

PTO MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2013

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

Secretary's Report – Meghan Wyman

Minutes from the November 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Guest Speaker – Laura Burbine, District Wellness Coordinator

Gave brief overview of position - started middle of Sept – 2 year grant. Federal money there is now a full time SAP counselor at the high school. Holistic viewpoint of prevention - Help our kids make wise decisions early on. Feeling of belonging, connectedness to school. Laura is a former middle school teacher. All 7th graders will have the curriculum w/ PE teachers and Laura. Results based curriculum – required by feds. Transitions between 5th & 6th grade and 8th and 9th grade are critical for students and parents. How can we better support parents and students during these critical times? What can we do to help during this time to help our students thrive? Laura is very interested in involving more parents in the middle school. There is a drop off between elementary school and middle school parent involvement. Middle school is having a hard time keeping a PTO going. Focus groups coming up with parents and students about transition times to help improve these times. Laura is going to start having an article once a month in the bulletin sent home from the superintendent's office. Laura fielded questions from those in attendance. Feel free to email Laura with other questions and/or input – lburbine@portsmouth.k12.nh.us

President's Report – Heather Pettis

Committee Updates

Greening Committee – Toy swap 12/17 – at 6pm Looking for feedback on the garden. What else needs to be done or needed?

Wellness Committee – No news to report...

PEP – Looking to run the program in the spring. Looking for people who would like to run a class – there is a stipend for teaching it and monies for supplies. Looking to run the Holiday Home Tour in the off years opposite the Festival of Trees... Always looking for homes that might be interested in being a part of the tour.

Speakers – contacted by 2 neuropsychologists at Portsmouth Hospital. Heather will send out a survey to see what the NFS community might be interested in hearing about.

Communication – Heather is looking for feedback about PTO communication... People are wondering if the attachments to emails get read. Does the paper summary still need to go home – several people still like to get the paper. Heather would like to try out Mail Chimp to help people streamline the notifications. There is a Google calendar on the PTO website that can also help people get the events into their own calendars.

Principal's Report – George Shea

December Events – 12/17 – K-2 Concert there will be a dress rehearsal that day. All city concert -12/18 for grades 3-5 at 7pm.

School-wide Teaching and Learning Team Updates – focus on curriculum, climate and building goals. Looking at Next Generation Science Standards to see how to integrate these into curriculum. There will be a NFS Science Institute on Feb 20th and Literacy Night March 27th. Working on interior bells – trying to cut down on these during the day (especially on the interior of the school).

Spelling Bee – for grades 3-5 will happen sometime in January still working on putting the details together.

Lock Down – question about how the lock down went. George felt that it went well especially since there had not been a drill yet.

30 Day Review – Heather Pettis

Genevieve's – Sept – Oct – Katja Becksted – done! Thanks Katja!

Kid's Kreations – Sept – Oct – Michelle Vangel - orders are all in. Working to speed up order and get it back here quickly. We did not bring in nearly as much money as last year...

Staff Luncheon – Nov 8 – Heather & Kim – ran out of subs early... Had plenty of desserts.

Seacoast Half Water Stop – Nov 10 – Heather Pettis – was awesome! We even had compliments in the paper.

Cash Raffle – Nov 15 – Marie Nelson – made \$2000 !

Game Night – Nov 15 – Rebecca Nash Pannella Was fun! Thanks to Rebecca and all of those who helped.

Margaritas Night – Nov 21 – Heath Pettis – made about \$300. Thanks to those who were able to come out and help!

Dad's Dynamite Pies – Nov – Kara Jolly Made \$507 – enjoy the pies!

Treasurer's Report – Jessica Patten

Budget Review - report reviewed.

60 Day Look Forward – Tara Mickela

Directory – December – draft is currently under review. Missing a few ads. Hoping to go to press next week.

Fun Pass Booklet – Dec 6 – due 12/6 !

Spirit Wear – Dec 6 – order forms were emailed out but will go home in hard copy – order by Friday!

River Run Bookstore – Dec 14-15 – Anything you buy, special order or pay for 20% will go to NFS. You can also donate money directly to the school library – who will get to buy books at a discount.

Community Toy Swap – Dec 17

Spaghetti Dinner – Jan/Feb – trying to get a commitment from people to run this. Need to help solicit donations for pasta and sauce. Some talk about getting families involved in a sauce making or meatball making competition.

Other:

Tapping Trees – 5th Graders are still looking 55-65 trees in neighborhoods, 20-25 more here on NFS campus. Looking for some other trees to be able to tap.

Dance – A Saturday in April (12th?) would be what we're looking at for the VFW. Band and DJ... Looking for a theme. If you'd like to help, let us know.

Meeting Adjourned. Next Meeting : January 8, 2013