

NMS PTO Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2018

Sejal Kelly, Mary Lou O’Leary, Melissa Allen, Lara Booras, Ann Marie Roche, Janet Lee, Jane Twombly, Sarah Baker, Kelly Ross, Cara Davis, Derek Sulc and Janice Mazzola.

School Committee Budget Presentation: Matt Keegan

- Budget Concerns:
 - Increase in special education out of district tuitions – this is expected to decline following the next budget, but next year’s budget has to be covered
 - Congress of Councils
 - Funds for improvements in technology with updated servers and wifi at all schools is being addressed in phases.
- There are some changes in staffing: 2 retiring teachers will not be replaced and cost of two additional Kindergarten teachers is offset by fees for Kindergarten.
- April 9th is Town Meeting regarding the budget, please attend
- May 7th important Annual Town Meeting

President Welcome and Report: Sarah Baker

- Recap of the Year for NMSPTO:
 - ◆ Changed the model of the PTO to a steering committee model
 - A total of 10 people took on projects they felt they could accomplish or worked with a team
 - This year there was increased turnout at meetings and participation
 - ◆ Open House
 - President spoke to new parents introducing NMS PTO
 - Set up a table to collect dues, provide information about cookie dough fundraiser and provided samples
 - A 2 page handout was provided summarizing NMS PTO
 - ◆ Dues
 - Goal to increase participation of dues: \$30 per child
 - A reminder e-mail to pay dues was sent in December 2017 as only 83 families had participated
 - This generated participation of 30 more families increasing the participation from 20% to 28%
 - Total income from dues was \$7,300, donations \$3,000, and cookie dough sale was \$9,100.

- We also had income from school pictures and the school directory, box tops, stop and shop and the Big Y
- ◆ Special topics
 - Decembers meeting addressed concerns of PTO with staff and school resource officers about the issues of vaping at the HS and middle school. Educational information from Derek Sulc was shared with parents through the school newsletter regarding vaping, the trend and risks.
- ◆ PTO sponsored events this year
 - KL Greer visit for students and families
 - 6th grade fun night on 12/1 with a DJ and inflatables
 - 7th grade tailgate 10/27 with DJ, slime and a corn hole tournament and ice cream truck
 - Back to school and holiday luncheons for the teachers as well as care packages for teacher work day. Also upcoming teacher appreciation week luncheon all week.
 - We will help with decoration and refreshments for 8th grade memories night as well as options for a family photo.
- ◆ Grants Awarded totaled \$2,652
 - 6th grade student day of poetry, \$50 for event and busses
 - March Book madness campaign, \$800 (literacy specialist)
 - 8th grade Holocaust speaker \$300 (8th grade teachers)
 - Presentation of Disruptive Technology for all grades \$800 (Mrs. Carton, Instructional Technologies Teacher)
 - Beauty and the Beast costume and prop rental fee \$1500
 - Private TV and monetary donation assisted with PTO grant to fulfill \$2,500 request for a TV monitor to improve communication in the school regarding events and information.
 - Fulfilled Bourndale and DC scholarship requests of \$7,700 which is \$2,000 higher than last year
- ◆ Continued work toward
 - Updating our by-laws
 - Getting insurance
 - Receive 5013C status for next year
- ◆ Members
 - Joining are 3 new members: Kristen Jervey, Sarah McDonald, and Lara Booras
 - We will lose Beata Takahashi, Jen Fiorella, and Lauren Carnes (thank you for all your service).

Principals Report: Derek Sulc

- Snow had disrupted academics. The staff is encouraging parents to check in with students and make sure they are on track with the pace of work and make up work following any absences is completed timely.
- The last day of school is currently 6/26/18.
- Recent events included:
 - Disruptive Technology which received great response from the students.
 - 6th grade read-a-thon
 - Beauty and the Beast performance was a success
 - Tomorrow after school is the 3v3 basketball fundraiser sponsoring a HS scholarship
 - April 9th begins MCAS testing. Please support students with a appropriate rest, nutrition and making sure their ipads are fully charged.
 - Tech Ed will be going away with the retirement of a teacher. The school is working to utilize 2 other teachers to incorporate important topics from their class.

Upcoming Dates/Reminders

- Empty bowls this Wed 3/28
- April 9th Town meeting regarding budget
- April 10th is the next after school session
- April 25 – 9:15 a.m. NMS PTO meeting
- April 26th - Early release
- May 7th – 11th Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Monday – Donuts (am) and salad bar (lunch)
 - Tues – Taco bar (lunch) and trail mix (snack)
 - Wed – Potato bar (lunch) and ice cream (snack)
 - Thurs – Pizza (lunch) and cookies (snack)
 - Friday – Popcorn and cake snack