Zoom PTO meeting April 8, 2020 @7PM

7:00PM- Motion to approve March minutes by Kelly Cioe and 2nd by Kelly Langs 2nd

Present: Joanne Simons, Joshua Cyr, Jen Yager, Judith Clark, Kellie Langs, Eva Marino, Lindsay Beardsley, Rhonda Young

7:05-Joanne’s updates

* Navigating new normal of remote learning k-2 shift to zoom and seeing teachers, 3-5 google classroom had some experience with it and were ready to start. The feedback has k-2 shift to wellness Wednesdays and reset schedules; we are all in a different place but you are where you need to be. We are helping support families that need extra help, it’s an evolution for the teachers too. Today’s meeting with teachers they discussed how this situation is such a shock to all systems, showing frustration and see what works, revise and take a deep breath. Our families are doing a great job and so if you need any support please let NFS know, but know you are doing it right!
* George and Steve’s weekly check in (came out in city newsletter), families are in transitions and we are lucky that we have resources, how to get Gather or rent payment/ electricity. Eva to link resources. Some kids are missing from zoom meetings etc. Joanne is in knocking on doors to check on kids.
* Team effort, Judith mentioned within Portsmouth NFS has embraced this really well! Joanne mentioned that one of the things NFS is trying to do is build the emotional piece. K and 1st grade teachers, they are doing individual times with each of their kids. In 3rd grade, small group zooms.
* Wellness Wednesday today, Kelly Cioe mentioned William did a lot with poetry and Sam did her recorder. The music, art and gym teachers; Karen, Jill and Peter will be hosting the day next week. K-2 parent, click seesaw from Karen.
* Geskus is going to be reaching out via email to offer a complementary spring picture. Take the pose from fall but put in spring backdrop.
* Questions from the survey, 1) Kelly Cioe, we have been pushed off to 5/4 and word on street kids is we will be out for rest of year, but wondering if they could come back for a day or two or week, it would be very valuable for the kids. Joanne, mentioned Maine has called the year, there is a daily call with commissioner, the

decision won’t be made until end of next week. Teachers too are really concerned with the closure for kids. Hoping we can do a special event with PTO, when safe, to bring together. 2) A parent was frustrated with a broken device and is there a need/role we can play as the PTO? 49 Chrome books are being used now, they have more if needed. But, in the fall due to budgets and probably unusable, there will be some financial need in the fall. 3) Judith Clark, work through April vacation and we get out a week early. 4) Joshua Cyr, any idea about summer camps etc? Tara Kennedy, rec. dept (Camp Fun Stuff) will follow the Portsmouth Library recommendation. 5) Katie Dubois, Ian’s first positive year ever, he loves Mrs. Serrecchia, how does this effect plan for next year? Do we get input etc? Joanne said they do a great and thoughtful job around class placement; they will send out parent input form. April is the time and Joanne will make sure this will be on their agenda that they will discuss. 6) Jen Yager commented that families look different and where you are is where you should be, just to reiterate that message, that would help a lot. Josh mentioned that doesn’t give him anything to work with, wants more structure with the goal. Joanne said across the 3 schools they are creating a “power standard” the essential skills the we need to do in the coming weeks. Teachers and parents need to know! Judith mentioned people need to know they can reach out if zoom is getting over whelming. 7) Eva Marion, what is everyone’s rhythm balance that works with their family, it’s hard to focus in on. Message to parents, they want kids there, but it’s ok if it’s too much to reach out. Joanne is really trying to find out some information about digital citizenship. Anyone with questions or concerns can reach out to Joanne via email anytime.

7:40-Status of PTO Events and Echool

* No more plans for events or Eschool, and some ongoing fund raisers, small bulb sales and flower basket sales? Let run its course. Hanging basket orders, Katie Dubois will help facilitate.
* Yankee Candle, not finished paper orders and online sales. Still open to the end of school year. Eva put links on last newsletter.
* Maybe hold the silent auction for next year? Or, Kelly Cioe mentioned a drawing for teachers?

7:45-Budget/ Financial update

* Lindsay discussed budget. Lindsay update on finances. We will have a surplus. Josh wanted to be sure we don’t feel compelled to spend now, and we will be putting money towards an end of year event for the 5th graders.
* Kellie gave status on t-shirts made for everyone! 245 total, staff, teachers and kids. $750 was donated by Prime Buchholz and what to do with people who already paid? Total after $640.

Meeting next month for board members vote, reminder that we will be doing elections for open board seats next month.

Josh said he was glad we are all healthy and feels we had a good turnout.

8:10-Motion to adjourn Rhonda Young and 2nd by Lindsay Beardsley