

November 16th 2010 Citywide PTO

- Due to concerns about contractual issues with PTO Inc., PTOs declined to participate in the Market America fundraiser.
- At the next Citywide PTO meeting, we will be discussing the new bullying rubric that has been adopted by the city and providing feedback as to how this policy will translate into procedures at various grade levels.
- We discussed fifth grade fundraising activities and how they differed from school to school across the district. While PTO bylaws can dictate limits to fundraising, individual members must realize that PTO Inc. requires transparency, accountability and careful record keeping. We also discussed what kinds of activities the PTO should pay for; should a PTO pay for social activities, like parties, or should individuals participating pay for those events? Should PTO's focus their resources on supporting the educational mission of the schools? Are PTO's following bylaws and their mission statement when voting on how to spend funds? Are we overburdening parents with too much fundraising?
- We discussed the rising cost of E-camp, and the future sustainability of the program for each elementary school. Costs for E-camp range from a high of \$455.00 per child at the Hoover to a low of \$275.00 per child at the Horace Mann.
- School traditions...do PTOs periodically reevaluate school traditions to determine if they still meet the needs of students and families? How much of a school's culture is

driven by traditions which are repeated only because “we have always done it this way”? Are school traditions/culture being driven by a small group of parents, or do these traditions truly represent the values and expectations of the majority of student families? When parents question school traditions, are their concerns met with an open mind or with hostility from PTO members?

- What are the rules for paying janitors during after school meetings/events? If the principal attends, and there are less than 30 people, the PTO does not have to pay for the janitor.
- What should a parent do if they have concerns regarding the behavior of a substitute teacher? Parents should contact central administration, where the master list of substitutes is kept. If parent concerns are warranted, the substitutes name can be removed from the master list.
- What should our policy be regarding the circulation of information other school’s fundraisers? Concerns were raised that parents don’t want to be inundated with electronic/paper solicitations for fundraising. It was suggested that a PTO master calendar could be created that would list all school events.