

STEM School Chattanooga

PLT Purpose: To lead the greater parent group in support of the STEM School through planning, overseeing, and implementing PLT initiatives

Monday, February 23rd, 2015
Parent Leadership Team Meeting Notes (6pm-7pm)
www.stemschoolchattanooga.net

Agenda

- Attendance: Team noted that last year we did not meet in December due to busy schedules. We will want to remember this next year and forego the December meeting.
 - Amy Betts
 - George Choyce
 - Tracie Clifford
 - Tony Donen
 - Jim Kinkead
 - Karry Koppully
 - Bryan Sweetin
 - Cameille Vlietstra
 - Lori Waite
 - Lori Warren

- Discussion Topics:
 - Hamilton County Schools Budget: Dr. Donen gave a brief overview on the state of the budget for Hamilton County Schools. The overview included information about the lack of funding for operational and/or instructional purposes. Two items of note were also emphasized. The first was that the Hamilton County commission has not increased taxes in the past ten years to support schools. In fact, the Hamilton County commission has only cut out money from the school system over this ten-year period. Instead of even keeping up with inflation, the commission has done the opposite by taking money away. The second was that sales tax in the Chattanooga area does not go toward local schools. That money is sent back to the state. The state then allocates money back to each school district in the state based on a formula for determining wealth. Based on this formula, Hamilton County is considered in the top three counties for wealth, and thus, receives one of the lowest state disbursements for education. In essence, the only way to currently fund schools in Hamilton County adequately would be from local property taxes, which is controlled by the Hamilton County commission. If we want to have good and great schools in our county, funding is going to have to change.

- Committee Business: Committee chairs will be provided the opportunity to provide any updates/needs/etc. regarding committee progress.
 - STEM Day (STEM Jubilee) Committee: **Cameille Vlietstra** (cameillev@chattanoogaacvb.com)
 - Location and Date – Sunday, April 12th in Finley Stadium on the field. The 4 Bridges Art Festival will be taking place the same time in the Pavilion that day.
 - Cameille shared a sponsorship outline for levels of donation and is in the process of creating an information letter. Once created, it will be sent home with students.
 - Tracie Clifford agreed to help Cameille with soliciting businesses for financial support.
 - Cameille and Dr. Donen are going to meet with club sponsors at the school to talk about the STEM Jubilee to determine club interest for booths. They will get a list of clubs interested and what booths they want to run.

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- Cameille shared a list of potential booths for parents or club sponsors to facilitate. Once Cameille knows what booths are not wanted by the club sponsors, she will work with Christina Dietz to find parent volunteers for running booths on the list.
- Amy Betts agreed to organize a database for whom will do what booth and what needs each booth has.
- Bryan Sweetin agreed to work with Cameille on creating banner items for sponsors.
- Fundraising Committee: **Tracie Clifford** (tracie.clifford@chattanoogastate.edu)
 - Tracie will work with Cameille on STEM Jubilee fundraising items.
- Other committees were not discussed during meeting.
 - Volunteer Committee: **Christina Dietz** (cdietz@epbfi.com)
 - Staff Appreciation Committee: **Trish Cox** (tscox@epbfi.com)
 - Parent Orientation Committee: **Audrea McKnight** (audreamcknight@gmail.com)
 - Outdoor Classroom Committee: **Lori Warren** (lori.warren@chattanoogastate.edu)
- New Business for next meeting – Prom (request by 11th grade student was shared for wanting to have PLT consider planning a Prom)

Next Meeting

- Monday, March 16th
- PLT meetings for 14-15 are normally on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6pm.