**PTO MEETING MINUTES**

September 3, 2014

**Officers Present**: President: Tara Kennedy VP: Elizabeth Cross, Treasurer: Jessica Patten, Assistant Treasurer: Diana Frye, Secretary: Meghan Wyman, Volunteer Coordinator: Ruthie Sperio, Principal: George Shea.

**Secretary’s Report – Meghan Wyman**

Minutes from the May 7th meeting were reviewed and approved.

**President’s Report** – **Tara Kennedy**

**PTO Communication –** a lot of new board members...we will continue to update via Facebook and emails but we are looking to try out new ways to communicate with everyone. The whole NFS community is a part of the PTO.

**Parent Involvement-** Please join us!

**Fundraising-** we have fundraising opportunities coming up, but also feel free to contact PTO with other ideas!

**Principal’s Report – George Shea**

Thanks to the new and past board members. PTO is so helpful in providing what we do for kids at NFS.

**Opening of School** – has gone well. Enrollment is steady 263 (one fewer than last year). There was a whole school assembly on Tuesday to go over the culture of the school.

**Open House – Thursday, September 18th**

**Afterschool programs – MC3** will begin on Monday, September 8. Can be for flexible days or for full week.

**What’s new at NFS** – back gate has been closed – as Maplewood bridge construction has been going on there have been cars trying to use NFS as a cut-through. Gate will be closed during project to help with this issue. Nature trail project has been going on – have had help to identify species. Looking for someone to help build a wooden gate. Looking for a Grade 5 soccer coach. Please let George know if anyone is interested or can help out. NFS is getting a new furnace being installed, new LED lights, new low-flush toilets also being added.

**Picture Day – 9/12 –** looking for volunteers

**Fruits & Veggies Program –** looking for volunteers - usually Tuesday mornings.

**School Security Update** – still looking to keep school locked in the afternoons and still have a way to make sure parents have access to pick up students after school. This is in progress.

**Traffic & Safety** – questions about a traffic light to help with turning in/out of Franklin Drive. They were supposedly looking to do a traffic study.

**Smarter Balance Assessment**  - 12 week testing window to get 3rd – 5th graders tested in May 2015.

**30 Day Review – Tara Kennedy**

**Lawn Fete – June – Heather Pettis** - $2500ish raised at the end of the last school year at the Lawn Fete. This is one of our biggest fundraiser and a huge NFS community event. Volunteers are key to making this event happen! Need to remember to begin planning early and find people willing to head up important parts of this event.

**Kindergarten Play Dates – Jul/Aug-George Shea/Meghan Wyman** – Both play dates went well, very well attended!

**Welcome Back Kick Off-Aug-George Shea/Tara Kennedy**- Feedback - need to make it clearer who teachers are/ where they are. Question about giving out class lists?

**Treasurer’s Report – Jessica Patten**

**Budget Proposal** – PTO budget for this school year was discussed and approved.

**60 Day Look Forward – Elizabeth Cross**

**KidStuff Coupon Book - Sept. 4-19** - $25 per book and PTO gets $12.50 per book. Books will go home with students and they can be returned or purchased. If you sell 5, students get a free book. Can sell online for different areas of the country. Teachers get free books for checking in the books into the classroom. Will be due back in 2 weeks.

**Primary Election Bake Sale - Sept. 9** – Marie will run it. Please send in baked goods or chowder either afternoon before or day of the election.

**Water Bottles & SpiritWear – Sept.** – running low on SpiritWear, hoping to order some new items for this year. Anyone that wants to help research or if anyone has ideas, please let Tara know. Water bottles – looking to give each student at NFS a new NFS water bottle soon!

**Scholastic Book Fair – Sept. 15-19** – signup sheets went out to teachers. Times will come home to families to let them know when classes will be attending. Flyers will be coming home with some of the books shown... Looking for volunteers.

**Fairy House Tour – Sept.** – looking for people that want to make and send in houses to represent NFS, looking for volunteers – will send home a link, tickets are on sale – make sure to credit NFS as we get 50% of the sales. It’s the 10th anniversary of the Fairy House Tour this year! Can get a free ticket if you make a house or volunteer.

**School Directory –** Sept-Oct – Important information that goes home to families – calendars, contact info for students... Order form going home to families to sponsor a page in the directory. This was a great fundraiser for the PTO last year. Looking for businesses to donate $50-$100 to advertise in the directory.

**Fall Catalog Sales** – have done some fall catalogue sales – Genevive’s and Yankee Candle in the past. We’ve looked into a more locally based catalogue. If anyone knows of a local option, please let us know.

**PEP** – afterschool program for 6 weeks – available a few times a year. Forms go out towards the end of the month and classes start the end of October.

**Back Playground** – 2 final proposed layouts. Link will go home tomorrow to vote for final layouts. Voting will close next Friday. We will then need a building permit. Assuming that all goes well, we hope to have it installed by the end of October. We have $51,000. We expect not needing more than $55,000. We will try to raise that final $4,000. Question raised - if the PTO would back the gap in funding so that the project could move forward - Steve Metcalf made the motion that we do so, it was seconded by Phil Pettis. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

**Fall Fundraiser** – we no longer have a “social”fall fundraiser planned (like Haunted Halls in the past) if anyone is interested in running an event, please let us know. Some ideas have been discussed, but not taken on.

**Fruits & Veggies Program** – need new volunteers for cutting and preparing fruits and veggies as “lead volunteers” are not as available this year to help. Always need help on Tuesday and Thursday mornings after drop offs.

**Try It –** Through the Farm to Table program. They have an opportunity to have students try new foods. Will try to coordinate with Fruits & Veggies.

**Coffee Sales** – we have a NFS coffee blend through Port City Roasters. Order online through NFS PTO website.

**Newburyport 5 Cent Savings Bank –** We wereawarded a $2,000 grant for Environmental School.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Next Meeting : October 1st 7-8pm**

[**www.nfspto.org**](http://www.nfspto.org)

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