



2014-15 Town Hall Meeting Questions

1. Research has demonstrated that quality family engagement in education increases student achievement, improves attendance and reduces the dropout rate. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act has been due for reauthorization since 2007. How do you feel as a state legislator you could help promote stronger school-family-community partnerships? (For our federal representatives can you respond how you would like to see parent/family engagement addressed in reauthorization?)
2. Addressing mental health conditions is a serious subject that many, often due to the stigma attached, feel uncomfortable discussing. Children suffering from mental health issues tend to struggle academically from the time they enter school through their secondary school years. Findings from one of the leading studies in this field, The Blind Spot by Dr. Andrea M. Spencer, found that adolescents suffering from behavioral or mental health problems were at a 51% risk for court-involvement. 82% had been suspended from school or exhibited aggressive, explosive or disruptive behavior in school. 25% suffered from depression, 20% had anxiety disorders, 17% experienced post-traumatic stress disorder, and 16% were suicidal or at risk for self-injury. "Students are often not identified for services in a timely manner, and, even when identified, access to appropriate and necessary services continues to be a problem" – Dr. Andrea Spencer. Schools play a critical role in recognizing and responding to children's mental health needs. In your role as an elected official how do you feel you can bring awareness to the issue and help bring about effective avenues to connect children with the services they need?
3. Public schools provide more services and resources to children and their families than in the past. Schools have been on the receiving end of budget cuts at both the state and federal level resulting in cuts that directly affect students. While our state general assembly has appropriated increased funding levels over that last couple of years, our schools are still funded below 2008 levels. Underfunding has lead to inequities in school districts across the state. How do you propose we find solutions to provide our schools with the funding they need to prepare our children to be college and career ready?
4. Studies have increasingly shown that voucher or tax credits have a negative impact on all public schools and fail to

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PTA Mission: The overall purpose of PTA is to be

- The powerful voice for all children
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.



A Letter from the President

I would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season! During this time of celebration and reflection, I hope you all get a chance to recharge and get ready to begin a great new year for PTA and your kids. We have many fun SCPTA functions coming up in 2015! I hope you can all join us for the SCPTA Reflections Showcase at the Battlefield Mall, on Sunday, January 18, 2015, 1-4 p.m. and the SCPTA Founders Day Celebration, Thursday, March 5, 2015 at Kickapoo High School.

Today we have the opportunity to elect the SCPTA Nominating committee. This committee will consist of a representative from each of the 5 High School attendance areas with the chair being one of the elected officers from the SCPTA Executive committee. This committee needs to be the Council's most responsible, sensitive and deliberate body. The work of this committee requires a variety of people who are willing to really look at the candidates for their merit and ability and who have the courage to express ideas and defend their convictions. This committee has the responsibility to find candidates who will be up to the challenge of serving. This is not a time consuming committee but a very important one!

As we close out 2014, I would like to say thank you to the SCPTA board for all of the hard work they've put in so far this school year. I'd also like to thank the Unit officers from

every school who are using their precious free time to volunteer in our schools. Thanks also goes out to the Principals, teachers and other school employees who are so invested in our children's welfare.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Patty Dunn, President SCPTA

Council Officers:

Patty Dunn: President President@scptamo.com

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"Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds."

Theodore Roosevelt

Agenda

December 3rd, 2014

McBride Elementary School

- I) Welcome
- II) Pledge of Allegiance
- III) Superintendent – Dr. John Jungmann
- IV) Principal's and President's Minute
- V) Programs: Kids First Town Hall Meeting
- VI) Financial report – Jeremiah Mee
- VII) Council reports – All Officer Reports are printed in this Newsletter.
 - a. President – Patty Dunn, Convention Report
 - b. VP of Organization – Jennifer Penny
 - c. VP of Promotions – Carrie Windes
 - d. VP of Health & Public Services – Kim Wrinkle (Clothing Bank Chair)
 - e. VP of Programs – Jana Hansen
- VIII) New Business – Elect Nominating Committee
- IX) Sergeant at Arms – Lori Nelson
- X) Adjourn

Thank you to Pasta Express for providing today's refreshments!



Founders' Day Banquet!

Make plans to join us as we celebrate PTA with our Annual Founder's Day Banquet! As we know, PTA would not exist without its wonderful volunteers. This is the time to put them in the spotlight! We would like each school to submit the name of an outstanding PTA volunteer for their school. This person should be someone who has personified the PTA mission by giving of his or her time unselfishly. We

would like to honor this PTA volunteer at the Founder's Day Celebration. This year's celebration will be **Thursday, March 5th, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.** (Doors open at 6 p.m.) The event will be hosted by Kickapoo High School in the Kickapoo High School Commons. Watch for details, deadlines and order forms in the January issue of the Springfield Council of PTAs newsletter!



Treasurer's Report...

Financial Overview for October 2014

Bank Account Balances	10/01/2014	10/31/2014	Summary for the Period	
CARE Fund	1,173.00	1,193.06	Starting Total	129,889.24
Clothing Bank	12,980.86	11,715.01	Income	1,649.71
General	60,054.88	59,032.82	Expenses	-2,913.73 <u>-1,264.02</u>
Gertrude McBride Fund	5,736.46	5,826.78	Ending Total	128,625.22
Scholarship Checking	3,643.04	3,656.56		
Scholarship Funds Restricted	46,301.00	46,301.00		
Total	<u>129,889.24</u>	<u>128,625.22</u>		

Detailed financial records are available on-line at <http://www.nonprofitcentral.biz>. Use SCPTA as the username and password.

Since we are almost half way through the fiscal year, this is a great time to see how you are doing against the budget your members approved at the beginning of the year. If you have gone over budget or believe you will be

going over budget, you should get member approval. Hopefully it has been a great year so far and you can make plans for using the extra funds raised!

