allowed communication regarding referendum to the public eg the school can no longer do eblasts including notification of upcoming dates. PTO can promote public hearing and referendum dates. Lisa to forward email with new rules and regulations and language that may be used.
- c. Kindergarten enrollment is currently 95 vs 130 last year. We usually pick up 30-40 over the summer.
- d. Retirements, there are 2 this year versus the 35 last year. Both are at the High School, one in English, the other in Latin. Replacement Latin as well as Mandarin (growing demand) teacher will be hard to find.
- e. There was discussion about Retention Policy-holding K and grade 1 students back.
- f. Board of Ed will be issuing reports of May 20th, Full Day K, K-4 Math program bridges, Changes in L.A. at Brown, Scheduling changes at High School.
- g. Tom and Gail are working on drafting a 1-2 page document regarding Education Reform Topics in layman's terms for our reference. This will be out in May.

3. Subcommittee reports

Lisa stressed the importance of meeting with your respective Subcommittee successor over the summer to brief newly assigned member of activities and expenses, as well as to pass along your files. Some schools budget \$250 for "PRC Misc Gifts/Expenses". Additional detail will be added to our PRC Subcommittee chart for future reference.

- a. **Community Event**, Super Hero Fun Run with MADE – Event was well received with roughly 150 participants. MADE felt it was a success. Enough volunteers were present. Reported that Upper Grade School's 5-12 may have felt

“Super Hero” Theme was too young for them. School of Rock and Vista were present. Lisa reminded PRC to run any correspondence supported by/referencing PRC by PRC Chair prior to going public.

- b. **Transportation Council**, Polson is collecting checks for the Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast to be held on Tuesday April 22nd. No new news to report on.
- c. **Custodian Special Event**, In May, 43 Custodians will receive a gift card for \$10. Marilyn Bovee is contact person at the school district. Carolyn is PRC contact.
- d. **Food Service**, Denise Fogleman attended meeting. State Mandates a proposal for bid every 5 years, which are due April 25th. Tom Scarice, asked if PRC wanted to invite Art Sickles to a meeting to explain CT Health Food program/certification. Art is the point person on this for district. Board of Education would need to vote for this optional program which would reduce serving sizes and decrease A la Cart items, but would bring \$18-20k back to budget. Cashiers use petty cash if students show up hungry with no money. Jason Wallace has stated that schools can order treats etc from Chartwells if we need things at our schools, ie cookies, ice cream, peanut free options, etc.
- e. **Art Show**, Jeanne reported this year's Art Show was a great success. Three cases of water and eleven packages of cookies were purchased for the Opening Night reception. For a total of \$78.36 to be divided amongst the six schools amounting to \$13.06 each.

4. Round Table

- a. **Polson** Jen Conroy reported that Polson will be attending Bus Drive Appreciation breakfast on April 22nd at 9:00 am in the Hammonasset room. IAS children are making cards for this event to hand out. Polson's law day for 8th graders went well on April 4th. “Law” professionals come in and speak about their jobs. Police, FBI, Lawyers, The PTO sponsors, Breakfast and Lunch.
- b. **Brown** Paula Steere reported that incoming 4th grade parents will be visiting Brown on May 7th. She and Chris will speak to the parents that evening, only opportunity they have to speak with parents, to appeal for volunteers. Teacher Appreciation will be celebrated May 6th; luncheon will be catered by Bradley & wall. There will be a trip to Rock Cats and a field day. An author visited, Neil Schulman, who got the kids excited to write--selling roughly 10 books. Book theme is similar to Percy Jackson.

c. Hand Jeanne Stevens reported Hand will have a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast in lieu of a PTO meeting in May. The Hand PTO will be meeting with TJ to discuss the grade point average change on April 22nd. School is getting rid of class rankings on report cards. Spring blood drive is coming to an end. Shakesperience (studying McBeth) is happening for 10th graders. Beauty and the Beast went well, a meet and greet with Characters in costume was held. There will be a college bowl with over 100 colleges coming to Hand.

d. Island PTO will be hosting "Science Day" on May 20th. Children will be encouraged to do experiments at home and present them to their peers. CT Science Center doing interactive stations along with Field House Farm and Claudia Esposito of Coolology. Teacher Appreciation Luncheon scheduled for May 6th with a Luau Theme. Monthly spirit assemblies continue to be a huge success. WTNH weather assembly in the morning.

e. Jeffrey Spring dance party went great. Planning is under way for next year's Executive Board. Field Day is scheduled for May 15th.

f. Ryerson Fun Fair is being planned for May 17. Teacher Appreciation breakfast coming up; parents will bring food in and will give out a travel mug. Science week is this week, various activities are planned throughout the week, including an Egg Drop by the Principal-whole school outside to witness. High Touch/High Tech inhouse field trips going on. Science Fair: 112 kids will participate with their experiments. Lots of excitement is being generated for this event. School is also hosting Mad Science Fire and Ice Show, Coolology and ESmarts, which is a free program that comes in to talk about energy conservation. School also hasd a marshmallow challenge and gave out tshirts for each winning team.

g. TLC The library is up and running. Field Day will be May 30. Teacher Appreciation Day will be May 6; parents will be bringing food in. Tina asked where she could have t'shirts made. Responses included Zuse or GameTime Sales, Ciotti Family by Kleins Driving Range. Tshirts can be made in less than 2 weeks.

Science Fair, Question was raised "Why does the district not promote science Fair"? This was discussed amongst the PRC members. Question needs to be posed to Tom, whom had to leave early.

5. **Guest Speaker:** If a PRC member would like to invite a guest speaker, they will email their request (along with a description of speaker and topic) to the PRC Chair. Chair will raise at next meeting/or email PRC for a vote (one per school) to determine if the speaker will attend our next meeting. This new guideline will be added to our PRC Guidelines and posted to our website.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn O'Connell