

The Philadelphia Home and School Council

General Membership - Minutes

March 6, 2012

Room 1075

Meeting began at 10:15am

In attendance: Tyrone Patterson, Christine Gordon, Delores E. Solomon, Eileen Gargano, Rose Lentz, Millie Cappetti, Jeffrey Dickerson, Jay Cohen,

Absent: Angela Canady

Roll Call – Delores E. Solomon

Silent Reading of the Minutes

Treasurer's Report

(copy attached for the minutes)

Jeffrey Dickerson – Make a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as read.

Tyrone Patterson – 2nd

Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Speaker: Claudia Averette, Deputy, Office of Parent, Family, Community Engagement & Faith-Based Partnerships

Kandice Lewis

Back with Parents and it is good to be back.

Reach me at my office 215-400-4180

*There will be a meeting Thursday Night in the auditorium from 6-7:30pm with Acting CEO Thomas Knudsen and Penney Nixon, Chief Academic Officer. There will be food which is sponsored.

*Handed out PSSA Booklets – in different languages.

Q. Meeting on Thursday – will it be the same or will people be heard by Knudsen & CAO

A. Yes, it will be different and you will be heard. Come up to mic and give testimony

Q. Will these meetings be more open than the Superintendent Search?

*Request to have something placed on the website and be more transparent.

Q. Why don't we hire from within and always go outside?

A. Claudia's personal – one (1) you have to be interested. I don't know many principals that want to run a \$3.2B business and 268 schools.

One of the things we don't do in public education is to grow district leaders. There is no ladder of professional development that lets you grow strong leaders.

Comment by a Parent – I promote success – do they have to leave this City go to someone else's City and come back. What does this say to our children?

A. We had a program called grow your own about six (6) years ago.

Comment - We have Dr. Cassandra Jones. We don't have any power over the School Board because the State does. We don't come out in droves as much as we use to. We need to stand up and say who we want.

Q. Did anyone reach out to Dr. Cassandra Jones and ask her?

A. We have to come together. We see how that is going to play out Thursday because we were at

the Compact Meeting (Sylvia Sims & Gerald Wright).

Gerald Wright – Parents United for Public Education

Last H&S Meeting a sub-committee is suppose to be organized to make sure that a group of parents come together. Bring everyone together – let's look at the issue now and how

We need to look for people who are going to hold the trust with us.

It is not that the students have more power they were invited to sit at the table – the parents were not.

I raised it at the Compact Meeting as you know and people kind of frown. I am not trying to be angry at anyone. I have a voice, I have a brain – collectively we all have a brain. Parents are not viewed that way too often. We have to start holding people accountable who have an authority and position. Right now all I see is top down communication. We have to look at someone who is being paid can do for us. We have to analyze the budget – if we have no money – how can you cut so much so quickly and then you want to have us in the room to talk about the deficit discussion. Don't only cut, how do we build?

Claudia - Equity and Accountability. It is like voting. You have to make your foot print on it. It does matter.

Comments –In our school I nominated our Principal and he did win. Working with him is a joy – he works along with us – he is a visionary and a true leader as a visionary. I feel as Superintendent they have those qualities within them. Come together and work together for the good.

Claudia – O

*On Saturday at the School of the Future there is a Spelling Bee - 5th graders – 9am – winner competes with the 6, 7, and 8. Every middle school grade participating – 154. For the last three (3) years a student from public school has won. 8am is registration goes on until about 1pm. Teachers have prepared them with excellence.

*Last night all City Music at the Kimmel Center.

Don't be disenchanted be encouraged. I have grandchildren in these schools, because I always make sure my voice is heard. I am fighting for our lives for our children.

Delores E. Solomon - there are other parent groups you can be involved with and introduced Sylvia Sims – Parent Power, Cecelia Thompson – Local Right to Education Task Force, Gerald Wright – Parents United for Public Education.

Cecelia – Chair– this group is the result of a lawsuit – parents got together and sued. Anyone's child who has a disability has a right to be in a public school setting. It also includes Charters. If I see something systemic going on and can't work it out I can go to the state and ask them to come and investigate. They can do an audit – how the money is spent – most of the money is Federal Money – they can come in without notice. They can impose consequences.

Try to provide information on parents on everything related to Special Ed Process and this is the right way. The state has the authority to come in and investigate. We try to do things without lawyers because if the lawyer wins the SDP has to pay to the lawyer \$40,000 a case. Money could be used within the classroom for your child. Through the State it takes 60 days. I am not saying lawyers aren't necessary. When the situation is rectified your child will get the services they should have gotten. I found out there is a Special Ed piece in Title I. We are all here to come together.

This is what the churches did – they disagree on a whole lot of stuff. They came together to be involved in the Superintendent Search. We may disagree on a whole bunch of stuff or different

ways of doing stuff- we need to say this Superintendent needs to be parent friendly. We need someone else who is parent friendly because it may be a disaster again for our children.

Sylvia Sims – President and Founder of Parent Power – I want to thank H&S for giving me a few minutes of their time. Title I – there is no accountability when it comes to Title I funds. People can do whatever they want to do with it – it is against the law. When our children do things against the law they go to jail. People should go to jail also. They are stealing our Title I dollars. If this law passes the 1% will become 2%.

Flexibility – different states can take it and do what they want to do with it. Why is it not 2% now? No one can answer the question. When I go to these meetings I am always by myself. I was on SPAC and I was removed because I am a grand mom so they removed me after three (3) years. We have to stick together because it may happen to one of your people. They say you have to have this piece of paper and they are lying. Federal Government Law says what a parent, grandparent, caregiver, aunt and uncle are – the new NSEA is talking about families and not parents any more. I am around and I am always here – I try to work for everyone. We have children who are dying. We are losing our children. I have a problem with children being killed – it may be someone else’s today but it may be yours tomorrow. Everyone at the city, state and federal level will continue to do what they are doing.

There was a discussion about guardianship and how does it look and also about Delegation of Authority Form.

Comment - I know that when you have custody of a child and as long as you have papers on that child.

Q.What does the H&S accept?

Q.What does the principal of a school accept?

A.There are policies written around guardianship. There is a Delegation of Authority for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and don’t have papers. The Academic Division gives it out.

*Election – Jacynnda Williams – Chairperson - was not able to be here. Christine Gordon – Eligible H&S’s were sent a Nomination Ballot in the Pony Mail.

Called the schools and people who were not H&S President’s opened the mail and filed it the way they thought it should be filed.

H&S’s have the authority to vote in the election.

McCloskey and AS Jenks did not receive one.

There is a list and if you did not get one and you were paid by January 3, if you paid after you were not eligible. On the Membership Form it stated that. To be eligible you had to pay by the due date.

Nomination Committee was formed and all of the persons on the Executive Board who were eligible to sit. We chose four from H&S President’s. Jacynnda Williams is the Chairperson and she was voted to be it. Votes came back and these are the results.

(Attach copy to Minutes)

In the interim between now and April –the Nomination Committee of 11 members will meet again. There are two (2) persons used as alternates.

If I am being nominated for President when my name comes up – I have to step outside the room and one of the two (2) alternates come in to make it an uneven number. You step out and they discuss the office you want to run for.

Next a ballot will be sent out for you to vote. An election will be held on May 12, 2012 at the General Membership Meeting.

A Bio will be sent out to all of the schools accompanying the ballot so you get a little synopsis of who the person is.

Q.Can the Bio's be placed on the Website?

Q.I will be out the whole month of April?

A.That is why you have a VP – just delegate.

The Nominating Committee will meet and it will be based upon the Nominations received. The Nominating Committee will form a slate. They will ask whether or you want to accept that position. Then you the H&SA'S will receive the Ballots.

The pony – I found out that it is not just the Pony being slow. It is the President's and Officers not going to the school to check. It is your responsibility to go and check your mailbox to see. We will send it out in due time.

Comment: I found mine in the junk mail.

Academic Division 8 is not having meetings – haven't been able to have contact from the office. Taylor is a Spanish Speaking School – is there a way to get it in other languages?

Q.Do each individual Reps do their own meetings the way they want to do it?

A.The letters that go out to the Principals please send H&S Officers, send a parent to take back the information, or someone who is interested in forming a H&S.

Comment - different reps do different things. I basically use phone conferences.

Discussion around parental involvement at the schools and also about the use of the auto-dialer.

Letter to SRC and take your issues and concerns to Mr. Ramos, haven't heard from him as of yet. Nurses – medication the principal is being given the ok to give the medication.

Gerald Wright – the committee that we talked about – who specifically is assigned because I would like you to talk about it before your next meeting?

Discussion about the letter sent to the SRC with no response.

Will send a letter with stronger language.

Gerald Wright – this meeting this Thursday is an SRC Meeting. The new Superintendent is going to be there and the CAO. His title is Recovery Officer.

(Attach a copy for minutes of Paid H&S List.)

Meeting is adjourned at 12:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Lentz,

Recorder

