

City-wide PTA Meeting

April 6, 2016 4:30-5:30

East Wing Conference Room

Goals:

- 1) Open communication lines between school department and parents
- 2) Engage in collaborative decision making

Agenda:

Introductions (5 min)

Lincoln School and playground ideas:

Dr. Kelly gave a history of the idea of the playground. Former Mayor, discussed the idea of the park at Lincoln. Parks are the responsibility of the city. Ownership/responsibility is confusing when parks are located at schools. We have had issues behind the building with broken glass, people drinking, used syringes. It is a risk that Dr. Kelly isn't comfortable having. At the meeting about the AC/Heat, Mayor Rizzo mentioned it but there were no additional conversations. Mayor Arrigo upon taking office had some of the concerns brought to his attention. Source of funds was a child safety grant. Money will be spent to enhance child safety. Proper way to move forward with a playground is to fully vet the plan engaging in a planning process with school, police, parks and rec and other resources. Parent presented ideas is to explore fencing as a possibility. Some felt there were no safety concerns behind Lincoln, others felt there were.

- There will be a follow up meeting will take place for those who want to be involved in the planning process.

Budget:

Dr. Kelly has continued to pursue work with the legislators and she is hopeful that this year we will receive a pothole and moving forward she is looking to work with the Speaker to possibly change the funding formula. The potential pothole will still leave the schools short. Dr. Kelly feels hopeful that with the natural attrition (retirements and those who choose to leave) that we will not have to lay off staff but we will know better after the House releases its budget next week.

After the budget is more concrete, we will talk in May about how PTO's can support our schools if they are willing and able to. PTA Presidents suggested they get together and discuss how fundraising is done, what works, and consistent ways to help schools next year. Dianne will reach out to principals to help support PTO leads (presidents) getting together for the May meeting.

- Question about night time events-If PTO can pay custodians, can we still have them? Parents are able to attend. Certain night events draw a big crowd and support a bulk of the fundraising for the year. This will be discussed more specifically at a later date when budget is more certain.

Middle School Lottery:

Dr. Mokaba updated parents on the lottery scheduled to take place Thursday April 14th at 5pm in the School Committee room. It will be broadcast live on Ch 22. Parents are able to attend. Children are not.

Updates:

Dr. Kelly shared updates on the Garfield School intercom and areas where the speakers need to be fixed. Mike Hyde reported the new system is working great in all areas of the building.

ELT-The union is voting this afternoon. Dr. Kelly is confident that ELT will continue at Garfield Middle School, Hill and AC Whelan School.

Dr. Kelly spoke about the submission of the Statement of Interest for the new high school. She discussed the needs of a new high school and the reason for looking at a new location.

Parent shared concern regarding cancellation of the Health Fair to be held at Paul Revere.