

PCT PLEDGE
Plainview-Old Bethpage
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DISCIPLINE
&
ACADEMIC STANDARDS
By PCT President Morty Rosenfeld

Over the last few months, I've found my self talking more and more about the relationship between good student discipline and our goal of elevating our district's academic standards. At a typical SRC meeting, almost nothing I talk about draws the spirited response that the subject of discipline does.

Some of the things I've been hearing from the members are deeply troubling. Taken together they suggest that a very negative belief has developed among teachers that holds that the school has lost its mandate to discipline the students in its charge - that teachers who insist on good discipline are bucking a trend and are putting themselves at some risk from those in authority who are poised to second guess their disciplinary efforts and practices. My impression is that many in administration unfortunately share this belief. The adverse effect of this belief is magnified by the fact that more students come to us each year lacking the self-discipline we could once almost universally expect.

While it may be seen by some as hieratical, I strongly believe that children need to know what adults expect of them, and sometime need the assistance of adults when they have been unable to meet the expectation set for them. I believe that schools that do not set clear expectations for student conduct and do not correct students when those expectations are disregarded abdicate a responsibility they inherently have to help students learn self-discipline. I believe, too, that the surrender of this responsibility invariably leads to lower academic expectations as well. Schools that are casual about discipline are usually casual about learning also.

If we are serious about elevating our academic standards and expectations, teachers, administrators and members of the Board of Education are going to have to come to terms with the nexus between discipline and academic accomplishment.

PCT ELECTIONS

On June 30, 2008, the terms of all PCT officers expire. Elections will be held this spring to fill the following:

PCT Offices
PCT President

PCT Elementary Vice-President*
PCT Middle School Vice-President*
PCT High School Vice-President*
PCT Secretary
PCT Treasurer

*The Instructional Level Vice-Presidents are elected by the active teacher members of the PCT. All other officers are elected by the membership of all units of the PCT.

Clerical Unit
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Only members of the CUPCT are eligible to vote for these offices.

Substitute Unit
Chairperson
Secretary/Treasurer
Alternate

Only members of the SUPCT are eligible to vote for these offices.

Public Library Unit
President

Only members of POBLA are eligible to vote for this office

Convention Delegates
Convention Delegate (3)
Alternate Convention Delegate (3)

The PCT Executive Board has adopted the following election calendar:

March 12, 2008 - Nominating Petitions due by 5:00 P.M. at PCT Office - Nominating petitions, obtainable from the PCT Office, must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing who are eligible to vote for the office for which the petition is circulated.

March 31, 2008 - 100 word candidate statements for Pledge due by 5:00 P.M. at PCT Office. - Statements may be e-mailed to the PCT Office at office@pobct.org.

April Pledge published prior to April 11, 2008.

April 11, 2008 - Mail Pledge and ballot to retirees and substitute unit members.

April 14-18, 2008 - Absentee ballots available at PCT Office.

May 2, 2008 - Mailed ballots to be postmarked.

May 5, 2008 - Balloting in each building.

In the event that there is only one candidate for an office, the PCT Constitution provides that the PCT Secretary shall cast one ballot at the Executive Board meeting following the date of the election.

LITERACY COMMITTEE APPOINTED

At its December meeting, the PCT Executive Board appointed the following volunteers to the newly formed Literacy Committee.

Lisanne Guerriero - K-Center
Jessica Walsh - K-Center
Michele D'Esposito - Old Bethpage
Margaret O'Neill - Old Bethpage
Lauren Pollack - Stratford Road
Lori Stitt - Parkway
Karen Isaac - Pasadena
Fran Agrapides - Pasadena
David Gestwick - Plainview Middle
Susanne Ferrara - Plainview Middle
Christine Bianco - Mattlin Middle
Rachel Bunin - Mattlin Middle
Rob DiTolla - Kennedy High

The PCT Literacy Committee was put together from the volunteers who sent in their names. An attempt was made to select a group that reflected the various grade levels and specialties that make up the district program.

The charge of this Literacy Committee is to take a careful look at our existing program and recommend changes which the committee deems necessary.

PCT members are encouraged to engage committee members on the subject of the district's literacy program. The officers will be asking committee members to give regular reports at building SRC meetings.

REMINDERS

Members wishing to make changes in their contributions to their tax sheltered annuity or 403b accounts are reminded the properly executed form to accomplish that must be received by the Business Office by January 15, 2008.

Members are also reminded to inform the Personnel Office by February 1, 2008 if they have completed courses that qualify them to advance a lane(s) on the teacher salary schedule.

RETIREMENT WORKSHOP DATE CHANGE!

PCT members who signed up for our retirement workshop originally scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2008 are alerted to a change of date. **This year's PCT Retirement Workshop will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 4:00 P.M. in the library of Kennedy High School.**

There is still time to reserve a place at the retirement

workshop. Simply call the PCT Office.

VOTE/COPE DRIVE EXTENDED

The officers of the PCT have announced their intention to extend the 2007-08 VOTE/COPE drive through the month of January. The extension was in response to the comments by some SRC reps that suggested that our collections were hampered by our drive paralleling the holiday season.

A report of our VOTE/COPE collection appears below. Members who have not as yet made a VOTE/COPE contribution are urged to do so today.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY SCHOOL

RETIREEES	440.00
HANC	0.00
PCT	330.00
POBLA	360.00
ADM	155.00
JFK	3405.00
MMS	1535.00
PMS	1035.00
PARKWAY	1310.00
PASADENA	895.00
OLD BETHPAGE	1070.00
STRATFORD ROAD	1660.00
K-CENTER	1235.00
TOTALS	\$13,430.00

TRACT CENTER NEWS

The TRACT Center is pleased to announce the addition of a poster maker which will be next to the laminator in the JFK Library. There will also be a bookbinder, which will be located in the foyer of the English office, outside the coordinator's office.

CREDITS WANTED

Adelphi credits wanted. Call Robbin Sigman at 576-0085. Hofstra credits needed. Call Amy Plutzer at 937-6404.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Boynton Beach, FL, 2 BR, 2 Bath/EIK. Backyard with patio. Reduced at \$240,000. Call Caroline Harris 631-663-3139.