

April 7, 2008

To: Toledo Public School Parent Group

From: Toledo Public School Parent Congress

Dear Parent Groups:

Have you ever heard of Toledo Public School's Parent Congress? No? I didn't think so. I am writing you this letter to let you know of the Parent Congress in our district, what it is, why it exists, what it represents, and how you can be a part of it.

The Parent Congress was started many years ago when Dr. Sanders was the TPS superintendent. It was basically a group of parents from across the district that would give the superintendent feedback on concerns parents had and issues facing the school district. While this basic concept is still in place, and we work very well with our current Superintendent John Foley, Parent Congress has grown.

Parent Congress is similar to many parent groups with elected officers, meetings, agendas, and goals, but ours are for the entire district. Parent Congress currently holds a seat at the Board of Education meetings as the parent representative. Our goals include Parental Involvement and Legislation 101. Under Parental Involvement we have promoted district-wide Special Olympic bake sales, hosted a very successful and informative Brown Bag Roundtable, and held Parent Summits in each of the Learning Communities. With Legislation 101, we work to learn and inform parents of the funding issues that face our schools. We hosted a "Toledo Welcomes Columbus" event where Senator Fedor and Representative Ujvagi answered questions from high school students across our district.

Parent Congress is an opportunity to bring our school community together to learn from one another, share ideas, be a voice for parents and of course our children. We do not fundraise, have a treasurer, or work with any type of finances generally associated with parent groups. We do however encourage our administration, our teachers, our parents, and our students to work together as a team to create the synergy that is so needed within our school district. We have good things taking place in Toledo Public Schools on a daily basis.....lets talk about and promote what's happening.

Parent Congress meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month August through May excluding December. We start at 6:00 pm and end by 8:00 pm (at the very latest); meetings are held at the Thurgood Marshall building. We always welcome our Superintendent and/or his Administrators to participate as well as any Board of Education members. The President of Parent Congress will then be the parent representative at the Board of Education meetings to discuss the Parent Congress goals and concerns from that month's meeting.

Recently, we have amended our By Laws, so that we may involve all schools within the Toledo Public School district. We are asking for one parent representative from each of the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools within each Learning Community to be a part of Parent Congress. Please e-mail [parent.congress@tps.org](mailto:parent.congress@tps.org) to request an up to date, complete set of the Parent Congress By Laws.

**Per the 2008 Parent Congress By Laws:**

~ Members of Parent Congress must be parents/guardians of current Toledo Public School students.

~ Each member will be selected by his or her home school for a term of 2 years. Those schools involved in reform initiatives such as Knowledge Works may have a separate parent representative for each individual “small school”.

~ To serve as the representative to Parent Congress, a parent shall be selected by their school’s parent group. When an agreement cannot be reached on one representative for a school, all interested names shall be submitted for selection by the active Parent Congress President through a blind draw. In the event there is no active parent group, the principal shall select a representative. The names of the selected representatives must be submitted to Parent Congress no later than May 10<sup>th</sup> of each year via e-mail at [parent.congress@tps.org](mailto:parent.congress@tps.org) or by pony to the Elementary Education office Attention: Parent Congress.

*We are very aware that most high schools have multiple parent groups, we are asking you to collectively decide on one parent to represent your school and bring back Parent Congress information to distribute to each of those groups with in the school.*

Please submit your school’s parent representative information on the attached form to the Elementary Education office at the Thurgood Marshall building Attention: Parent Congress via the pony system or fax to 419-671-8252.

Thank you,

Christine Varwig  
Parent Congress President  
419-382-2021 (h)  
[parent.congress@tps.org](mailto:parent.congress@tps.org)