Clothing Bank

Keep those donations coming! We cannot keep enough pants, shirts and coats—especially in sizes 4-16 for boys and girls. We have served over 1400 students and can barely keep enough clothes in stock. Donations can be coordinated by contacting me during the few weeks we are closed. We will be there working several Thursdays sorting, hanging and organizing.

Please check with your school nurse to see if there is a need for emergency pants at your school. I have had several requests, but we don't have any extra to give at this time. These pants can be slightly more used than what we would be able to hand out at the Clothing Bank. Small stains and imperfections are ok.

These pants are used when students have an accident or spill and just need something to get them through the day. Sizes 5-10 with elastic waist are best.

Please don't forget to send volunteers as often as you can. We typically see a decline in volunteers after we open again in January, and there is still lots of work to be done. Thank you for your partnership and help keeping our SPS students in good, clean clothes to ensure a successful education.

Holiday Blessings to You!

Kim Wrinkle

417-664-3327 or kwrinkle77@yahoo.com



SCPTA Programs...

Reflections—*The world would be a better place if...*

Thanks to all of the participants this year in the Reflections contest. We had around 130 entries! Please remember that the deadline at the state level is December 10, and this needs to be done online. The Council will be having the Showcase at the Battlefield Mall in front of JC Penney on January 18, from 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

The awards ceremony will be at 3:00. Please come out to support your school. A special thank you to all of the school Reflections Chairs for donating their time and energy to make this a success for the students. We appreciate you!



Reading is Fundamental

Reading is Fundamental of Springfield wishes to invite everyone to join us at Barnes & Noble book store for a book fair on Sunday December 7. We have special readers and storytellers, live performers of Holiday music, and Santa. We will be taking free pictures with the best looking Santa ever! We plan to email them directly to the parents that day. You can come and join in the fun and you can order books on line and use the coupon that will benefit RIF.

On Saturday, December 13, RIF will be selling big cookies and hot chocolate/coffee at two

locations on the Springfield Christmas Parade route (Penmac building on South Street and Gillioz Theater). Order forms are available for bags or trays of homemade cookies, that can be picked up on Friday, December 12 or at the Christmas Parade.

Happy Holidays! The next RIF distribution will be Wednesday, February 11, at Tefft. Thanks to all the coordinators who made a special effort to get their books. The reports are coming and the 1st and 2nd graders are really enjoying their new books.



Membership

Congratulations to the following schools for increasing your individual and/or business membership this year: Bingham E, Bowerman E, Boyd E, Cherokee MS, Delaware E, Field E, Glendale HS, Greenwood, Harrison E, Hickory

Hills E, Hickory Hills MS, Hillcrest HS, Jarrett MS, Pershing E, Pershing MS, Kickapoo HS, Mark Twain E, Pipkin MS, Portland E, Reed MS, Sherwood E, Watkins E, Williams E and Wilson's Creek I.

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produce benefits they claim. They do not ensure parental choice, protect the civil rights of students, increase student's achievements, help low-income students, or improve public schools by creating an environment of competition. Missouri PTA believes every student should be provided with a quality education. This cannot be accomplished by

handing out vouchers or credits to a few. Instead we must collectively invest in our public school system where the overwhelming majority of children are educated. What is your position on tax credits, vouchers, or income tax deductions for tuition paid by parent or sponsors for nonpublic elementary and secondary school children?

From the Parliamentarian

It is not too early to start thinking about THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee is the most responsible and sensitive deliberate body of any PTA. It should be undertaken with great care. Check your PTA's bylaws for details.

The nominating committee must be **ELECTED**. This is usually by the general membership as listed in the PTA bylaws, in the article titled "Officers."

The number of members is very specific, and no one (not even the principal) is automatically on the committee, except as a non-voting adviser if the bylaws so specify. **The president cannot be on this committee.**

The chairman is either appointed by the president or elected from the committee; again, check the bylaws.

Major Saver Fundraiser

Hello, my name is Jennifer Penny, and I am your VP of Organization & Development for SCPTA. I am in charge of the annual, joint fundraiser with local schools, PTA/PTSA units and SCPTA. I am very pleased to announce that **we have partnered with Major Saver to offer discount cards for offers to local restaurants and family activity businesses!** SCPTA is very excited about the Major Saver (MS) program. They offer a 100% turnkey program and manage everything from kick-off to final payment. Here are some of the details about the fundraiser:

- MS offers a \$15 card and has done so since 2012. They report that schools have equal or better success with the \$15, including Title 1 schools.
- Council receives \$7.50 of each card sold and we give 50% of that back to the participating schools.
- MS will contribute \$200 to the Clothing Bank for each school that participates— to be paid no later than 30 days after the close of the campaign and this can add \$3000+ to the money available to the Clothing Bank for clothes purchases.
- The MS discount card is customized for our community and includes business from all over Springfield, which we know is important to all of you.

- Council will receive daily updates about the fundraiser.
- Payment will be paid no later than 30 days after the close of the campaign!
- The card will include two detachable key fobs with additional offers.
- NEW THIS YEAR--Cards will also be available via the new MS App!
- MS will handle the entire collection and prize distribution process
- MS assumes all responsibility for the collections on NSF checks—school sales will not be affected
- MS has listened to feedback from our principals and knows the limo ride is an important incentive, so students only have to sell 10 cards to win the limo ride.

This fundraiser is the ONE AND ONLY means the Council has to fund ALL of the projects and programs that we all—presidents, principals, officers and volunteers—decided were important to us, as a Council, all those years ago.

Won't you please sign up and become a part of this very important fundraising opportunity today? Thank you so much!

If you have questions or are ready to sign up , please contact Jennifer Penny at maxandmecompany@gmail.com.