**Northeast Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes**

**April 7th, 2021**

**Tota****l in Attendance: 10**

Parents - Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian, Tina Glidden, Rebecca Platt, Rachel Hampton, Amanda Pompa, Rach Cowperthwaite, Mallory McDonald

Staff – Brenda Greene, Kristin Doyle, Jennifer Buckler (BOE)

**Meeting called to order at:** Approximately 7:04pmby PTO President, Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian

**President’s Welcome:** Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian, PTO President welcomed everyone to the meeting and the month of April. She talked about enjoying the nicer weather and vitamin D. She also introduced Jennifer Buckler who is the new Board of Ed liaison for NES replacing Deb Rodriguez. Jennifer took a few minutes to introduce herself. She said she is new to the board of ed and has lived in Vernon for 2 years now. She provided everyone with some of the current events of the BOE such as the summer school programs that they are receiving SR2 funding for. She said that will allow more children to be involved with the programs. She reported that they just finished the yearly budget and vaccines for the admins and teachers. She said that they are working with the High School on getting students vaccinated and the new tracks & field that are being put in. Jennifer also let everyone know that the BOE meets twice a month and that they’d love to have more community involvement on their zooms. She informed us that the first ten minutes or so of every meeting is dedicated to community input. Amanda welcomed her to the group and thanked her for the info.

**Vice President’s Welcome:** Kirsteen Alicia, NES PTO VP was not in attendance.

**Corresponding Secretary’s report:** Tina Glidden, NES PTO Corresponding secretary stated she didn’t have any updated information to share at this point. She said that although the NES PTO website doesn’t get too much traffic she has been keeping up with it in hopes that as things return to a more normal state and we’re gathering as a community again there will be more interaction on it.

**Secretary’s Report:** Amanda Pompa, NES PTO Secretary was not in attendance so Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian went over the minutes for the March 7th, 2021 PTO meeting minutes. All in attendance reviewed and voted to approve the minutes.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Rachel Hampton, NES PTO Treasurer went over the Treasurer’s Report as well as the Budget. The beginning balance was $3,725.60 and the ending was $6,896.07. She and Amanda went over the information and said that the Munson’s profit was about $1300 which was great to see. Rachel let people know that the 1 check which remained outstanding from staff members had been cashed. All in attendance voted to approve the budget and the treasurer’s report.

**Principle Tidbits:** Dr. Greene, NES Principal agreed that the Munson’s fundraiser went great. She said that the order pick-ups went very smoothly as well as the pick-ups for the Square 1 Art fundraiser items. She said that the students seem to really be looking forward to their upcoming Spring break. She said the schedule had been completed for the state testing that the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders would be taking for Reading & Math. Dr. Greene let us know that she shared the link and info for the Boon Supply fundraiser on the NES Facebook page. She asked Kristin Doyle & Amy Violette if they had anything else to mention. Ms. Doyle asked her to touch on field day. Dr. Greene said that there was going to be a field day for each grade on different days in order to keep all the cohorts sticking together and not intermingling since NES is having great results with keeping to their cohorts. Dr. Greene also informed us that they’re working on an activity for the 5th graders since High Meadow is not currently an option. Amanda RH reminded Dr. Greene that the PTO has a very nice budget set aside for the 5th graders, which Dr. Greene expressed thanks for. They also discussed that the 5th graders are working on their t-shirts and that there is a contest to design something extra for the shirt this year. Dr. Greene said the winner would receive an Amazon Gift card and their artwork would be on the t-shirts too. Each student received a paper with design space to submit artwork if they would like to. Dr. Greene also let everyone know that the 5th grade graduation will be an in-person event this year in the back lot of the school. She said they are discussing how to set up tables and be creative with things. Amanda RH asked if they’d still like the PTO to provide popsicles like normal and Brenda said that it would be nice and that she’d keep her posted as Mrs. Maxwell comes up with a schedule. She said she’s thinking it’ll be C days in June. She had Amanda confirm that the PTO is not going to provide the T-shirts this year because they’re not taking field trips and aren’t having field day all together this year. Dr. Greene then mentioned that the 5th graders took the first “field trip” of the year over to VCMS for a tour. She said they all seemed to really enjoy themselves and the 5 minute bus ride. She finished up her tidbits with letting everyone know that Mrs. Joy was no longer working for NES and that she currently had no secretary.

