

## City-wide PTA Meeting

November 4, 2015 7:00 – 8:30

East Wing Conference Room

### Goals:

- 1) Open communication lines between school department and parents
- 2) Clarify understanding of school year calendar
- 3) Identify parent participants for RELB

### Agenda:

Introductions (5 min)

RELB (20 min)

Parents were asked if they would like to join any of the RELB councils. Tracy Sullivan, Lisa Gendreau, and Robin Panzini indicated interest in the Adult Professional Culture Council. Jessica Reed will join the RELB Leadership Board. We are still seeking parents to join the following Councils:

- Recruitment Hiring Placement and Induction
- Professional Development
- Educator Growth
- Teacher Leadership and Career Ladders
- Organizational Structure

Parent Information Nights (10 min)

- Drugs and Alcohol
- Common Core math and ELA, Next Generation Science standards
- Open Circle and PBIS

We will pilot a program this year with sessions in January, March, and May. Exact dates and locations will be forthcoming. The meetings will be held from 7:00 – 8:30. In addition to the topics listed above, parents would like information on PARCC, Cyber Bullying, and Social Media. Sessions will be videotaped to air on Revere TV for those who cannot attend in person.

## School Year Calendar (40 min)

- Religious Holydays

Discussion included the burden placed on parents when they have to account for child care outside of summer and set vacations. We also talked about the burden on schools when too many teachers are out to effectively conduct classes. Some suggestions:

- Speak to religious leaders and take one major holyday for each religion off and teachers can use personal days for the others they want to take
- Just go to school on all religious days and see what happens with teachers taking time off
- Only take off holydays when too many teachers would be out but go to school on other holydays.

We discussed the need to be fair with all by doing the same for all. The RTA leaders discussed the fact that a contract was just settled and they feel this should have been discussed then rather than now. They feel their predecessors negotiated the provision of the contract that allows for paid holydays in good interest and they will not give up a benefit outside of negotiations.

We left the discussion with the charge that Dr. Kelly and the union would meet to discuss ways we might negotiate a change. The RTA leadership has since informed the Central Office that their Executive Committee voted to NOT re-enter negotiations.

- Half days next year

Dr. Kelly shared that the new teachers contract calls for 10 early release professional development days (one each month) starting next year. These will include existing early release days for ELT and Innovation Schools and not be *in addition to* their existing early release days. The school time missed from these early release days will be made up by extending the school year for students from 182 days to 184 days.

The School department will work with the RPS After School Program to find support for parents on these days so that students who need care can stay at school on those days. We also talked about engaging parents to help with this.

## Future meeting times and topics (5 min)

- Next Lincoln School Improvement Team Meeting (tent 11/17 5:00 Lin Café)

For December 2nd PTA meeting: Update on Calendar, Sharing the research the Organization Structure committee did on Middle Schools, Enrollment numbers and projections at elementary schools, District-wide uniforms, HS spirit wear or uniforms.