

## **October 27, 2014 PCO Meeting**

### **Moderator's Report – Christy Fitzpatrick**

Welcome and Review of the Mission Statement

### **Review of SPAC (Student Parent Advisory Council) Conference – Christy and Susan Kelly attended during the summer.**

Dwight asked if Christy could find two people to go to the conference in the summer. Christy asked Susan Kelly if she wanted to go. There were lots of activities for the kids all day. Great food! There were people from all over the state. The key note speaker was Mauricio Valquez, President and CEO of the Diversity Training Group. He delivered a moving and funny speech. He gave insightful intervention and methods for conflict resolution that were very effective methods.

Small group conference – Online safety for kids They sat down with text abbreviation and you filled them in. There was a discussion about Facebook accounts. Many kids have two accounts and carry on a separate life on FB without you knowing. They also discussed cyber bullying.

Small group conference – WOW (Wonderful Opportunities Waiting) Woman discussed running a PTO with only 4 initial members. Now they have over 200 active members. Many parents have anxiety about Parent Teacher Conferences. The parents experimented with music and passing out cupcakes. Parents seemed more relaxed. They also hosted a teacher Welcome Back Event with a red carpet. Parents and kids held up signs. The teachers reciprocated with the kids on the 1<sup>st</sup> day. There were signups for different types of conferences.

Email Christy at [ecspco@ecs.org](mailto:ecspco@ecs.org) if you are interested in attending next year. It is free and two parents can attend.

### **Guest Speaker – Dwight Laufman – Parent Teacher Conferences**

Parent Teacher Conferences – How to Make the Most of 10 Minutes – Christy and Dwight presented to the faculty about a month ago about parent teacher communication. Conferences are very fast....like speed dating. The communication should start well before the conference. Share what the best form of communication is for you...email, phone or face to face? Dwight likes face to face. They are very short. You need to decide your goals prior to the meeting. Look at your children's work. Discuss what is going on with your children. Do they have any concerns? If you need to meet again, then schedule a follow up.

- 1) What is your goal?
- 2) What are your strategies?
- 3) Plan for the meeting
- 4) Set up a follow up

You don't have a lot of time. Make sure you are getting what you need/want. If a teacher is using jargon, ask them to explain. Take some time to learn about/understand what is going on with the whole child. Is

there anything that is going on at home that the teachers need to know....parents split up, death of a family member, etc.? Make sure that the teachers know who your child is. Talk to the teacher about collaboration. Pick the most critical item. There is not a lot of time.

No bombs! This should be more of a checking in. It should not be the first time a parent or teacher hears about something.

It should be a two way conversation with listening.

- 1) Smile
- 2) Listen
- 3) Hear

Tawana and Justin did a presentation. "Assume good will!" Teachers and parents are there because they want to see students excel.

Handouts- Harvard Parent Teacher Tip Sheet, Extraordinary Students to Extraordinary Adults and Title I Parent Resource Center Order Form

SPAC is a conference for parents to be involved and know what is going on. Free resource for parents.

Dwight also put together a list of questions to ask teachers when touring. Teachers and kids are happy and doing things.

Teachers need to do everything to make parents feel welcome and vice versa.

Justin - conferences aren't long so if you want to speak to them at another time set it up or communicate via email. The job is to set students up for success.

Take advance of book ordering form. You can order up to 10.

#### **PCO Business:**

#### **ECS Board of Trustees Update – Molly Bennett – Update October 15<sup>th</sup>**

There will be a new website in June with pictures, bios and meeting notes.

Typical meeting: Get a budget, finance committee meets once a month and any checks over \$5,000.

Nicole Sheaffer gives an update with collaboration in the community and other accolades.

Update: Trying to re-visit a foundation for fundraising outside of the school. Molly and Beth Lott

John Shrott is a current board member who will step down and one will move into that position. They are looking into a board member in waiting in case a board member steps down there will be someone to quickly take that place.

They are looking into ways to purchase the building.

## Events

**Mix it Up Day** – Students get to get out and spend time with other students that they normally wouldn't.

**Middle School Activity (11/7) – Fall Festival** for 6 – 8 grades – 7 pm - 9 pm Costumes, line dancing, limbo, costume contest. Parents are welcome to chaperone. Potential event for the Spring.

Mini Grants Deadline

Committee Updates

Fall Festival – Good attendance even though the weather wasn't good. The bike rodeo was a hit! ECS donated the extra new helmets to a bike store in Braddock. They have a community organization that gives free items to members of the community.