City-wide PTO Meeting

June 6, 2018  9:30 – 11:00

Beachmont/Seacoast Library

**Goals:**

1) Foster effective communication between the school department, parents, and the community
2) Provide a forum to discuss and address concerns/questions

**Agenda:**

- Introductions (5 min)

- Feedback on May the Arts be With You, Student Showcase, PTO Showcase (15 min)

Great event covers the whole school, perfect forum, very well attended. Good opportunity for people with different talents to come together. Time was a challenge for some. 4:30-6pm this year. Is there a way that we can identify each school for parents (where different schools artwork was)? Was that identified on the map? Some people didn’t get the map.

**Student Showcase:**

Some students didn’t know about it (at the high school level).

It wasn’t clear to the volunteers what they were supposed to do.

At the HS students took the lead. There was some confusion.

How did teachers select students to do the presentation? Principal Percy Napier of the Beachmont School shared what process he used with teachers to determine which grade level/students would present.

The showcase was too spread out. This group supported the idea previously brought up by others that the Elementary/Middle School could be in the field house next year with the HS in the cafeteria.

One suggestion was that it might be nice to have them set up as a booth. There were little children running around.

That event was too long-5-8:00 was too long/too late. If it was in a central location, it would take less time. Next year look to modify the time to make it shorter.

Maybe think about who the children were who presented this year and make sure they are not the ones selected next year. We need to make sure we are spreading out the opportunity.
PTO Showcase

Great to hear other PTO representatives and what they were doing and what was working for them.

It was stated that some did not see any teachers there. Dr. Vadala stated parent PTO presidents presented and teachers were in the audience the way that this was set up. Look next year to include more teachers in some way.

- PTO plans for next year (15 min)
  - quarterly, evening, themed

Difficult to find a time to schedule these meetings. We will rotate to the school based PTO meetings. In addition, the district (4 times per year) we would have some kind of a parent forum like we did with Screenagers.

One idea for a quarterly meeting would be-MGH wants to come to do a vaping/e-cigarette presentation.

Quarterly PTO information forums like the PTO Showcase (5pm). 2 bigger presentations like Screenagers and Dr. Vadala, Dr. Kelly and Dr. Mokaha will attend some of the school based PTO meetings.

Interpreters are important for the meetings. Ralph shared that he has an interpreter come when he knows he needs someone. Translate the email into Arabic and Spanish. Some parents don’t know what meetings are about when they get the email and don’t know if it relates to them and their children.

Maybe the PLTI graduates run a workshop like that – what is PTO? We can find the space, advertising, WEE can help find translators.

- Parent Survey – school culture (25 min)
  - Question review, length, posting mid-June

Draft survey questions were shared with parents for feedback. Feedback was taken and the survey will be revised and put on the website in the different languages.

This version will be run by principals as well prior to posting on the website.

- Open Forum
PTO Showcase 2018
6/6/18

Whelan:
- Remind App
- Emails
- Classroom Dojo
- Facebook PTO page
- Multi-Cultural Night

Garfield Middle School:
- Principal helps with communication
- Social Media
- Fundraisers – Cash Calendar, Donations, Dress Down Days
- Events include: Parent Engagement Night, Multi-Cultural Night (food)
- Challenge is getting the word out and getting Middle School Parents involved

Hill:
- December Delights – sold 200 tickets, vendors, raffles, bake sale (parents required)
- $5 limit to keep families engaged
- Pasta Dinner – Volare (Drama club does a sneak peek)
- Getting the word out – dojo, twitter, flyers (with a returnable form), email not as successful
- Visibility is key for getting the word out
- Getting teachers involved is an important piece (kids love to see the teachers at the events)
- Important to let the parents know where all the money is going

Lincoln:
- Struggle to get members to participate in events
- Prefer events and activities to catalog fundraisers
- Biggest event: Halloween Party and music event
- Winter Event – used vendors, DJ events
- Movie Day – after school: nice community and networking event
- How can I meet my kids friends?
- Uno’s night or other local places for dinner
- Send home flyers with bottom as a cut off to return (pre-pay at a discount)
- Book Fair and Ice Cream Social
- Wizards Basketball Game – nice way to bring everyone together (will do a 2nd one next year)
- Savers (rent a U-Haul – kids donate toys and clothes, etc.)
Garfield:

- Start each meeting with providing info about the district
- Arabic and Spanish translators at every meeting
- Guest Speaker Series: Carol Tye, Cheryl Cole, Principal Coutts, Joanna Rizzo, Boston vs. Bullies, Title One Office to talk about District Report Card, Dr. Mokaba about the budget process, Director of After School programs, Elle Baker – playground from Revere on the Move, RPD to discuss safety
- Reminder calls bring more people to the table – schedule meetings ahead of time
- Immigrant Voices: 5-6 parents as a panel to discuss experiences and challenges
- Fundraising efforts – challenges include work schedules, availability, etc.
- Bake Sales, Raffles, etc.
- Neighborhood Tour for teachers in the community (in conjunction with principals meeting)
- Monthly meeting at 8:30am (right after drop off) – one meeting at 7:30am with teachers
- People come to meetings because they can get information that they can't get anywhere else

Revere High School

- Started in 2016 (meet 1-2 months)
- Meetings revolve around events and guest speakers
- Work with Family and Community Coordinator
- Events include: Freshman Orientation, PTO, Cinco de Mayo, Coffee Talk with Principal, Multicultural Event, American Education Week, Parent Leadership Training Institute, Inversant
- Best way to engage families is frequent reminders (calls, remind.com, groups with What’s App)
- BBQ as part of freshman orientation

Paul Revere

- Facebook page is a great way to communicate
- Meet once a month – 8:30am
- December Holiday Shop
- Facebook live for meeting: 75-95 parents view the meeting live (interactive meeting, parents can ask questions)
- More parent involvement – monthly agenda (reminder on the page)
- Monthly calendar and PTO Bulletin board/window
- Parent – teacher breakfasts each month by grade
- Kindergarten Orientation – have already gotten people involved
- Texas Roadhouse Event (kids sell raffles), Thanksgiving Pie fundraiser, Easter (pastry braids)
- Some fundraisers for grade 5 moving on ceremony
- Need to be transparent with all funds
- Community Field Day (entire family is allowed to attend)
Beachmont

- Parent involvement is a challenge
- Monthly meeting in conjunction with principal were challenges
- Tried to have meetings at different times
- Ice Cream social this year was a success – welcome back to school
- Moved event from cafeteria to outside
- Try to be available at drop off and pick up to be visible for parents
- Try to build relationships with parents across the school
- 99 restaurant night, Gingerbread House Night
- Teachers and staff helped out – set a nice tone for the year
- BBQ at the end of the year – about 20 volunteers needed