

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PTO COUNCIL FOR
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CLAYTON

DECEMBER 9th, 2015

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the PTO Council for the School District of Clayton (the "Board") was held, as scheduled pursuant to due notice, on December 9th, 2015, at 6:30 pm CST at the School District of Clayton Administration Building.

The following members of the PTO Council Board were present at the meeting: Sarah Melinger, Ann Marie Piana Kerr, Susan Kronemer, Missy McCormick, Alison Hoette, and Chrissie Wojciechowski.

The following ex-officio advisors and PTO members were also present at the meeting: Sean Doherty, Chris Tennill, Lily Raymond, Brad Bernstein, Tanya Vedantham, Stephanie Gross, Silvia Mutis, Laurie Creach, Brenda Glick, and Jamie Marvel.

Sarah Melinger welcomed members of the Board and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Updates on Dr. Wilkinson, the Clayton School District Pet Policy and the District by Sean Doherty, Superintendent of Human Resources for the Clayton School District:

Update on Dr. Wilkinson: Dr. Wilkinson is doing well and continues to work hard to recover. Sean Doherty is acting as Superintendent while Dr. Wilkinson recovers. Even in her absence the District is able to continue the momentum and continues to do the good work the District is known for while Dr. Wilkinson recovers. Dr. Wilkinson sends a big thank you for all the cards and thoughts sent by students, teachers and community members.

Update on the Clayton School District Pet Policy: Dr. Wilkinson wanted to bring this issue to the table because we have so many families who walk to school with their dog. The current policy states that animals are not allowed on District property at all. We need to revisit the Pet Policy because pets are part of the culture of our district but there have been several incidents between dogs and teachers/students and between dogs as well. Dr. Wilkinson wanted to open up discussion to the PTO Council meeting to start the dialogue about the pet policy.

Discussion was had regarding enforcement of the current policy. Sean Doherty asked for input from PTO Council attendees included:

- Concerns about the interaction between dogs while on the property.
- Reaction by students to the dogs being on the property.
- Erecting signs to keep dogs off certain areas of school property including the Glenridge field.
- Issues with owners not cleaning up after their dogs.
- How will the District enforce the pet policy going forward?

The policy will be in discussion and the District will report back as to what will be the policy going forward and how the no pet policy will be enforced.

District Update: Sean Doherty concluded with a note that the District recently had another Long Term Financial Planning meeting and PASS meeting to discuss the education gap. The District continues to discuss the education gap and how to narrow the gap.

Lilly Raymond asked community members to join the discussion about the long term planning. Sub committees are being formed. In 2016, recommendations from the committee will be made.

Treasurer Update by Missy McCormick, PTO Council Treasurer:

Dues have been paid by all schools but one. Missy will follow up with that school to make sure all due are paid in a timely fashion.

Captain had an issue adding PTO member's names to their PTO bank account and we are seeing that banks are getting more strict about adding names and making changes to accounts so it was helpful to have the PTO bylaws and organization documents. Banks are requiring more paperwork to support the name change requests. All PTOs should have their bylaws and organization documents available so they can be presented to banks should the need arise.

Missy brought up the issue of whether or not tax letters can/should include the payment of "dues." There is a question as to whether or not the name DUES allows you to write a tax letter for payment of Dues. Schools may want to reconsider using the term "dues" so that parents can get a deduction for the payment. We might need to rethink the terminology around the word "dues." The PTO council will continue discussions about this issue and confirm with the property authorities if the payment of DUES can be included in the tax letters.

Safety Summit Debrief, Overview and Feedback and Other Topics for Future Summits by Chrissy Wojciechowski, PTO Council Communications Director:

Dr. Batenhorst said that he received very positive feedback about the Safety Summit. The feedback indicated that people felt like they got more applicable feedback from the Drug portion of the program but that both programs provided useful information.

Lilly Raymond commented that the information from Safety Summit was very informative and thought provoking.

Sarah Melinger added that very dynamic discussion about drug use applicable

Discussion was had about other subject matters that would be interesting to our community. One issue that has continued to come up is “Diversity Training” How to talk about race?

There are other summits happening in our community around the topic of race. The High School is putting on a panel in January or February with the Diversity Awareness Partnership including a question and answer session with the audience. Glenridge has a group called Game Changers that talks about how to talk about race while teaching.

Lilly Raymond and Sean Doherty added that the District is talking about the achievement gap and agreed that we need to have this discussion about race although the discussion may be difficult, it is necessary to have open discussions about race.

The PTO Council would like to look at the following topics:

- What are the schools doing to address race?
- How do we make it more systemic across the whole district to have these hard conversations?
- Each school is looking at their own data to see what issues impact their population.
- Awareness and academics/achievement and how they pertain to race.

The PTO Council will continue looking at what we want to do in a larger discussion about race and awareness.

BOE Report-Richmond Heights Issue: Lilly Raymond, BOE Representative, Chris Tennill, School District of Clayton Director of Communications :

Lilly Raymond reported on the Richmond Heights/Clayton developments and the impact they are going to have on taxes and tax abatement and the impact it has on the

number of students in the classrooms. Lilly indicated that this is an issue the Clayton School District community members need to be aware of.

Chris Tennill commented that these developments are always on the radar of the district. There have been several developments over the years and all have had impacts on the district. The challenge and the concerns about tax abatements are that it is a bad idea when you are dealing with residential properties.

The blvd TIFs that they are looking at for the Boulevard would prevent taxes in the amount of \$800,000 a year from going to the school. The district wants people to be on notice so that the developers know that we are paying attention to the issues.

The District is trying to recruit a few parents who live in Richmond Heights/Lake Forrest/St.Mary's area so that they can email their alderman and city councilman. There is always more weight given to the voices of those who are actually constituents.

Discussion was had by the PTO Council meeting attendees about:

- How many kids will be entering our school? How will this impact our community.
- What changes would this mean to our enrollment, demographics and facilities
- How will this impact the District?
- What kind of contingency plans do we have for this situation?

Chris Tennis will keep the community posted about the developments. Look for communication to come out from the District regarding this matter.

Communications Update, Chris Tennill:

Discussion was had regarding fundraising for the Clayton Education Foundation. Karen McBride does all the work with the Education Foundation. She looked into discount card fundraisers where students would sell the discount cards and the Education Foundation and school PTO's would share the funds raised. The PTO council felt this fundraiser was not in line with the fundraising philosophy of the individual school PTOs and wanted to continue the discuss on how to raise funds for the Clayton Education Foundation. The PTO Council will meet with Karen McBride to discuss how we can work together to raise some funds for the Clayton Education Foundation.

Update on Capital Projects Meeting and Long Range Planning: Anne Marie Kerr, PTO Council Co-President:

One of the projects the PTO Council wanted to take on this year was to develop a depository of information for schools to have and use as a reference for capitol projects. The PTO Council wants to create an electronic resource for all PTO's to access that

would be a place to archive important information regarding capitol improvement projects. The PTO Council is working on finding the proper venue to share this information, a summary of tips and the history of past capitol projects from each school and will be working with current and past PTO Presidents to get this information.

The PTO Council is focused on using meetings to share what's going on at each school so we can learn from each other and collaborate on larger projects.

The PTO Council is going to plan the Jump Start Meeting and will allow extra time to meet together for the transitions and talk about what's upcoming with the incoming and outgoing board members from each PTO.

Closing:

Sarah Melinger said the closing remarks. Thank you! We are excited to move forward.

February 9th, 2016 is our next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison Hoette, PTO Council Secretary