

Norwell High School PTO Minutes from the fourth meeting of the 2007-2008 School year.

Date: 01/10/2008

Meeting began at 9:30 a.m. by Joan Ankner.
Parents and Matt Keegan were in attendance.

PTO agenda, treasury report and attendance were passed around.

Only if we have your email address, can we send out the PTO minutes to you. Send email contact info to Linda Daley at poornitely@comcast.net.

Our meetings provide parents with current NHS information, an opportunity to meet and spend time with other parents, and ask questions of Principal Matt Keegan in an informal setting. Meetings are scheduled @ 9:30 a.m. in the NHS library and our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 13.

Treasurer's report:

Balance as of 01/10/08: \$16,005.82 less dedicated funds of \$5000.00, for All Night Grad Party and Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program.

PTO minutes from last meeting were reviewed.

Upcoming and report on previous events:

1. Teacher appreciation luncheon on November 27th was chaired by Pat Bigger and was very successful and appreciated by the NHS faculty. The next teacher luncheon will be on May 6th, an early release day.
2. Quiz Night, on January 26th, chaired by Sylvia Cairas, is sold-out. She is interested in volunteers to help with the evening. You can contact Sylvia at, thecairas@aol.com.
3. PTO donations to classrooms: 2 DVD players to be used in gym classes and other classes.
\$250.00 donation to toys for tots campaign

Matt Keegan's Principal's report:

1. Security is a huge concern and Matt is requesting that ALL parents sign in at the office AND wear a badge when they are at the school.
2. Important upcoming dates:
 - Jan 18th is the end of the term
 - Jan 21st No school due to Martin Luther King holiday
 - Jan 22nd will be an X day due to assembly to observe MLK holiday
 - Feb 7th Science Fair
 - Feb 13th small ensemble night

- The week before Feb. vacation there will be a drug and alcohol awareness

presentation TDA.

- There will be an internship meeting for seniors and their parents that will be announced via a connect-ed message soon. The senior internships will begin on March 31st.

3. The NHS received a very generous donation of nautilus equipment from the Hanover YMCA. "Thank you so much". The school now has a full nautilus and training room and it is being used and enjoyed in all gym classes and sports teams.

4. As a follow-up to this year's Leadership Initiative Grant, the students and educators revisited the drinking issues and discovered in more detail, through student surveys, the intense issues that exist with drinking and driving in Norwell. These surveys are being published and will be sent home to all families. Much of the information is very telling and it is hoped that parents will take very seriously the student's surveys.

A few examples of info to be reported:

. If there is nowhere to go on a weekend, students are driving around and drinking in their cars.

. Parents are not aware of how many younger students are getting into cars with older students that are drinking while driving.

. Students are drinking straight vodka and gin in Poland springs bottles.

5. There will also be a teasing and bullying survey that will be administered soon. Faculty finds that many students are desensitized to foul language and lack of respect for themselves and others.

6. The next year's budget will be looked at this month and there are many shortfalls. With the increased enrollments that have been steadily increasing and lack of funds for new teachers, there will be a real need to find solutions for the future. Many classes have a class size of 30.

There is a minimum of 3 new teacher positions needed. Some of the possible

solutions may be:

- . Students may not be able to take two languages or cannot double up on sciences or social studies
- . There may be mixed classes with honors and college prep or AP and honors.
- . Already the profile that is sent out to colleges and universities about Norwell and our requirements has been adjusted. Instead of 3 years of a foreign language our requirements have decreased to 2 years. Next year the science and/or social studies requirement may be decreased. Mr. Keegan stated, " There are huge deficits with huge consequences". Please become informed.

We are extremely appreciative of all those that have stepped forward to chair committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Daley