

**EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
PTA/PTO SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL BOARDROOM  
35 WHEELBARROW LANE  
EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06513**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2011  
6:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT: Mrs. Vineyard, Mr. Hennessey and Mr. Palladino**

**ABSENT: Mr. DeNuzzo, Mrs. DePalma, Mrs. Maisano  
and Mr. Pompano**

**ARRIVED LATE: Mr. Scalesse  
Mrs. Kluth**

**ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Serio, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Forti, Assist. Supt. of Curriculum & Instruction**

**1. OPEN MEETING**

Mrs. Vineyard called the PTA/PTO Subcommittee meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Boardroom at East Haven High School. She then turned the meeting over to Mrs. Bacon and the D.C. Moore group.

**2. REGULAR SESSION**

- **Discussion on Roles and Responsibilities of District PTO/PTA Council Members**

Mrs. Bacon spoke about the district PTA/PTO Council's last meeting in August. Each time they met, a different school team would let Central Office know of the agenda and agenda items. This time it was D. C. Moore. Ms. Heather Loehmann was one of the officers of the PTO. **She asked who would take on the roles and responsibilities for the next upcoming meetings to be held on January 24, 2012 and April 10, 2012. Tuttle School would do the next meeting in January and Overbrook School**

would take April's meeting. It was also decided that the meetings would be held at 6:00 p.m. and that everyone would be notified by email. They would obtain everyone's address.

- **Discussion on Goals for this School Year**

Heather Mazzucco thought that it would be helpful if they had a calendar they could work with so things would not get scheduled on nights where there were already events happening. Some parents had children in more than one school. It was decided that they would start a calendar and get it out through emails. They could come back in January or perhaps even April with dates for next year.

**Mrs. Forti suggested that perhaps they could work with their Director of Technology, Randel Osborne, to use a Google calendar that would be in one location where every PTO put in their information. She stated she had limited knowledge on this and would look into seeing if it was feasible. The PTO presidents would have access to post events on it and it would be on the Board of Ed website. They could invite Mr. Osborne to their next meeting.**

**Marianne Johnson would share her calendar with the rest of the schools by email.**

- **Open Discussion**

There was discussion on events and acquiring the proper licenses in order to show movies at school and what would be the most cost-effective way to go about obtaining a license that could encompass all of the schools instead of each school having to pay for a separate license. It was also based on the number of students. **Ms. Travers had the woman's email address where Tuttle had purchased a license. She would inquire as to whether there was an overall district piece. Ms. Travers would send her an email tonight.**

Tuttle School spoke about their donation box at Tuttle for used books and DVD's. They come and pick them up and then give the school a check. The box had to remain there for a year. The books go to different organizations, lower income schools, and sometimes to other countries. Ms. Mazzucco

suggested they talk to the children's librarian and make arrangements to do pickups. They don't want teachers' books in the box. They would take old classroom books in a separate box and pick those up separately. There was a suggestion to trade it around at each of the different schools.

Heather Loehmann spoke about Tuttle raising money for a new playground. In order for companies to give them larger donations to write it off, they need to acquire a tax I.D. number with the State in order to become certified. They had worked with Mr. Lathrop on this.

Mr. Serio spoke about his days as a principal at Ferrara and Tuttle Schools and how they had done a lot of things together instead of separately. He would like to see more things like this done again.

There was discussion on availability of free bus times and how the times were longer now because of all-day K. There was discussion on using the auditorium for events and how the usage of such was done through the Business Office with Anita Mancini. Free hours for custodians was raised and it was determined that there were 10 free hours given to each PTO in the past. This was for special events and not for regular meetings. It was also determined that the need for a principal to be in the building was necessary and the custodian made the building more accessible. This language was still in their contract. If it was a cost for the PTO's, it forced them out of the building. Mr. Serio to talk to Mr. Lathrop to see what they had budgeted to see if they could still accommodate those 10 or 12 hours that they normally allocated. They had a principals' meeting next week on Wednesday and could discuss this further.

A survey on uniforms had been sent out to Tuttle School 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents. They had received 100 responses and 80 of them were yes in support of uniforms. There was a discussion regarding the amount of money that could be saved with going to uniforms. Mrs. Johnson spoke about the Thrift Store they had at the Academy where parents could purchase used uniforms for a small fee. There was a uniform company here in Town and she highly recommended them. There was further discussion on uniforms and the possibility of a district-wide policy except for the high school. Mr. Palladino hoped that the next Board would be able to put a policy in place. The survey that Tuttle had taken would be shared with the other schools and then they could collect more data. **Mrs. Forti suggested after they share it with the other schools they could report the results at their next meeting.**

**3. Any other business that might rightfully come before this subcommittee.**

A PTO parent representative from Ferrara School, Jim, wanted to know what they were going to do about the lunch company because “it stinks”. He informed everyone that the carrots were outdated, the pizza had two inches of ice on it and then they burn it. He stated that John Prunier said he would stock these kitchens with plates, food and all kinds of items and they were short plates on a daily basis. Kids were leaving the lunch room with hot dogs in their hands. Lettuce was four days out of date. They had run out of food today which was mac and cheese. **Mr. Serio informed them that he had a meeting with Whitson’s tomorrow and they were going to address this and on Wednesday with the principals.** There was further discussion on portion sizes which were smaller this year and the salads use to have vegetables and now it was just lettuce.

**Mr. Hennessey stated he was going to go there and see what was going on. Mrs. Kluth thought they should see if they could get out of that contract. She asked Mr. Serio if he had looked into this. Mr. Serio responded that the attorney was going to come and explain it to the Board.**

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hennessey and seconded by Mr. Palladino. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**KRISTEN VINEYARD, CHAIR  
PTA/PTO SUBCOMMITTEE**