

PTO Council Meeting - Nov. 5, 2015

- Stephanie Tubbs Jones Innovation Center

I. Call to Order - 7:06 PM

II. Approval of Minutes

- motion to approve minutes of meeting Sept. 28, 2015, motion seconded, minutes approved

III. SHTA Report - Matt Zucca

- Tour Your Schools went well from teacher's standpoint
- Conferences just completed, more structured across the district. This was a recommendation of the school calendar committee. The HS was the only school to trial evening conference times. HS offered conferences one day from 8A to 4P and one day from noon to 8P.
- report cards coming out. Please encourage parents who have questions or concerns to feel free to approach the teachers

IV. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Breeden, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

- Dr. Hutchings was unable to attend tonight's meeting, so Dr. Breeden attended in his place

- Dr. Breeden introduced herself and told a little of her background. She was born in Westerville, OH. She taught every grade between 1st and 8th, except for 2nd grade, taught MS math, was a HS assistant principal and a MS principal. Her most recent position was as Assistant Superintendent for the Loudoun County Public Schools In Virginia. Her job here is to oversee all curriculum and instruction, and is supervisor of all the school's principals. She has been on the job here for 1 month.

- Report:

1. Pilot Pre-K program - will be classes for 3 yo. There will be 32 seats total, including one class at Mercer and one at Onaway. There will be tuition and scholarships based on need. It does not include aftercare. There will be an information session on Thurs. 11/19 at 6:30 PM in the small auditorium at the HS.

2. Starting an African American male teacher initiative in conjunction with Howard University.

- a suggestion was made to take a look at a program in S. Carolina called "Call Me Mr." which was successful in recruiting/training AA male teachers

- program will also be looking at other barriers to becoming certified to teach including expense, tedious paperwork, Ohio specific barriers

3. Continuing to work on Shaker Schools strategic plan
4. Safe Schools Summit was held
 - approx. 300 people attended. Answers to questions asked at the summit are posted on Shaker School's website
5. Dr. Hutchings has been in contact with former superintendent, Jack Lawson. He would like to bring him back to Shaker (date TBD) to share his reflections with the community
6. Brown bag lunches continue - Dr. Hutchings and school PTO presidents
 - good exchange of information, keeps everyone on the "same page"
7. Communication Advisory Council
 - involves the residents of Shaker, not just PTO members
8. On 11/19 a group from the Ohio Senate Democratic Conference will be coming to tour Shaker Schools. They plan on speaking with some teachers, students and parents
9. Shaker Schools received an AA+ rating for financial stability from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services
10. Position posted for Coordinator of the Family Engagement Center - if you know of someone who may be good for this job please let them know.

V. A Night for the Red & White Report - Tracy Peebles

- gave short background on this event. 1st Red & White was in 1992 at the Omni Hotel. Event is to raise money to supplement the arts, humanities, health, technology and other.
- Many different locations over the years. Last few years held at Tudor Arms Hotel where it will be again this year on March 5, 2016
- over 5000 invitations go out
- new this year: 1. Mobile bidding - bidding will be done by text on your cell, will receive notifications when you are outbid and what you have won 2. Expedited payment by pre-registering your credit card info, no waiting in-line at end of night to pay for your winnings
- anyone with ?'s regarding the Red & White can call 295-4325
- goal to get younger families involved, suggested that the elementary schools have a Red-N-White liaison
- cost of tickets is partially tax deductible. Concern raised about high price of the tickets. It was noted that the cheapest ticket barely covers costs and it is a fundraiser event. Is goal to raise \$ or to involve families?

VI. School PTO Reports

1. High School - Susan Vodrey

- Principal coffee on Oct. 2nd, 8 AM, was well attended

- Tour Your Schools went well; tours were student led and Principal Reed spoke at 2 different time during the day
- after the Oct. 7th threats at the HS, the PTO presidents received a lot of comments, concerns and feedback from parents. All the information received was compiled into a memo, which was distributed to the Superintendent and school board members. We met with Mr. Reed and spoke at the Oct. 13th Board of Ed meeting. Communication has been one-way
- Monthly teacher appreciation project: small tokens being distributed to teachers and other staff (250 in total) in their mailboxes. Oct. was a tea bag with a note that "You are Tea-riffic"
- grant committee met and awarded \$2500 in teacher grants. A full list of grants awarded was posted in the Oval. Projects funded found creative ways to benefit the greatest # of students
- PTO organized child care for the evening conference times for staff members needing this service. There was approx. 15 to 20 children there through-out the night.
- continuing efforts to have parents sign-up for the "Oval" (the HS weekly newsletter), posters to advertise this and a laptop computer was made available at conferences for parents to use to sign-up
- next HS PTO meeting is 11/16
- Dec. 2nd is International Families Night - support to help navigate the HS and resources available to them in Shaker
- HS Community Builders committee planning an event for January

2. Middle School - Maria Pelletier

- Twitter Talk, to teach parents how to use Twitter, was held on 10/8, approx. 40 attendees
- Oct. 28th MS PTO sponsored a talk with "Your Teen Magazine", surviving the Tweens, well attended
- 2 day book fair just wrapped up
- 11/19 will be the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Potluck
- 11/23 Fundraiser at Sweet Melissa's Restaurant to raise \$ for the Spring 8th grade DC trip, dine in only from 11 AM to 9 PM.
- teacher grants were awarded. Have xs funds, so there will be a second round of grants that will be given later in the year
- Principal David Glasner going to China with the principal of Lomond Nov. 9th to 18th, part of a cultural exchange program organized by Shaker school district

