



220 Summerdale Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
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**MINUTES FROM AGENDA / NWOCS Meeting
Oct. 1, 2009
Future home of The Maritime Academy
Conference Room
214 Walnut St.**

Members present for the meeting

**Maritime Academy
Glass City Academy
Toledo School for the Arts
Meadows Choice Community Schools
Polly Fox Academy
Phoenix Academy
Knight Academy
Autism Academy
Victory Academy**

1.) Imagination Station Presentation

Present

**George Mergen
Marketing Director
Imagination Station
419-244-2647, Ext. 130**

As Imagination Station prepares to open on October, 10, 2009, Mr. Mergen was present and gave an overview of what schools could expect this year from the former COSI. He gave out a brochure titled, "Essential Elements Educator's Guide". This outlined some of the resources available to teachers, including Science Festivals, Workshop on Wheels, StarLab, Interactive Distance Learning, and more. There is also a Field Trip Reservation form in this brochure. The NWOCS has several of these. Please let Matt Zaleski know if you want any, or you may contact Mr. Mergen. He also informed the group that there would be an Educator Preview Night on Oct. 6th, and he passed out information on that.

2.) Lucas County Health Department

We are expecting someone from the Lucas County Health Dept to give us a presentation on H1N1 Flu concerns for our schools.

Present

Rebecca Gehring, Lucas County Health Dept.

Tanika Redmond, Lucas County Health Dept.

Ms. Gehring and Ms. Redmond gave member schools an update on the H1N1 Flu. First, they reiterated what was said in the media in the days leading up to our meeting. We do not need to panic over this. Lucas County is not seeing the outbreak that other regions of the country have experienced. LCHD stressed the need for proper cleaning in the schools and for students to properly wash their hands. They gave a update on the vaccine for the H1N1 flu. When that becomes available to the schools, the Health Dept. will send letters to the school that will need to be sent home to the parents / guardians for the OPTION for their child to receive the flu vaccine. Although flu cases are not a reportable item to the health dept, officials would like school leaders to give them a call if there is a noticeable increase in flu cases in their school. There is a County Flu Hotline. That number is 419-213-4114. The Lucas County Health Dept says there is more information on the H1N1 Flu on their web site. School leaders can also download informational posters from the web site for posting in the school.

3.) U.S. Census Presentation

Margarita De Leon on the agenda for Thursday. She is a representative from the US Census wanting to chat with charter schools and talk to us about our students “being counted” in the 2010 census.

Present

Margarita De Leon

Partnership Specialist

Regional Census Center

419-324-7631

Ms. De Leon is also on the board of the Knight Academy. She gave an overview of the upcoming 2010 Census, and the Census in the Schools Program. She noted that the Census is expected to start in March 2010, and the Census Day is April 1, 2010. The Census will be supported by a national advertising campaign. As Ms. De Leon mentioned, the census is important in determining representation in Washington, as well as determining the amount of federal aid a community receives. Ms. De Leon had an informational folder. There is also more information on www.census.gov Please contact her if you want this information.

4.) Group Health Insurance Update

Present

Vincent Marinelli

Stapleton Insurance

419-882-0016

Mr. Marinelli was looking for feedback from members on whether or not to proceed with researching whether or not a group health care plan is feasible for the NWOCS. As Mr. Marinelli mentioned, in our April 2009 meeting there was interest in possibly developing a group health care plan for coalition members. However census requests for information necessary to develop a quote, were not returned to either Mr. Marinelli or Matt Zaleski. The NWOCS is asking ALL members to take a few moments and fill out this census so that we can see if a group plan is in our best interest. Mr. Marinelli told the story of one client who's plan was so successful that for two months he did not have to pay any premiums. Matt Zaleski will again send out this census, please fill it out and return it.

5.) Administrator's Report

- Review of Summer activities
 - **Matt Zaleski apologized for no August / September meeting. He was tied up handling media relations for D. Michael Collins mayoral campaign.**
 - **Sent out two requests for information, but received poor response. First was a form requesting school approval to use name and logo on the NWOCS web site. Second was an informational request for research into a possible group health insurance program for the coalition.**
- Request for charter school authorization forms
 - **As of Oct. 1, only two schools were listed on our web site, because schools were not going to be added unless Matt Zaleski has a requested authorization form completed. These forms were e-mailed out over the summer, but response was poor. Matt Zaleski will again e-mail these out. Some schools in attendance filled the forms out at the meeting. Those schools have now been added to the NWOCS web site.**
- Update: TPS Threatening Letters to Charter School parents / NWOCS Investigation
 - **Matt Zaleski gave an update on the issue surrounding TPS threatening letters being sent to charter school parents. Matt filed a Freedom of Information request with TPS to get a listing of how many letters went out, and of that, how many went to charter school parents. Mr. Foley said that some letters went out because of a software issue with a computer system. When a student went from 8th grade to 9th grade, for some reason the computer system kicked the student back into TPS enrollment, and TPS could not find the student, which is why the letters went out. Matt Zaleski said he is not buying this explanation. Mr. Foley also said that a deadline date for the Freedom of Information request on the letters would not be met because TPS had to review the information to make sure it was what we were asking for and not personal student information was being released. Matt Zaleski said he would keep members updated on the status of this investigation. Ms. Tobis from Meadows Choice and Renee Marazon recommended contacting NWOCA for their feelings on a possible software failure causing TPS letters to be sent out...**

5.) Administrator's Report (con't)

- Upcoming election / Do we want to meet with Mayoral and City Council candidates
 - **Members in attendance agreed that due to the importance of this year's mayoral election, a possible shift in Toledo City Council, and political issues that will be confronting our member schools, it was agreed by members in attendance that the NWOCS will hold a 2009 political candidates forum in an effort to determine their positions on charter & community school issues.**

6.) Charter School Recruitment Festival

We are in the planning stages for a January 2010 Charter School Recruitment Day or Weekend. Matt will give an update on the planning for this.

- **Members in attendance agreed that January 2010 would be Charter School Recruitment Month. Each school would chip-in \$500 towards a joint advertising and marketing campaign that would hopefully include radio and television sponsorship, as well as print advertising. Copy would be changed each week to reflect which charter school is having an open house that week.**
- **Members also agreed that in addition to the January recruitment effort, a charter school summer festival should also happen in late July or early August.**
- **More on this at our next monthly meeting**

7.) NWOCS Benefits

Renee Marazon wishes to address the group on the benefits of our coalition

- **Renee briefly discussed how the coalition might fund Matt Zaleski's position. Matt has been volunteering his time and money to help get the coalition off the ground. Renee would like to see if there's a way each charter school could kick in some money. Matt recommended that the coalition might want to first try corporate sponsorships.**
- **Further discussion was tabled until the November monthly meeting.**

8.) Toledo City Council 2010 Make-Up

Matt will give a summary of the possible make-up of the new Toledo City Council and what may be a problem for local charter schools.

- **Matt Zaleski pointed out that council make-up in January 2010 could change and have a significant negative impact on charter schools. Based on the Sept 2009 primary, two candidates --- Dr. Steve Steel and Polly Gerken --- both have significant ties to TPS. These two candidates, along with other city council members who are already siding with TPS / TFT on issues, could make life difficult for charter schools. As pointed out in one example, if a charter school goes for an S-U-P, city council cannot deny the S-U-P if everything is legally in order. However, city council could delay voting on the charter school S-U-P, causing problems. This goes hand-in-glove with the need for a political forum**

Next monthly meeting
Thursday, November 5, 2009 @ 9 a.m.
The New Maritime Academy Building on Walnut and Water Sts., next to WTOL studios