

PTO Council Meeting Minutes September 20, 2004

Wendy Huss – PTOC Corresponding Secretary

Wendy explained that PTOC President Elena Wakeman couldn't be at the meeting because she was attending Pioneer's Capsule Night. It was mentioned that Huron was also having their Curriculum Night this evening.

Wendy introduced this year's PTOC executive board, including new members Julie Mosbey from Forsythe and Leslie Figueroa from Carpenter. The PTOC executive board members are listed on the district website at this location:

http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/ptoc.home/council_board.

They welcome your suggestions and comments.

We are still looking for PTOC members to attend various committee meetings and bring back information to PTO Council. Committees include the BOE Planning Committee, the BOE Performance Committee, the AAPS Non-Discrimination Committee, and the Healthy Kids Coalition. Information should be forthcoming about when these committees typically meet, so that people can determine if it will fit their schedules and if they can plan on attending.

This year, the PTOC meetings will NOT fall on the same day as the Ann Arbor Special Ed PAC meetings. PAC meetings are the first Monday of each month, and PTOC meetings are the third Monday of the month. So just keep your Monday's open!

Tonight we will be suggesting possible topics for meetings. People can also feel free to Email any member of the executive board with their suggestions.

Suzanne Tainter – PTOC Treasurer

Suzanne explained that dues for the PTOC are \$25 from each PTO.

The check for \$25 should be made out to "PTO Council". You can bring that to the next meeting, or send it via postal mail to our treasurer at:

Suzanne Tainter
711 Amherst Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Linda Elenbogen – PTOC Recording Secretary

Linda explained the plan for the mailing lists this year. This year we will use the yahoo mailing list just to send notifications to people. Notifications of community announcements, PTOC meeting agendas, and PTOC meeting minutes will be distributed via this list. Note that many community members and AAPS administrators are subscribed to this list.

Shortly, we will have set up another mailing list, this one through yahoo groups, which will be called AAPSPTOC. Everyone who is on our announcement list will be issued an invitation to join the discussion list. The discussion list will not be moderated, and anyone on the list can post questions to the entire list. This will be the place to discuss and pose questions about PTO operations - what fundraisers PTO's employ, newsletter publication issues, budget and tax questions, etc. Messages will be archived on yahoogroups.com so that if people join later in the year (or even next year) they can look back and benefit from previous discussions.

If you did not receive the reminder about this meeting, please send your name, school, and email address to:

ptoccorrespondingsecretary@yahoo.com

and we will make sure you are added to the list.

- **Topic suggestions for this year**

A potential speaker, Joe Karoseo, could speak about how schools are funded in Michigan, or any budget related topic.

Many aspects of the noon program:

- Complaints about running out of food
- Quality of new "healthy food" options
- Recent training supervisors were provided in "Inclusion Games"

Bullying

- including non-traditional families
- internet bullying (giving out names/pictures), this was in recent NY Times article
- getting students to go outside normal groups

Peanut Allergys - perhaps invite new special education director

Security procedures in the schools

- lockdown, weather procedure, stay inside drill

New Millage

What will happen and when, are we meeting needs of current students, did class sizes in grades 9 and 10 go up this year, how will the new high school start up, tense climate of current large high schools.

Community partnerships - what exists, how to get one

Collaboration between U of M and school district

Perhaps could more easily be arranged at department level. There are many student volunteers at UM. There is an office that coordinates the student volunteers at UM. Perhaps we could have someone from that office come and describe the various groups that exist and how schools can get involved with them.

Joan Doughty - Community Action Network (CAN)

We would appreciate having Joan return this year and continue our discussions on how to make sure students are not made to feel different.

Communication with district

Could the district assist schools in managing email lists (with software, for example). Some schools have phone communication, some schools have more information then others available from the website (regarding homework, contacting the teacher, etc.)

Gifted and Talented

Is there any hope that Ann Arbor might do something for this student group, especially at the middle school level?

Reading Curriculum

Is the district reading curriculum keeping up with the latest research on what works best, what is required with No Child Left Behind, what the state Reading First grants require.

Staff Quality

At some schools, it seems like the "bad" teachers are known to parents AND staff AND administration, and have been known for years, and yet, continue to teach. Why is that?

Speakers

There is someone in Ann Arbor trained to speak on "Parenting with Love and Logic" but it is pricey - \$600 per session and the teacher recommends 3 sessions. Perhaps PTO's might want to team on this and bring the speaker.

Our next meeting is **Monday, October 18, at 7 pm**. You should receive an agenda via the Email list the week before the meeting (approximately).

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Attendees:

Wendy Huss - Lawton
Linda Elenbogen - King
Julie Mosbey - Forsythe
Suzanne Tainter - Northside
Francisco Sanchez - Dicken
Leslie Figueroa – Carpenter
Jeannette Duane-Shapiro - Allen
Kristi Sawers - Forsythe
Laurie Barnett - King
David Potter - Logan
Barb Ladewski - Community