

# PTSO Minutes

## **Wilbur Cross High School Minutes**

**New Haven, CT**

**Conference Room Main Office**

*September 10, 2008*

The meeting was called to order by PTO President Lisa Whitfield at 6:30 p.m.

### **In attendance**

Cheryl Bergman, Tracy Blanford, Cynthia Clampitt, Alberta Dumas, Tom Hannon, Liz Lincoln, Barbara O'Brian, Ester Ricks, Alberta Scasino, Terry. Seymour, Rachel Sexton, Lisa Whitfield, Sheila Williams (Vice-President Catherine Meyerson not in attendance)

### **Introductions**

Introductions of board members and new and continuing members in attendance

### **Vision Statement**

Each board member shared a statement of their vision for the future of the PTO.

Ideas included:

- Home and school partnerships
- Support of student activities
- Support of SPMT (School Planning and Management Team)
- Stronger student government (all grades)
- Stronger PTO connection with student classes (all grades)
- Continuity of PTO through involvement of "graduated" PTO members in special projects

Going forward there was a consensus to categorize various types of PTO engagement activities. Members were encouraged to bring their thoughts and strategies for this initiative to the next meeting.

### **New Board Members Needed**

The PTO needs to phase in a new treasurer and secretary, and is seeking volunteers for those positions. The phase in of replacements is needed to ensure continuity. Contact Cynthia Clampitt at [cynthia.clampitt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cynthia.clampitt@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

### **Administrative Liaison Report**

Sheila Williams, administrative liaison to the PTO, submitted a report of school goals and ways parents can help. Please see attachment for the full report.

### **Shakespeare Program**

Rachel Sexton, an English teacher at Cross, gave a presentation about Shakespeare and Company and their performance of *Romeo and Juliet*, scheduled for Spring '09 at Wilbur Cross. NEA funding has brought the cost for this well known tour group down to \$1,000, but the program could use additional donations.

In addition, Ms. Sexton asked for parents to help at the actual performance on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Those interested should contact her at [rachel.sexton@new-haven.k12.ct.us](mailto:rachel.sexton@new-haven.k12.ct.us).

### **English Speaking Union**

Ms. Sexton discussed the value of Cross participating in the English Speaking Union monologue competition as a positive educational experience for Cross students, and would like to see it revived. Grand prize is a trip to England. For further information, contact Rachel Sexton at her school email address above.

### **PTO Election Day Fundraiser**

Treasurer Cheryl Bergman explained the importance of PTO bake sale fundraisers during political elections. This November 4<sup>th</sup> presidential election with Cross as a polling place has enormous potential as a major fundraiser for the PTO and the projects it supports. Please contact Cheryl at [cheryl.bergman@yale.edu](mailto:cheryl.bergman@yale.edu) to sign up to help, or to donate soup or a baked good. More information will be forthcoming.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Cheryl Bergman reported that the PTO starts the academic year with \$450. School organizations requesting donations should request donations at least a month in advance for consideration.

### **PTO Meeting Dates**

The PTO will meet on the **second Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.** in the Cross lobby or in the conference room of the main office.

### **Announcements**

#### **Ice Cream Social**

The PTO will host its annual **Ice Cream Social** on **Meet the Teachers night** on **September 24<sup>th</sup> in the Wilbur Cross lobby from 5:30 to 6:00**. The PTO will provide free ice cream, toppings and information about the PTO and upcoming events. All in the Wilbur Cross community are welcome.

#### **College 101**

An important upcoming PTO event is the ***College 101 for Parents and Students*** presentation by educational consultant Chaka Felder-McEntire scheduled for the evening of October 15<sup>th</sup>. This presentation, open to parents and students from ninth through twelfth grades, is back at the request of parents who attended it last year. More information and a specific time will be sent out shortly.

#### **Next Meeting**

**October 8, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., school lobby or conference room**

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:30 p.m. by Lisa Whitfield and was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Clampitt, PTO Secretary

[Sheila Williams' report follows:](#)

PTO MEETING

SEPT. 10, 2008

Sheila Williams (946-8732)

Asst. Principal-

Eng./History/Rdg. Supervisor

Coordinator for Site-Based PD

One of our goals for the year is to improve students' **reading** in all content areas.

Some of the ways we could use your help-

1. Classroom libraries for every ninth and tenth grade English and history class.
2. Incentives for reading
3. Guest speakers
4. PD for teachers and parents

We would love support from the PTO and know that you may have many excellent ideas for helping us with this goal.

Other School Goals for 2008-2009:

1. Improve teaching and learning through effective lesson planning.
2. Incorporate school-wide academic rubrics (NEASC)
3. TBD- we expect the SPMT and/or Building Data Team to ass at least one more.

*\*Please note: our Comprehensive School Plan supports the District plan; both of which include improved attendance and decreased suspensions. These are ongoing goals that we will continue this year. We also focus on decreasing the achievement gaps in all content areas connected to CAPT, SAT, and AP.*