

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

Date: 9/11/2007

Meeting began at 9:30 a.m. by Joan Ankner (PTO President).

In addition to many parents, Matt Keegan was in attendance and Dr. Beaudette stopped in.

New Treasurer, Cindy Barry and New Secretary, Linda Daley were introduced and thanked for their involvement.

Joan would VERY much like someone to step forward to be her Vice President, by yourself OR with a friend! If you are interested, please contact her at jpankner@ankner.org. Your assistance will be SO appreciated!

PTO agenda and attendance were passed around.

Please note the tear off section regarding the annual dues drive at the bottom of these minutes. The DUES DRIVE is very important! It is one of two fundraisers that PTO uses to raise funds that go to help ALL students at Norwell High School. You may either copy and send it in to the NHS office made out to "NHS PTO" OR PTO representatives will be available at Open House in the school lobby to collect dues. Our other fundraiser is the very popular Quiz Night that is held in January.

THANK YOU in advance FOR YOUR SUPPORT at both these fundraisers!

In addition only if we have your email address, can we send out the PTO minutes to you. As this is a huge way to stay current in happenings at the NHS, we encourage you to supply us with this info. You may do so by contacting Linda Daley at poornitely@comcast.net.

PTO Agenda:

Objectives:

1. Communication between students, parents and administration.
2. Offer a support for parents and involve the community.
3. Embrace the core values of NHS: Responsibility, Integrity, Learning, and Respect.

What we do:

1. Provide speakers on current topics for students and parents.

To name a few events:

. Drug and Alcohol Awareness Programs

. Risky Behavior and The Adolescent Brain Forum . ADT (Advanced Driver Training) and New Driver Laws informational session

For many of these, we worked in conjunction with the Norwell Women's Club, for which we are VERY grateful.

2. Provide Teacher Appreciation Luncheons- Pat Bigger is our chair person for this and if you can volunteer to

help, please contact her at 781-659-3464. Many thanks to Pat for her work in the past and in the coming

year! The first Teacher Luncheon will be November 27, and your help is appreciated.

4. Finance teacher grants and fulfill wish lists.

Recent examples of purchases and support:

. Music composition software and concert drum . Art benches in art gallery and paper cutter . History Alive program . Digital equipment and cameras . Agenda books for each student . Eagle scout projects that enhance the school.

. The Connect Ed program (the telephone connection system) . Healthy snacks for students taking the MCAS . Support for the Halyard/Yearbook/Boosters/Art/Music . Support and put on Senior activities; the Senior breakfast, and graduation all night party

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 a relaxed, casual, informal setting. Meetings have been scheduled @ 9:30 a.m. in the NHS library on the following days:

. Oct. 10, Nov. 13, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar.11, May 13, and June 10

Matt Keegan's report:

1. The rewritten handbook, rubrics, and scheduling plan are being implemented this year.

*Rescheduling allows common planning time and meetings

* New rubrics allows a common learning expectation plan

2. There is hope for a fulltime Math and Language teacher to be added and in the mean time, rescheduling

really helped stretch the teacher numbers.

3. This is a big year for special ed. changes and teachers will receive professional development on these changes.

4. Educators are working on better communication both in and out of the building . Especially with changes that happen once the calendar has been released.

. There will be a new "Clipper News" report that will be mailed with report cards . The NHS will work more closely with the Norwell Mariner regarding community news and events.

5. Through a Student Leadership Initiative Grant, educators are hoping to get to know more about the student culture and plan to bring student leaders together on an Outward Bound type experience over Columbus weekend. Team captains, student government members and National Honor Society members will spend the weekend with staff to come together and set goals in order to keep students safe. Student leaders will report back to peers and on going meetings will continue throughout the year.

6. Advisory Kick-off days will be coming up soon and there has been a rework to the system and homeroom

time to better allow communication in the "Advisory

Family"

. By removing TV daily announcements from the homeroom time, this will

allow teacher and peer advisors more time to interact with the students.

. TV announcements will be relocated to outside the cafeteria where a big screen TV will run important messages all day in a loop format to keep students informed.

Discussions and questions:

1. Many issues about driving concerns around the high school were discussed:

. Students are NOT the only violators of driving fast, illegal parking, not stopping or yielding to School bus, PARENTS ARE ALSO HUGE OFFENDERS!

Please read and obey signs, drive on the road, not the shoulder, park in designated parking spots only, do not double park and yield for school buses OR someone will get hurt!

2. Freshman transition is going very well.

3. There will be a connect ed message on the Open House

Please remember the Dues drive!

There are many volunteer positions needed to be filled and you can sign up, by either contacting one of the PTO officers or sign ups will be available at the Open house.

We look forward to seeing you at the Norwell High School Open House and at our next PTO meeting on October 10 @ 9:30 a.m. in the NHS library.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daley