

If you are not attending the PTCO meetings, you are MISSING out!

I would like to give a parent's perspective on the value of the PTCO meetings.

What is a PTCO meeting?

1. It is a roundtable type environment with presentations and open discussions
2. It is NOT a recruiting session to ask you to volunteer at everything
3. It is a place to learn about Principal Schleich's plans and perspectives
4. It is NOT just about all the events that the PTCO is putting on (Carnival, Walk a Thon), etc.
5. It is a way for you as a parent to be involved in the school and community and to feel included in what is happening in your child's day to day life.

You get to be in a room with Principal Schleich and the board of the PTCO, who are all very active members within the school.

Sometimes you hear a presentation from a faculty member – they come in to discuss hot topics or new trends in teaching.

You will gain an understanding of the latest plans for testing, curriculum changes and how our school rates. You will hear information on how our staffing ratio is put together. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and give feedback.

In the last few meetings, there have been great presenters discussing a range of topics.

In one meeting, Mr. Porter and Ms. Norris presented about the new Lego program and demonstrated how building these Lego models encourage active thinking, the use of math and science as well as team building. I did not personally realize the value of Legos until I was able to hear this and play with these in the demonstration.

This week brought Mr. Felker and Ms. Waheed in to discuss trends and topics in regards to social and mental wellbeing of students. They presented facts and figures from studies. Mr. Felker mentioned what they have done at Aspen Crossing to encourage the CARE programs and how the wonderful teaching staff is actively involved in helping our children with social situations and not just learning. They reviewed the early warning signs list for stress/anxiety and reminded the parents that we have the Care Line that we can call into if we have a concern about a student. A quick discussion was had about Social Media and its impact on our children's self esteem. I learned that Ms. Waheed works with both Aspen Crossing and Sky Vista which is a valuable resource as she is informed with both levels of education.

Once the presentations were finished, Principal Schleich discussed our staffing/student ratio and his plan for next year with School 43 opening. He went over the changes we will see in the upcoming testing periods and how they will be different next year and what we, as parents, can do to better prepare our children for these changes.

And part of the meeting was to quickly review upcoming events and what the most recent fundraising brought in for our school. I think the upcoming Bingo night looks to be fun!

In my opinion, this is all information I will not get in the school newsletter or in parent/teacher meetings. This is my chance to hear from Principal Schleich and his staff. My chance to ask questions and give feedback.

And... all of this can be done in ONE HOUR on one Monday night, every other month. And childcare is provided with all the kids playing in the gym supervised by older children.