

PTO MINUTES MARCH 12, 2008 MEETING

- *Joan Ankner welcomed all in attendance.
- *Cindy Barry discussed the treasurer's report.
- ***PTO DONATIONS** were discussed by Joan:
 - The PTO has given out more this year than in years past to the teachers.
 - More teachers are coming forward requesting grants from the PTO.
 - The PTO has recently made donations to the music, art and physical education departments.
Thank you notes from Mr. Lantier were passed around the meeting.
 - If you know of any teachers that are looking to purchase items please direct them to the PTO.
 - Fixed donations from year to year include \$2000 for ConnectED and the student agendas.
 - Mr. Nycz and Mr. Herman are combining efforts to conduct a Physics and Engineering project which the PTO has made a donation to for supplies. Look for a demonstration upon completion of this project.
 - The PTO does not want the money in the PTO account to just "sit" there. It should always be spent in an efficient and responsible manner. One area that the PTO would like to " earmark" money for is new TV's. Morning announcements have become a problem, since the majority of the TV's either don't work or can't receive the feed from the TV Studio because the bulbs die out. Matt Keegan spoke on this issue. He would like to install 1-2 flat screen TV's in the café and have the school announcements run throughout the 3 café sessions. This would provide a single spot where everyone can get necessary school information (i.e.: tryouts, form deadlines, meeting dates etc.) Matt is currently working on this. The hold up is getting the speaker system installed. With the price of flat screens decreasing we might be able to install two for what it would have cost to buy one this past fall. Homeroom is only 5 minutes long and Matt would like to see the morning announcements come out of homeroom time.
- *The current handbook is under review; should it stay the same as this year (large booklet that is printed at the Votech for approximately \$1/copy) or put the smaller copy back in the agendas (more expensive). The general feeling at the meeting was to keep the larger, less expensive copy.
- ***ARTS FEST** – Thanks to all who hung artwork. To be held March 13th. Always an impressive night.
- ***ALL NIGHT GRAD PARTY** –Once again a BIG thank you to Donna Cunio for undertaking this project. She still needs chaperones. Currently there are only 4 and Donna needs a total of 10. The cost of the event will be \$66/person. There will be a BBQ buffet, D.J. etc. It will be held Buses leave NHS around 11:00 and **PARENTS MUST PICK UP** their students at 3:30 A.M. **NO STUDENTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO DRIVE HOME.** There will be a police detail at the high school when the students board and when they return home. Remember this is intended to be a fun, safe evening. In addition to the chaperones, there will be security on the boat. A letter from Donna will be going home to all seniors. Seniors who live in Norwell but attend other schools are invited to attend this event.
- ***TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON** – to be held on May 6th (early release day). We are looking for volunteers to help out with cooking, setup and cleanup. Pat Bigger is organizing this event, but cannot be there on the 6th and is looking for someone to be in charge of setup for that day. Please contact Pat if you can help.
- ***SENIOR ACTIVITIES** – The last day of school for seniors is May 23rd. Drive-in theater to be held 5/23; a senior event (TBD) will be held on 5/27; possible whale watch 5/28; senior breakfast, field day and walkout 5/29 and prom night Friday, 5/30 at Indian Pond Country Club in Kingston.
- ***PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS** – It looks like the last day of school will be Monday, 6/23.
 - Matt is planning on getting together with 16-20 seniors to go over his expectations for senior week. Stressing no scavenger hunt and appropriate behavior.
 - The Environmental Club is taking charge of getting NHS to do a better job recycling within the school. A green and yellow dumpster from Abitibi will be installed in the front of the school near the visitor/staff parking lot. This will be **FOR PAPER ONLY**. NHS can earn some cash based on the weight of paper that is in the bin at pickup time. Bins will also be placed around the school for paper and plastic and the school is working with the town on ways to collect/recycle plastic and metals. In order for this endeavor to be successful **EVERYONE**

needs to make a conscious effort. Thanks to the Environmental Club for getting this going.

-Morning drop offs and afternoon pickups are becoming more and more of a problem. Parents are trying to bypass the buses in the morning by driving through the teacher's parking lot with little or no concern for the pedestrian activity in this lot. Parents are coming very close to hitting teachers with their cars and even making obscene hand gestures to them as they cross the lot.

Matt is considering a police detail. **NO ONE SHOULD BE PASSING THE BUSES AND PEDESTRIANS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** Let's show a little more respect to the teachers who park in that lot!!

-**In-Control** will be conducting a presentation on Advance Driver Training. This is the only certified driving school in the state that is approved by the RMV. All student drivers and their parents are encouraged to attend. Definitely a worthwhile investment. Springtime is notorious for student accidents.

-**Parking spaces** are running out as more and more students are receiving their licenses. As of now there are only about 20 road spaces left. NOTE: parking fees will be increasing next year.

-National Honor Society will be providing the teachers and staff with an appreciation lunch on April 8th.

-**DRAMA FESTIVAL**-to be held at NHS on March 15th. Good Luck to NHS drama students.

-**GROWING UP ONLINE**-Those in attendance that saw the program thought it was worthwhile and it prompted conversation with their children. For those of you who were unable to attend please feel free to view it online. Go to www.pbs.org and search for Growing Up Online.

-**COFFEE HOUSE**-Matt will be holding a coffee house on April 15th in the evening to discuss the grim reality of budget cuts and how they are impacting the high school. **PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AND BRING 2-3 PEOPLE WITH YOU.** This issue is too important for parents not to be informed. Parents should be very concerned about how bleak the situation is getting. Among the concerns are the lack of sound teaching due to large class sizes, the state/decline of the foreign language department and the severe changes to the high school report that goes out with EVERY college application. This document is getting less and less impressive with each passing year, due to the cuts and adjustments dictated by the budget.

*Other items: Norwell Women's Club will be holding it's annual Fashion Show on Thursday, April 3rd at the Indian Pond Country Club. Please refer to the club's website for ticket information. This year the club will be featuring a community board which will feature such items as tennis lessons, someone cooking a dinner for you, homemade desserts etc. All the proceeds from this portion of the event will be donated to the fund that has been established for the Thongpaitoon family. Our thoughts are with Marlina's family.

***NEXT MEETING- Thursday, April 10th**please plan to attend....it's a great time to hear Matt Keegan speak on what is going on within the high school