**Old Business**

**Square 1 Art:** Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian let everyone know that the items were delivered to the school on Tuesday and all went home on Tuesday. They did find one order in the safe and Amanda was able to discuss the accident and the family was completely understanding and okay with receiving their order in a couple weeks.

**New Business**

**Paint Night:** Amanda Ruttenberg**-**Hakian reported that she was going to host the NES PTO’s first virtual paint night that’s going to occur via zoom. She’s going to be sending home all of the supplies with the students that sign up for the event so they have everything before the zoom. They’ll get to pick which animal they’d like to add to the scene and she’s looking forward to learning how to do break-out rooms on zoom. She sent home a 2nd flyer for the event and said that it’ll be held the Friday after everyone is back from Spring Break.

**Boon Supply Fundraiser:** Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian informed everyone that Amanda Pompa, the chair person for the fundraiser, had emailed her some info about the event because she wasn’t going to be present for the meeting. She wanted everyone to know that the fundraiser was actually “live” already although it technically doesn’t start until 4/22. Unlike in years past where a catalog was sent home, the fundraiser would be online only this year. They discussed that a flyer should be sent home to let families know about the fundraiser and that since the other fundraisers had gone so well this year they’re assuming that this one will too.

**Staff Appreciation Week:** Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian shared Amanda Pompa’s ideas for the week as she is the chairperson for that event as well. (She told the staff members present to cover their ears if they didn’t want to hear what was being planned.) Ideas presented were as follows: NES is the Balm – give out lip balms, hand balms etc. - Snack day - Grown with Love: pick your own seeds, pot & soil kits or plantable tags or cards - Thanks a Latte day, desserts & lattes - They also knew that there would be a staff luncheon provided either by giving out gift cards or ordered prepackaged meals for them. Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian let people know that it was just Amanda Pompa’s rough list of ideas and that she’d love to hear if anyone else had any ideas or suggestions for the staff for the week since we always like to do something different every day for them throughout the week.

**Yard Goats Deposit:** Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian said that we still have a deposit still with them from last year. She said that we could put it towards a game where they’d section us off or we could use the funds to roll it over to next year or to purchase gear to raffle off or give out as prizes. She asked if anyone had any thoughts or ideas about what should be done. Tina Glidden said that last year the Yard Goats were offering to roll over tickets or to go towards merchandise. She also said that her family decided to roll it over to next year again as they are not comfortable going to a game this year. Amanda RH asked what people thought and everyone seemed to agree to roll it over to next year.

**Mrs. Rock Retirement:** Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian reported that after 33 years as the NES Librarian, Mrs. Rock, would be retiring and that she started looking into different gift ideas for what the NES PTO could do for her/give her like every day items . Amanda said she didn’t have any big ideas planned yet but Dr. Greene said Mrs. Rock doesn’t really want a big party or large to-do. Dr. Greene said that she saw some folded book art but was told by another staff member that they were already working on that for her so suggested that the PTO do not do that. Tina Glidden said that a recipe book had been put together for a previous staff member who had a loss in their family that was really nice. She suggested that maybe the students put together some little letters or drawings for her. Everyone discussed how wonderful she has been, how much the students love her and how much she’ll truly be missed. Everyone agreed that more ideas and planning were needed and that by the next meeting some more concrete ideas/choices would be made.

**Mini Grant Program:** Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian let us know that Ms Sullivan submitted a request for more recess activities for indoors and outdoors like jump ropes, chalk etc. and games and such for indoor play. Ms Doyle let everyone know that the grant the NES PTO provided them with for the recess games has helped a lot with having to distance everyone. All in attendance approved the request for Ms. Sullivan.

The meeting was motioned to be adjourned at approximately 7:47 pm by PTO President, Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian.

All in attendance were in favor.

**The next ZOOM: PTO Meeting is scheduled for**

**WEDNESDAY, May 5th, 2021 @7pm**

**Meeting ID: 502 094 7119 Passcode: NESPTO**