

## **CoCS Historical Record of Collaborative Activities & Solutions**

### **Introduction**

This "historical" tabulation is intended to try to capture the beneficial work of CoCS, and illustrate its importance as a vehicle for PTO collaboration. It is a list of the issues & discussions that have been brought up at CoCS meetings, along with the actions taken & results achieved.

This list is intended to be an organic vehicle, so it is likely missing items or details of the work/results. We welcome members (current and alumni) to add items or details that can help to provide perspective to CoCS ongoing mission.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>School Year</b>	<b>Follow-up</b>
<b>PTO Ops: School Photos</b>	K-8 Schools were each negotiating their own picture vendor, leading to inconsistent pricing from School to School and different vendors between Elem & Middle.	Negotiated a contract with a single vendor (Hockmeyer Studios) that serves all schools, PreK-8, providing consistent pricing and discounts for families, and a consistent (higher?) rebate for individual PTOs.	2013-2014	2014 - Issues with picture quality & printing  2016 - O'Connor Contract Renewal  2021 - Brought High School into the contract to increase overall participation and price negotiation  2023 - High School opted to drop out of contract and School administration returned to an independent contract/rebate.
<b>Parent Concerns: PARCC Test Presentation</b>	Parent and Teacher concerns about standardized tests aligned with common core	Presentation from Dr. Rodriguez	2013-2014	<i>(MCAS precursor)</i>
<b>Parent Concerns: Holidays noted on CPS Calendar</b>	Parents would like to see note of additional holidays (Diwali)		2013-2014	
<b>School Budget: Issues</b>	Parent concerns about discrepancies and unexpected layoffs of CPS staff as a result of the discovery of a HUGE deficit (over \$800,000) in the CPS budget.	CoCS issues statement of concern to Dr. Frank Tiano (Superintendent) regarding school budget issues and need for transparency from Superintendent	2014-2015	

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<b>Parent Concerns: Hosting Voting in Schools</b>	Safety concerns	CoCS hosts special discussion and encourages parents to take actions in meeting with the Superintendent, Principal, Police Chief, Town Mgr.	2015-2016	
<b>Teacher Concerns: Community Read-In</b>	Though a community level event, Teachers were feeling that it had become “Parent Read-in”, which they already built into their class planning.	Evaluated the original purpose and undertook a renewed marketing of the event to the community by leveraging Social Media and town gov’t reach to recruit “noteable” readers.	2015-2016	2025 - With Middle School realignment, consistent/significant participation by all 5th & 6th grade classroom teachers.
<b>Parent Education: Executive Function Skills</b>	Parent and teacher concerns about the student issues developing executive functioning skills.	Executive Functioning Skills Hosted Dr. Joyce Cooper-Kahn	2015-2016	Funded by CoCS, PResented 11/1/2015
<b>Parent Education: Students Activity on Internet &amp; Devices</b>	Increasing concerns from parents and teachers about student device and internet usage and how to address	Screening of Movie, “Screenagers”, showing how teenagers interact with each other through devices	2016-2017	Funded by CoCS, Presented 5/9/2017
<b>Volunteers: Tracking, Communication and Reporting is Difficult</b>		CoCS license for <a href="https://www.signup.com">Signup.com</a> shared to all PTOs, funded by CoCS operational funds	2016-2017	
<b>School Budget: Elimination of Teacher Positions</b>	Parent Concerns about proposed school budget eliminated teaching positions while...	CoCS arranges a meeting with Dr. Lang (Superintendent) and School Committee RE:Elimination of Positions	2016-2017	
<b>CoCS: Advocacy Committee</b>		Formation of an Advocacy Committee	2016-2017	2018 - Committee to follow legislation on school funding

