

**Patterson PTA
General Meeting
Minutes
October 2, 2014**

Present: Elaine Stecklein, Michele frost, Julie Mitchell, Holly Duck, Becky Swartz, Liz Lawrence, Danielle Minnerick, Colleen Garrison, Loredana Yamada, Rita Malloy, Beata Emmens, Gira Rajan, Jorie Snyder, Natasha Ditoro, Laura Remack, Denise Schalliol, Esther DeSouza, Emily Dobry, Holly Morlock, Julie Heitman, Gretchen Greever, Priyanka Kabra, Navneet Kaur, Vicky Erlicher

Guest(s): Mr. Jay Strang

I. Call to Order:

Elaine Stecklein called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

II. Guest Speaker Jay Strang, Asst. Superintendent of Business with District 204

Mr. Strang provided a Power Point presentation on Senate Bill 16 – Education Funding Reform. There was also a handout provided: “Senate Bill 16 Information.”

We receive general state aid and categorical grants. We are 50th of the 50 states relative to the amount of funding Illinois receives.

Operating expenses per pupil in District 204 are \$10,636, which is the lowest in comparison to neighboring districts. Our average is 11.6% less than the state average.

Administrator to Pupil Ratio – CUSD 204 has the highest Administrator to pupil ratio (355 students to each administrator).

Center for American Progress – offers a report re: Return on Educational Investment (2014).

Goal: minimize the impact on classrooms and student experiences.

Methods: revenue enhancements, delay expenditures, operational efficiencies and program efficiencies.

\$40.8 million has been cut over the last five years.

Inadequate State Funding was reviewed. The District gets about \$250 per student. We are becoming more dependent on local taxpayers for funding.

There are “winners” and “losers” relative to SB16. Losers include Naperville, Schaumburg, Elmhurst and Wheaton. Waukegan, Rockford, Elgin and Aurora are “winners.”

SB16 & Pension Cost Shift – SB16 Reduction in Revenue = -\$10.1 million

Pension Cost Shift = -\$9.4 million

This is equivalent to 135 staff members.

How can we help?

~Talk about SB16 with friends and neighbors

~ Contact family members in other districts; this will impact property values whether we have kids or not.

~ Consider contacting Mike Madigan's and Governor Quinn's office.

Justin Karubas: education funding in Illinois is broken but SB16 is not the answer.

It's complicated – "we have a twin sheet on a king size bed."

Chicago loses \$30 million in this bill. But, they are getting credit for pensions.

There are a lot of exceptions.

Mr. Strang said he is going to work on a "competing bill." The group who is working on this have a meeting is October 7.

III. Approval of September 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes

No corrections; minutes are filed as written.

IV. Principal's Report

- First quarter is ending soon. Report cards will be released on Friday October 31 / Halloween.
- Parent teacher conferences start Nov. 4; this is a good time to address concerns.
- ISAT scores will be coming out soon. Preliminary scores look good.
IIRC.NIU.EDU – will show how our school compares to other districts and with the state.
- The author visit (Mike Caredo) was fantastic this week. He personalized and autographed books for students.
- Fall parties are Oct. 31 and the Palooza is October 24.

V. President's Report

- Vote on Patterson PTA Official Stance on SB-16
The IPPC has asked each local unit to take an official stance on SB16. Becky Swartz moved that the Patterson PTA takes an official negative stance on SB16. The motion carried.
- Report cards will soon be able to be printed at home.
- A coat drive will begin soon. Drop box will be in the lobby through October 24. The coats are redistributed in this district.

VI. Treasurer's Report ~ Becky Swartz

- Pictures with Pete is done
- Becky passed out the most current financial report

VII. Vice Presidents Reports

Finance/Fund Raising ~ Danielle Minnerick

- Thanks for coming out to Yogurt Beach.

- Apparel is coming in soon
- Butter Braids will be out soon
- Palooza: The pre-order form for tickets and meal are going out Oct. 3 – they are due October 14, 2014. Sixty (60) more volunteers are needed. Dads would be great! The PTA needs help setting up a new activity: the Mystery Maze (a spooky walk around the stage). On the day of the Palooza, decorating starts at 4:00. Remember to donate for class room baskets.

Administrative/Service ~ Colleen Garrison

- Today (Oct. 2) is Custodian's Day
- October and November activities were discussed including Fall class room parties and parade, picture retake day, staff appreciation events, and Patterson Directory printing/distribution.

Enrichment/Social ~ Liz Lawrence

- We have a new STEM awareness program
- Emily Dobry talked about SCRATCH classes/ new STEM programming - Wednesdays after school (one hour). They are looking at 2 or 3, 10-week (Scratch) programming. The kids will need access to an email account and there will be some take home work.
- Art Awareness and STEM will occur on alternating months. All STEM activities will partner with class curriculum.
- Emily Dobry made a motion to recategorize funds from Science Assembly to Stem Awareness. Jorie Snyder seconded the motion.

VII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business/ Open Discussion – next meeting is November 6. Meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

X

Holly B. Duck
PTA Secretary