

PTO MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2014

Officers Present: President: Heather Pettis VP: Tara Mickela, Treasurer: Kelly Mee, Secretary: Meghan Wyman, Volunteer Coordinator: Teresa Hill, Principal: George Shea.

Secretary's Report – Meghan Wyman

Minutes from the March 5 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Guest Speaker

Farm to School – Kate Mitchell – has been volunteer school garden coordinator at Dondero. Now she is helping with the USDA Planning Grant for Portsmouth Schools. Only 71 awarded in US last year – only 30 specific for a planning grant – Portsmouth was the only one in NH to receive this grant. Our program is called CLIPPERS Farm to School Program. They are working on nutrition education and school garden information into the classrooms. Kate is working with teachers and parents and with the school garden. Grant is Dec 1 to Nov 30. Then they have been encouraged to wait a year and then apply for an implementation grant that would possibly fund 2 additional years of work. Looking for ideas from parents for ideas and ideas for ways parents can be involved. There will be a field trip for 3rd graders this year to go to UNH Woodman Farm. Looking to implement the once a month “try it” days like they have at LHS as they have funding for that. Looking for someone to possibly coordinate this at NFS. Any questions? Email - kate@clippersfarmtoschool.org

President's Report – Heather Pettis

Committee Updates:

Wellness Committee – fruits and veggies continue! Possible school-wide walks to come in the spring.

Grants – Newburyport Five Cent Savings to possibly support Environmental School. Looking also to gain a grant to fund the printing and binding of the Words booklet.

Playground – Continue to work with kid requests for ideal structures. Information has been passed onto the playground equipment company they will send back designs. Designs will go to NFS community as a survey for input. Did a walkthrough with the playground equipment company and with city. Will need to get quotes for ground prep and for equipment. The playground committee has begun to reach out to individual families to get the fundraising started. Looking to raise about \$72,000. Committee has already raised \$26,000 with initial asks. The playground committee has brainstormed a list of possible donor companies, but if you work for or know a business or have a contact with a business, please let the committee know. The committee can supply people with printed information. Are there any NFS parents who are Rotary members? Looking to contact them. Discussion was had about current fundraising methods and concerns about methods of who has been asked for donations so far and why? Committee members tried to answer why these initial contacts were made – people involved were and are trying to talk to people personally. The entire school community will be asked.

CPR/First Aid – Firefighters are willing to offer a one hour training for parents in the spring. We need to find a good time to offer this... Maybe after PTO meeting in May?

Principal's Report – George Shea

Gary the Clown – coming week before April vacation. There will be a performance the Friday before break. 5th Graders get a focus in the performance. All students will get time with Gary.

School Resource Officer – starting next week for all 3 schools. She is a NFS parent! Working on safety, wellness and security. Beginning to meet with Mr. Shea next week. One of the 1st orders of business will be after school safety access to school and safety for students during after school hours.

Common Core - handouts by grade level were made available.

Delayed Openings – will possibly be early release instead of delayed openings...

30 Day Review – Heather Pettis

Talent Show – Pam Shore – was phenomenal! Kids had a blast.

Yankee Candle – Kara Jolly – just due yesterday. The orders are pouring in.

Treasurer's Report – Kelly Mee

Budget Review – reviewed and explained.

60 Day Look Forward – Tara Mickela

Maple Syrup Project – ongoing – Randy Whisler – coming to an end on Friday. Many thanks to Randy! Over 900 gallons collected. Kids are loving it!

80s Dance – April 5 – Dy Kozikowski – Saturday – doors open at 7:30pm

Prof. Admin. Day – April 23 – will deliver flowers to Mrs. Lister.

Nurse's Day – May 5 – will deliver flowers to Mrs. Lister.

Wallis Sands Half – May 4 – 1st Water Stop on the course. Lots of runners! Need lots of help. Volunteers will need to be there early. Runners vote on best water stop.

Staff Appreciation Week – May 5-9 – will be on volunteer spot – Tara Kennedy will help.

Kindergarten Registration – May 15 – volunteer spot up for this day. Come help!

PTO Elections – June 5 – Need President, Vice President, Assistant Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinator

Lawn Fete – June 11 – Looking for game suggestions on PTO bulletin board coming up! Looking for people to tackle raffle prizes for donations asking or ideas for prizes.

Words – June – Teresa Hill – looking for donations, trying to get money for printing.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting : May 7th 7-8pm