3. Woodbury - Sue Buddenbaum

- Oct. book fair raised \$8000, all profits directed back into buying books for the school
- Family Fun Night, well attended, on-line auction raised \$7000 to support PTO programming and teacher grants
- PTO grant of \$3100 given to the school for STAR assessment tests
- Woodbury teachers organized a fundraiser for Leukemia and Lymphoma. There was prizes and class competition and the students raised approx. \$10,000
- Michelle Ayers, educational support specialist at Woodbury, is starting a girls club. Will use resources from the "Dove Self-Esteem Project" (as seen on TV commercials). HS girls will also be mentoring girls from Woodbury
- Woodbury will also be starting a Pom Squad for cheerleading

4. Onaway - Nicky Turco

- ended their recent book fair with a movie night. Donations accepted, but more of a community engagement activity than a fundraiser
- their composting project starts Mon. 11/16, the 4th graders will be taking on the organization and running of this project

5. Mercer - Jen Bordeaux

- The Mercer Olympics, their week long fundraising event, raised \$20,000
- Teacher grant applications went out
- held their book fair and used book fair; ALL students went home with 3 used books for free. In need of donations of more 3rd and 4th grade level books
- will starting up a Mercer play, new this year
- Starting a free after school enrichment program, the Merkat Club. Their first activity will be a service project, then they will do a book club activity, then will end with an arts and crafts project
- Tour Your Schools only 7 families attended
- their Community Builders project is a family exchange program, next week is the kick off dinner for this project which pairs families from different neighborhoods throughout the remainder of the school year

6. Lomond - Katie Lownes

- Tour Your Schools turn out was light, 4th graders led the tours
- Book fair held, was not PTO run. Proceeds of this are used to purchase more books
- Cookie dough fall fundraiser made approx. \$5000
- Pumpkin Affair went well. Need for more volunteers - offered custom designed t-shirts to those who helped out

- after school programs is adding Progress With Chess and Sistema Orchestra for violin only, 2nd to 4th grade
- International Festival to be held Nov. 11th
- Student newspaper is up and running
- Starting their teacher grant process

7. Fernway - Peggy O'Donnell (not present at meeting, sent e-mail update to Missy who read report)

- Fall Festival and Silent Auction in early Oct. made approx. \$10,000
- book fair being held later in Nov.
- Lego club is starting up in Nov.

8. Boulevard - Traci Carpenter

- had their Pumpkin and Bake Sale Oct. 23rd. International Families Pumpkin Carving Party held the same evening
- "Sock-tober" collected over 600 pairs of socks to be donated to homeless shelters
- Beginning plans for a new event, "Around the World - Sharing Our Culture" event to take place 3/16/16
- chess and legos being offered as after school programs
- Tour Your Schools, had approx. 8 families tour

VII. Treasurer's Report - Beverly Saylor

- approval of budget was done at last meeting
- completing the factitious name change which should solve the problems that were occurring transferring banking privileges to the new treasurers this school yr. Lomond was still having issues with this

VIII. President's Report - Candith McMillan / Missy Sherwin

1. Safety Summit - encourage parents to update their contact information for communication purposes, i.e.. cell #'s. Instructions on how to do this has been in school newsletters

- suggestion made for an on-line portal that all parents could use; like the text notification systems that some teachers use for the classes (for homework, test notices, etc...) It was noted that a text notification system has been discussed. School board members, Annette Sutherland and Jeff Isaacs, both present at this meeting, stated they would present these suggestions to the administration.

2. Finger printing - needed for anyone who will be volunteering and has direct student contact. Trying to make it easy to schedule these appointments.

3. Dr. Hutchings mentioned at the last meeting that "Tour Your Schools" would be happening monthly. This was not accurate, he was not referring to the PTO run "Tour Your Schools" event which just took place, but was referring to a more informal access to the schools that community members would have.

4. There will be another "Superintendent Chat" Nov. 30, at 7 PM at the HS large auditorium. Scott Stephens (Executive Director of Public Relations & Communications for the Shaker Schools) to host. It will be a town hall meeting environment, some of the questions will be submitted in advance. They are hoping that it will be more structured event than the previous "chat".

5. Signing up for the Shaker Schools directory is still ongoing. Encourage families to sign-up.

6. Reminder to post PTO meeting minutes and budgets on the schools web site. DRAFTS of minutes can be posted and then replaced with APPROVED versions later.

7. There will be a training for webmasters January 19, 2016 at the HS

IX. VP of Financial Management Report - Elizabeth Roeder (not present)

- submitted report that she is working on a fundraising option for PTO Council and will be sending out an e-mail soon to update us all

X. VP of Outreach Report - Carina Reimers (not present)

- Susan Vodrey gave brief report to please submit any feedback on "Tour Your Schools" to Carina

XI. VP of Parent Education & Advocacy Report - Roxanne Jaber / Sarah Divakarla

1. Family Wellness Workshop to be held Wed. Nov. 18th at the MS auditorium. There will be speakers on recognizing eating disorders, social media and health outcomes for children and sleep. Register on-line by Mon. Nov. 16th
2. PTO partnering with "HandsOn Northeast Ohio" to help coordinate a winter clothing drive in each school building
3. On MLK PTO will host an event to put together toiletry care packages. These will then be distributed at the "Homeless Standdown" which takes place the week-end after MLK. This is a fair-type event for homeless, where they can

receive different services, like haircuts, dental care and receive care packages, other...

4. Mycomm South Shaker (a neighborhood group of students from South Shaker, supported by the Shaker Youth Center) will be hosting some sort of service event in January

XII. Other - Jeff Isaacs

- announcement that all nominating committees will be meeting together the 1st week on Dec.
- slates should be ready for February PTO meeting
- job description updates should be submitted to him

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Hunter