

PTO Public Meeting
December 2, 2013

Agenda:

Various community members present data for why a merger is not the solution to the challenges that HCS is facing.

ABC's of HCS

PTO Public Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2013

Guest Speaker: Diana Bowers on the possible school Merger

In part, Diana's presentation:

On Wednesday evening, November 13th, I presented facts and figures that would help our community understand why the Hamilton School District conducted a Merger Study with the Morrisville-Eaton School District. One of the questions that was asked was about the amount of debt that both school districts are presently carrying. My response was "that they are similar," included concepts such as the State Aid ratio, and the amount of money (local share) that is paid by the local taxpayer, along with the amount of debt. In the merger study, SES used the highest possible ratio that an approved project could have received. Neither MECS or HCS has aid that is presently being paid at those rates (95% for MECS and 86% for HCS).

When comparing the amount of debt that both districts have (as per the NYSED, state aid website), Morrisville-Eaton has 1.55% the debt that Hamilton has. This, however, tells only part of the story. Due to the district's wealth, the amount of aid paid to MECS is different than the amount paid to Hamilton. Both districts have varied aid ratios based on different building projects. MECS and HCS have debt that is aided at different percentages, due to this. Based on the debt service and building aid received by MECS, that was actually reported in their financials for fiscal year (FY) ending June 30, 2011 and FY ending June 30, 2012, it looks if they are getting about 88% of their debt service back in aid. Hamilton has combined debt service aid amount of 76%. Considering all of this, Morrisville-Eaton actually pays less for their local share than we do, despite the fact that they have more debt. The values are listed below.

I hope this helps to clarify any misconceptions that are out there. Our goal is to give our residents the facts so they can make informed decisions.

Below is the amount of debt that the districts would have at the time directly before the merger (end of FY June 2014):

District	Total Debt Service	Estimated Building Aid	Estimated Local Share
Hamilton	\$ 7,549,702	\$ 5,737,774	\$1,811,928
MECS	\$ 11,710,763	\$ 10,305,471	\$1,405,292

October 23, 2012

Summer introduced the Board Members, Summer as President, Astrid as Vice President, Michelle as Treasurer, Karli as Secretary

Astrid introduced the guest speakers: Courtney Kwilos and Dennis Roy

Courtney talked about the Olweus (pronounced with a v) program. All adults in the building were trained in the program after a selected group went for the two day training. The program is a school wide systematic change that handles bullying, addressing questions such as what does it look like, how to intervene and report it, how to follow up with parents, what are the rules at HCS, what to say to the bully and the bullied parties. The program also focuses on teaching students to not be bystanders to bullying, but instead to be upstanders, by acceptance, tolerance, and being kind to others.

It is the hope that the program will kick off in January with a speaker that will be able to speak to all grade levels, as well as parents about being bullied.

Please see the program components for more details about the program (attached).

Dennis Roy also spoke briefly about the program and a new text message setup that would allow students to text a hotline to report bullying. This gives the student some anonymity as they do not have to be seen talking to the teacher or going into the office. There is some discussion as to open it up to the community so they can report bullying they may see, even if not on school grounds.

It was discussed that this hotline will be nice for friends of a student who is being bullied that may report when the student does not want to do it themselves, or even friends of a bully who may report behavior that should be stopped.

The hope is that it becomes so easy and so well known that bullying can be reported that the incidents dramatically decrease at all levels, from Pre-K to Twelfth grade.

Michelle talked about Fundraising with Yankee Candle and the budget, what money donated last year

Summer introduced the other items for discussion:

We briefly discussed Pizza Hut Book It Program used in conjunction with PARP.

Lizzie Velasquez- money donated to bring her to HCS in January for the kickoff ceremony.

We will begin running Labels for Education, along with the BoxTops program.

The first grade teachers have asked for help in the book room, re-shelving books.

Closing:

Next meeting: TBA

Please contact any of us with questions/concerns/items you would like to see on the agenda for the next meeting.

Don't forget about our website, can link from the Hamilton School website

(<http://hamiltonpto.weebly.com/>)

Hamilton PTO Gives Back

Date: February 15, 2012

Written by: Barney (article written for the HCS Digital Bulletin Board)

All of the students at HCS were excited this past week when they received a generous donation from the Hamilton PTO. This donation in the amount of \$1, 000 will be used to purchase apps for iPads

and iPods for students, Prek-12. These devices have revolutionized the way students learn at HCS, and we are fortunate to be able to continue differentiating each with apps for students using these funds. The Hamilton PTO board consists of HCS parents including Summer Knapp (president), Astrid Helfant (vice president), Michelle Dye (treasurer) and Karli Murray (secretary). The PTO board has also made many other funding contributions to HCS events including:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Thank you Hamilton PTO for everything you do to make Hamilton Central School a wonderful place to learn, grow, and work together! The Hamilton PTO holds many public events and meetings and invite any interested parents to join their team!