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<b>CoCS: High School Voting Member</b>		Amended Bylaws to allow , explored adding HS to Picture contracts	2017-2018	
<b>PTO Ops: Inconsistent/Out of Date PTO Info on CPS Website</b>		CoCS worked with CPS to design and implement integrated PTO “landing pages”	2017-2018	2018 - CoCS added to CPS web  2025 - Microsite on the CPS website rolled out that allows PTOs to have their own access to update and design content. Includes an integrated PTO calendar of events that can be linked to District and School calendar that displays on CPS website.
<b>PTO Ops: Tax Accounting Questions from new Treasurers</b>		Presentation to PTOs by local Tax professional, to describe requirements and suggested bookkeeping	2018-2019	
<b>Volunteers: Lack of volunteers for Large events</b>		Partnership established between select Elem. & Middle School for specific fundraisers/events	2018-2019	2021 - Addition of Harrington/Parker Trunk-or-Treat Halloween event  Volunteers recruited for HS prom overnight after party
<b>PTOs Ops: Unclear about Purpose/Use of “Principal Fund”</b>		CoCS hosted discussion with CPS Superint. to understand and clarify	2018-2019	

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<b>Parent Concerns: Need School Supply Lists Earlier and More Consistent</b>		CoCS hosted discussion with CPS Superint. to understand school supply process, and ultimately led to earlier release and consistent supply lists for grade levels within schools.	2020-2021	202? - CPS Superintendent builds K-8 schools supplies into CPS Budget, ongoing.
<b>PTO Ops: Need Virtual Meeting Tool That allows for long meetings</b>		CoCS evaluated tech and cost, and arranged to fund a yearly account on Zoom for use by all PTOs (similar to <a href="https://www.signup.com">Signup.com</a> funding)	2021-2022	
<b>PTO Ops: Scholarships Not Getting Many Applicants</b>		CoCS investigated and helped PTOs to know how/who to send scholarship information to at CHS (and other HS's if applicable)	2021-2022	2024 - All PTOs moved Scholarships Online
<b>PTO Ops: Paper Communications Not Effective</b>		All PTOs set up Facebook pages and increased use of free websites	2022-2023	
<b>PTO Ops: Field Trip Bus Funding by PTOs</b>		CoCS hosted discussions and investigated the recommended process for PTOs to reserve and pay for busses that avoids liability issues	2022-2023	2024 -

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<b>PTO Ops: Need to collect Electronic Payments</b>		CoCS hosted discussion about how PTOs are handling this. Many opted to start using <a href="https://www.givebutter.com">Givebutter.com</a> or similar processing sites, also expanded use of Square & Paypal for processing was suggested. Discussion of use of PTO Debit card for direct purchases to reduce the number of reimbursements required, and how that is tracked and approved.	2022-2023	
<b>PTO Ops: Multiple PTOs Tax Issues</b>		CoCS hosted discussion where asked PTOs to share their experiences with Tax preparers vs self-filing	2022-2023	2024 - CoCS hosted discussions about Budgets and best practices for those reports. Also hoped to put together a list of all the different items and events tof all PTOs and also see if there are any areas where CoCS might be able to find bulk discount negotiation opportunities.
<b>PTO Ops: Desire to Expand STEM Fairs/Events</b>				2026 - All Elem PTOs had Science Fairs??
<b>PTO Ops: Desire to Expand Diversity Celebrations</b>				2026 - All Elem. PTOs had Heritage or cultural community celebrations

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<b>PTO Ops: PTO Insurance Coverage/Cost Differences</b>		CoCS committee collected names of current carriers used by PTOs, and created comparison chart, and also negotiated group discount with the vendor used by the most number of PTOs	2024-2025?	
<b>PTO Ops: PTO Events Conflicting</b>		CoCS asked PTOs to share “Year at a Glance” for Events & Fundraisers, at the beginning of the school year, in effort to flag any potential conflicts early.	2025-2026	
<b>Parent Concerns: Increased Device Usage by Students In and out of School</b>		Brought in “Digital Health & Safety Presentations – Katie Greer” for all Gr. 4-12 students in partnership with CPS funding for 4th Gr transportation to CHS for presentations	2025-2026	
<b>PTO Ops: PTOs Duplicating Equip. Purchases</b>		CoCS convene committee to develop “Library of Things” (similar to South Row PTO	Pending	