



## NFS PTO Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 7, 2016

**Officers Present:** President, Stephanie Hausman; Vice President, David Loehwing; Treasurer, Gloria Manchego; Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca Bernier; Secretary, Kelly Cioe.

**Parents:** approximately 50

**President's Opening Remarks:** Stephanie Hausman

Stephanie addressed a crowd of parents. A warm welcome and thank you. PTO meetings changing up, business part of the meeting will be 30 minutes and the first half hour will be on topics of interest to parents. Tonight we are giving you an introduction to your PTO.

A new tradition of talking to a new person at the beginning of the meeting.

What I wanted to start with is, the reason I got involved in the PTO, it's the community of giving here. Everywhere I turned parents were getting involved.

**An Introduction to your PTO:** David Loehwing

**Becky Bernier: reviews volunteer opportunities.** The most important part of what I do is getting to know you and your kids. Best part of being involved is meeting the kids in my kids' classrooms and getting to know their parents. Keep developing the community we have here at NFS.

As volunteer coordinator, you'll be getting emails from me, Sign-up Genius. We won't hound you, if you can give one hour a month, one hour a school year, your time is valued and appreciated. We have a few volunteer opportunities on Sign-up Genius right now, check us out on [www.nfspto.org](http://www.nfspto.org). Visit us; sign up on Sign-up Genius to get on the email list. Like us on Facebook.

Research shows that when you are involved in your child's school, your child is more involved in school, gets better grades, values learning, and completes their homework.

**Volunteer Presentations:**

Sergio Bonilla, parent, did a field trip with his daughters kindergarten class. Brought books on wildlife themes for kids to enjoy, owls and salamanders, reflects my interest. Took the kids out on the George Shea Nature Trail, brought field equipment in and showed kids what he does in the field for a living. Engage and embrace your interests it may translate to a career for you.

Christy Greco, Lawn Fete, Food Committee, end of year closeout carnival. An awesome, fun event, silent auction, bouncy house, etc. Not sure how I got signed up for it, but it is great. We need fresh ideas for games and prizes and soliciting local businesses. Don't be nervous, just sign up, it works out, we are all a team.

**Teacher Presentation:**

Sarah Zoe Patterson, teacher that has used PTO funds. We applied for a PTO grant last year, and we are a beneficiary of the annual book fair. We noticed kids were asking to borrow a pencil or a crayon. We feel like we have a great space for kids to have access to craft kits. Knitting kit.

**Donations, Stephanie Hausman**

### **Free Daycare in the Gymnasium.**

**Please join us at the Roundabout for post-meeting fun! We will visit a different local restaurant each month to support our local businesses!**



The PTO spends about \$100 per student. We made a commitment to families to pay for every field trip for every student. We also provide teacher grants, scholarships, supplies for nurse Barbara, etc.. You will see everything listed out in annual our budget. We will vote on today.

Criteria in evaluating events: Is event a community builder, efficient use of money, does it involve a lot of parent time and involvement, can we tap sources outside of the NFS family. We sent a survey out the end of last year, have spoken with many of you.

We have made different decisions, we ask families to make a direct donation if they are able. We have a class challenge this year, every time a parent volunteers your child's class gets a point, the winning class gets a party of their choice.

We are asking for a parent liaison in each classroom this year, that parent would help disseminate information to the parents, hoping the personal request helps get more involved. But also, conveying back to the PTO any needs of the teacher/classroom or feedback from parents.

#### **What's coming up, David Loehwing**

Awesome meetings: programming of interest to you. Specials Teachers/Open Circle in October, Nutrition in November, Summer Camps in January, etc.

Wicked cool events include, Fairy House, movie night, Halloween Dance Party, etc.

#### **Communication, Kelly Cioe**

Parent board in front entrance way, our website, Facebook, Sign-up Genius are all ways to hear what is going on.

See Heather Pettis if you are not receiving the PTO email.

Please fill out our survey, how you want to interact with the PTO, and other general feedback. Those that fill it out will be entered to win a RiverRun gift card.

#### **Principal's Report: Joanne Simons**

- Start of the Year: 245 students
- Drop off/Pick up procedures seem to be going well
- Bus Routes: new routes sent out on Friday, September 2. Addition of bus should alleviate long rides for students. What happened? One bus last year, kids waiting 20 minutes after school to be picked up, and a couple of other issues. We asked the bus company to fix it. We ended up going from 6 buses to 3. We met last week, we got another bus to our school. But we are still hearing feedback from you with concerns. [SBartlette@portsmouth.k12.nh.us](mailto:SBartlette@portsmouth.k12.nh.us). Contact him. Why did P13 not get split? They use a program, buses also have to get to other elementary schools. We weren't trying to save money, we are paying the same amount. They were trying to fix problems and didn't do a good job. If bus is late, students still have an opportunity to get breakfast.
- Water update: pipes and bubblers replaced in front hallway and custodians office, we are good to go. Last April some concerns over water quality, some very slightly raised levels at NFS, significantly below standard levels, but we have a zero tolerance. Pipes have been replaced, passed recent tests, and will retest yet again. Health is top priority.
- First week of MC3, director to be hired soon
- Early Release Day is Wednesday, September 14, 12:10 EOD

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- Open House: September 21 from 6-7:30 p.m. Grown-up family event. Teachers will have an opportunity to talk about expectations, what kids will be doing. What's going on in the classroom. Wonderful fun night. Specialists will be here as well. Coordinate babysitters, we don't want it to prevent you from coming, but please try.
- Picture Day: September 22

**30-Day Review:** Stephanie Hausman, if you have any feedback on our events, please always feel free to email Stephanie at [stephtom@hotmail.com](mailto:stephtom@hotmail.com).

Kindergarten Playdates  
Back to School Event  
Kindergarten Try Out Day  
New Family Pizza Party

**Treasurer's Report:** Gloria Manchego

Budget Approval

Budget approved: Steve first motion, second motion by room. Approved.

**60-Day Look Forward:** David Loehwing

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
Election Day Bake Sale	September 13, 2016	Marie Nelson
Book Fair		Denise Chamberlain
Fairy House Tour	September 24 & 25, 2016	Stephanie Hausman
Movie Night	September 30 at 6 p.m.	Becky
Close Buy/Genevieve's		Sarah Gatchell
Family Halloween Dance Party		
NFS Directory		Heather Pettis & Tom Holbrook

- Thursday packets, Kelly Mee coordinates
- Fairy House, all the classes will make a fairy house together. A call for glue guns, collecting in the gym, put your name on it. Bring natural elements to bring in as well. Kids get a free ticket, parents need to buy from Stephanie or go on the website to purchase, so we get some of the ticket sale money. If you buy it the day of, we don't get money.
- School Directory, Heather Pettis: valuable resource. One of our bigger fall fundraisers. Every sponsorship after the covers, goes directly to the PTO. Please advertise, ask businesses to advertise, personal sponsorships are great as well.

**Meeting adjourns at 8 p.m. – Next PTO Meeting, October 5, 2016 at 7 p.m.  
After PTO gathering at Street, 801 Islington Street**

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