The Principal and the PTA

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The Principal & The PTA

- What is the role of the PTA?
- What is the role of the school administrator?
- How does the PTA work with the Principal?
- How do we ensure our goals support the school?
Parents: Child’s First Educator and School Partner

- Share responsibility for children’s education.
- Learn about school programs, curriculum, regulations and procedures and actively support them.
- Show commitment to education by attending conferences, PTA meetings, and other school programs.
- Participate in informed discussions, demonstrate mutual respect and teamwork.
Principals: School Official and Partner to Parents

- See that the school follows the curriculum adopted by the school board.
- Supervise all school personnel, including training, evaluation, hiring and firing.
- Be accountable for budget expenditures.
- Oversee the building safety, maintenance and security.
- Set the tone, climate of learning, professionalism and morale of the staff and concern for students.
What can the PTA do to Build Partnerships with the School and Principal?

- Present concerns and issues to the principal. Develop a forum that allows for frank and open discussion.
- Focus on education and how to benefit students.
- Be alert to staff and community talents and resources.
- Plan programs and events that support school goals.
What can the Principal Do to Build Partnerships with the Parents and PTA?

- Be available to the community. Invite parents to private appointments to discuss concerns.
- Work to make parents comfortable and welcome in the school.
- Be active in the PTA and encourage teachers to participate, too.
- Help parents stay informed on current issues in education.
- Recognize PTA volunteers’ efforts.
Tips to Build a Strong School Community

- Parents can establish a PTA that is inclusive.
  - Embrace all parents and caregivers; reflect the school community culture

- Make the principal–parent dialog visible.
  - Invite the principal to write an article for the newsletter; host coffees or chats with the principal

- Network with community establishments
  - Work with banks, hospitals, libraries to get free services and mentors

- Invite community groups and youth serving organizations to school.
  - Work to shared goals; shows, sporting events service learning projects
More Ideas...

- Carry out fundraisers tied to specific goals
  - Campus beautification, playgrounds, underwriting classroom activities

- Nominate the school or principal for awards
  - PTA’s Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence, NAESP Outstanding Principal, your district awards

- Promote health and nutrition
  - Healthy Schools program, school lunch programs,
Working Together

- Keep each other informed
- Work out problems. Keep an open mind. Listen to each other.
- Be positive and enthusiastic about your school
- Develop a win–win attitude.
- Celebrate each other’s accomplishments.
Questions to Ask, Comments to Share

SOUTH CAROLINA PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION