

NES PTO MEETING MINUTES

Northfield Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Lara Dubin at 6:30 pm

1. In attendance

Lara Dubin, Cheryl George, Theresa Tsipenyuk, Jennifer Hanrahan, Tom King, Ellenjo Gries, Eva Licata, Missy Kalinowski, Joanna Singh, Nolan Kitfield, Carolyn Baskowski, Kelly Gagnon

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 4, 2015, meeting were distributed and approved.

3. Co-Chair's Report

- a. Carolyn Baskowski was unanimously voted in as PTO Secretary.
- b. Bylaws voted on and approved.
- c. NES PTO has received 501c3 tax-exempt status from the IRS (applied for in July)
- d. New PTO website up and running.
- e. Cheryl will send out a notice to all teachers and staff asking for their picture and some personal information to be included in the updated Student & Parent Directory.
- f. There was a thank you note from Amy Hendricks (summer program) for the Science Tellers presentation that the PTO help fund.

4. Principal's Report

- a. Tom King reported a positive start to the new school year.
- b. New Community Building focus: 9 pillars: This month is the theme of RESPECT. Each month there will be another Pillar (theme word) that a classroom will be responsible for sharing at monthly assemblies.
- c. The new, large, painted map of The USA is wonderful! We are thankful to the PTO for taking the time to do this for our school.
- d. The Ten Spin (new playground equipment) is popular and being used. Thanks to the PTO for funding this equipment.
- e. Lara has asked Tom to check in on the playground gate as the temporary orange one is quickly disintegrating.
- f. Cheryl mentioned that Daphne Clark (preschool teacher) is concerned that the playground shed has a hole in the floor. Tom says there is no money to replace this at this time. We will need to find another place for the bikes. One idea was to look for a local business to donate a shed. Cheryl mentioned that the playhouse that is for the young children also seems to be falling apart. Tom said that it appears that the sheds should be a focus this year.

5. Treasurer's Report

- a. see attached budget reports
- b. Fundraising goal for this 2015-2016 year is \$15,000.
- c. The proposed budget was voted on and approved.

6. Teacher Requests

- a. Ellenjo Gries (fifth grade teacher) is requesting for both fifth grades that the PTO funds the magazine Time For Kids at a cost of \$151.64. It was voted on and approved.
- b. Carolyn Baskowski's request for the remaining \$49.87 to fund her unit on The Negro Baseball Leagues was approved.
- c. Ms. Pierce is requesting three bags of sand for her sand table. Theresa is looking into a possible donation.

7. Fundraisers

- a. The PTO sold 230 Five Acre Farm mums this year. Pickup is Friday, Sept. 18th. Total profit: \$653.50
- b. Meadow Farms Catalog Sale: packets go home on Monday, Sept. 28th; orders due Tues., Oct. 13th; delivery will be end of October in time for the holidays. School fundraising goal: \$5,000. Incentive would be Tom King getting his hair colored by Bobbie (local hairdresser). Class that earns most money gets to choose the hair color.

- c. Box Tops: Missy and Cheryl will send a letter home next week to families.
- d. Labels for Education: Sue Fuller is the current coordinator. Sue would be happy to turn this position over to a new volunteer. PTO will use current points to get 2, \$100 visa gift cards.
- e. Coke Rewards: All points earned now turn into cash (PTO will receive a check)
- f. The Target Education Rewards Program will end in May 2016. Updated information on local grocery stores and businesses offering educational programs will be available at the Open House.

8. Events

- a. Ice Cream social report: very successful. Too many toppings bought but are hoping to use them in March for another ice cream social.
- b. Welcome Breakfast: about a dozen parents attended. Huge donation from Dunkin Donuts of Erving. The leftover donuts were appreciated by the staff.
- c. Fall Festival: Saturday, Oct. 17th (2-5). The idea is to have a fun, free, family event. No hay piles will be there this year. Leaf piles will replace the hay and leaves will be blown into woods afterwards. Many exciting events are being planned.
- d. Pumpkin Carving Night: Friday, October 23rd 5:00 - 7:30pm. Pumpkins will be donated. Received a donation of pumpkin carving tools from the company Pumpkin Masters.
- e. Pumpkinfest: Saturday, Oct. 24th, 2-9pm in Turners Falls

9. Enrichment Programs

- a. Northfield LCC (local cultural council) Grant proposals due Oct. 15th.
- b. The Dr. Seuss Magic Show (possibly before Read-A-Thon, February?).
- c. Crime Scene Science - science is used to solve a mystery. For all age groups.
- d. Both programs were approved. Grants will be written to the Northfield LCC.

10. Playground Report

- a. Ten Spin and USA Map previously mentioned in Principal's Report.
- b. A possible new feature for playground: Stump Walk (in process).
- c. Nolan Kitfield mentioned that the 4th grade has set an athletic goal of running 500 miles collectively this school year. The track has gotten quite grown over. Cheryl is looking into some way of burning the weeds.

11. Old Business

- a. School Supplies: Kelly Gagnon expressed a concern that some parents either did not receive a supply list order at the end of the year or received a supply letter that was too extensive. The reason why the PTO is helping fund classroom materials is so that parents will not have to spend so much money themselves.
- b. Tom asked Kelly Gagnon to cross items off list that the PTO purchases and he will speak with teachers about this.
- c. Next spring teachers will be asked in April for their supply list. They will also be handed a hard copy of a checklist for PTO supplies as well as a digital form in an email.

12. New Business

- a. School Website (change PTO website link)
- b. Missy Kalinowski brought up doing The Pledge of Allegiance at NES. This is a state law?

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 8th, 6:30pm, NES Library

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm

Submitted by Carolyn Baskowski, Secretary