

Southwest Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes - September 19th, 2001

Topic: PTA Presidents and Principals

SW Area Office - Sunroom

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In Attendance:

Dawn Baker
Jane Davis
Samuel Macer
Anita Newkirk
Lisa Orens
Joseph Pallozzi
Alana Wase
Tracey Weinkam

Absent:

Carl Klein
Deray McKesson
Marquita Saunders
Sabria Smith

Meeting Opened by Joseph Pallozzi at 7:10pm.

Mr. Michael Kennedy – School Board Representative

- Advisory helps set policy.
- Advisory reports to Board of Education regarding community school issues.
- Advisory not working as well as it should. Resolving Advisory's function and how it should work.
- Advisory is invaluable. Eyes and ears of the community.
- Advisory to work more closely with PTA's in the future.

Mr. Joseph Pallozzi – Advisory Chairman

- Advisory is a 17 member council – need five more members, preferably from the general Landsdowne area.
- Allowed to have 3 teachers.
- Gave example of who board helps – repair imminent on condemned field track.
- Parents should approach Advisory instead of school board.
- Advisory has a good relationship with SW PTA.
- School Board to receive Advisory meeting minutes.

Dr. Richard Milbourne - SW Area Executive Director

- First opportunity to meet Advisory.
- Thanked Principals for the excellent job they did during the Sept. 11 incident.
- Visited 33 schools during the first week. Found schools inviting, positive, clean, functioning well.
- Quality/equity in each classroom – working side by side.
- Obstacles and barriers exist.

Mr. Samuel Macer - SW PTA President

- Parents are not aware of Advisory meetings. PTA's need to make information available. Asked principals to add meeting to their newsletters.
- Gave example of assistance provide -- local school vagrant problem resolved within two days.
- Reorganization a good thing.

Mr. John Ryan – PTA Treasury Expert:

- PTA provides workshops on how to run a successful local unit
- PTA budgets are a true business.
- County PTA consists of 156 local units.
- PTA cannot write checks until new budget is approved by general membership (dues are the exception).
- Principals should read Cash Encounters
- Gross income over \$25,000, must file federal tax form 990EZ. No monies to be paid but must file form. Hillcrest Elementary suggested raising the limit. IRS would like to but has not as yet.
- PTA's are not exempt from sales tax.
- Charitable Solicitation Act – PTA must pay \$50 fee if gross income exceeds \$25,000. Fee increases \$25 per additional \$25,000.
- Liability a major reason PTA's should not sponsor things such as playgrounds, moon bounces and pony rides. For certain events, an insurance rider may be purchased.
- 85% of any PTA effort must be through volunteers.

Catonsville Elementary Parent:

- Security an issue at Arbutus Middle School. A buzzer/camera has been investigated. Many options/disagreement with principal on how to proceed seem to be holding up final resolution.
- Concerns regarding staffing – split classes not a favorable choice among parents

Discussion on Woodlawn Middle School:

- Not being taken over by State of Maryland.
- Improvement plan in effect. Includes feeder elementary schools.
- Supportive PTA
- Woodlawn cluster meetings to begin.
- Letters have been issued to parents informing them of their right to transfer.

General meeting concludes. Advisory meets alone.

- Advisory to possibly participate in major school committees.
- Lisa Orens to possibly take over chair responsibilities
- Alana Wase (student): Cells phones restrictions not being enforced – don't ask, don't tell.
- Upcoming topic: uniform policy regarding high school sports and a 2.0 grade point average. Currently, each school has a different policy.
- **Action Item:** Tracey Weinkam to discuss with Clay Meyers status of all day kindergarten (logistics/facilities seen as a hurdle).
- Arbutus – security an issue – chair propping open door
- SW area bus issue – children being picked up late. Problem should be resolved by Oct-Nov.

Next Meeting: October 17, 2001, 7:00pm, Woodlawn Middle School, Topic: Pre-Budget

Respectfully Submitted by,
Dawn Baker, Secretary

cc: All Meeting Attendees
Messrs. Kennedy
Milbourne