Public PTO Meeting Minutes January 10, 2012

Summer welcomed the crowd, wishes everyone happy New Year, and briefly runs through the meeting outline (speakers, Family Literacy Night, Halloween and Concert Attire, Budget presentation).

Karli introduced Patricia by detailing her involvement in various activities including working for Partnership for Community Development (PCD) for 4 years creating and organizing all the village festivals, working at the Hamilton high school after writing and receiving a grant to start a new program called Career Prospects for junior and senior students to shadow and intern at various businesses of interest, and working at the Hamilton elementary 1 on 1 with a kindergartener.

She was hired as the director of The Palace Theater 4.5 years ago establishing it as a performing arts center presenting live national, Broadway and community theater while still working with Colgate students and faculty to fulfill their venue needs. She is Vice President of the Hamilton Business

Alliance, the Youth Exchange Officer with the Hamilton Rotary for outbound and inbound students traveling abroad through the Rotary Exchange Program, Founder of The Palace Players, as well as the Founder of the Hamilton Compost Club.

Patricia spoke with a question/answer period. Patricia outlined what the Hamilton Compost Club is and what objectives they would like to meet in the school. She shared a data sheet that was collected including the fact that 627 pounds of trash is created per week at Hamilton Central School.

The group plans to start by educating the pre-k classes and kindergarten classes on how to compost the breakfast food and snack food that they do not eat within their own classrooms. The Club would eventually work at educating the school, and the ultimate goal would be to compost all snack food, breakfast food, lunch food, cafeteria prep food, and food from the teacher's rooms.

She asks that everyone spread the word about the Compost Club and that parents become members contributing what they can contribute.

More can be found regarding the Compost Club by following the link below.

Astrid introduced Eric by outlining his educational background. Prior to being the Coordinator of Innovation and Enrichment, Eric taught fourth grade at HCS for two years. Eric attended SUNY Potsdam where he studied Childhood Education. He continued his education at SUNY Cortland where he received his M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education. Most recently, he has completed his administrative program at Canisius College as a School Building Leader and will continue to study to earn a School District Leader certification.

Eric's website is <http://hcsinnovationandenrichment.weebly.com/meet-mr-coriale.html>

Eric spoke with a question/answer period, concluding by letting the audience experiment with the iPads he brought. Eric spoke about Enrichment Bunch, a club for third through sixth graders that meets once a week covering various topics. These topics include Winter Olympics, Going Green at Home, Marine Biology, So You Think You Can Dance, Hola Amigo, and Small Animal Care.

He also spoke about the Elementary Yearbook, which is researched, designed, and created by the fifth grade students. The pictures will be taken with a new Canon Rebel Camera and printed at BOCES.

Eric talked about the up-to-date technology that is available at Hamilton, including digital cameras, Smart Boards, and Document Cameras in the classrooms. The Hamilton students have had global communication with students in Japan, China, Mexico, Arizona, Hawaii, Wales, Scotland, Florida, and Madison. He demonstrated all of these different pieces of technology with pictures, websites, and examples of student work.

Summer spoke about Family Literacy Night which is Amy Jerome's initiative. The date for this is Friday March 2nd with a tentative time of 6:00-8:00 for grades K-5. The idea is that Parents/caregivers/grandparents will be reading to their children with a fake fireplace in the reading

area. There will be a book give-away sponsored by the PTO, a hot chocolate and cookie station, a bookmark creation station, possibly manned by J. Watkins and art students.

Teachers will be set up to answer questions about reading levels - F&P, Lexile, how they score, should kids read only at their level, how can parents know a book's level, etc. Computer stations will be set up showcasing BookFlix, TeachingBooks.net, etc.

Also, Barb Coger will be there representing the public library showcasing their collection and their online resources (ebooks).

Astrid spoke about having a drive to collect Halloween and Concert Attire that is no longer being used. Students would be able to take the items that were needed (if sizes were available) free of charge. It was discussed where these items could be stored, possibly at Worn Again.

Michelle spoke briefly about the budget and what money has been spent thus far.

Summer closed the meeting by showing the PTO website. Parents and teachers should feel free to contact the PTO through this website (the link can be found on the Hamilton Central homepage under community) with questions, comments, suggestions, and requests for funding.

COMPOST CLUB:

Please note that The Hamilton Compost Club is not officially associated with Hamilton Central School. Instead, it is a separate entity that is gathering data to present a proposal for a compost program at HCS. For more info, please check out the following [document](#). It contains rather interesting data collected from a 3-day lunch garbage gathering.

