

Northeast School PTO Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016
NES Library

Those in attendance were: Amanda Pompa, Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian, Megan Liebe, Christine Rylander, Dana Tedford, Jacqui Heidelberger, Jake Kalnenieks, Tina Blanchette, Brenda Greene, Amy Violette, Kristin Tingey, Susan Rock, Jamie Vallarelli, Jennifer Kim, Karissa Valvo, Tina Kloter Glidden, Shaneika Burchell-Kerr, Diana Reutter, Sabrina Hutchings, Crystal Jackson, Lisa Federowicz, Salome Robinson,

NES PTO President Amanda Pompa called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

President's Welcome:

Amanda Pompa gave a warm welcome to the __ parents and __ teachers/staff in attendance. She talked about how last year's PTO did a great job and discussed how we can build on that success.

Introductions:

Those present introduced themselves.

Vice President's Info:

Vice President Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian emphasized the importance of parent involvement for the success of the PTO. She encouraged parents to sign up to help at events, or help in any way that they can.

Amanda Pompa and Amanda Ruttenberg-Hakian both described two meetings held this summer where officers streamlined the budget and Fall events were discussed. They also reviewed the vacant officer positions: Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and two teacher volunteer positions.

Secretary's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Megan Liebe reviewed the current report which showed a beginning balance of \$9,575.26 from June 7, 2016 and an ending balance of \$9,578.67 for Sept. 13, 2016. Brenda Greene made a motion to approve the report. Amy Violette seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report passed with no objections.

Principal's Tidbits:

Principal Brenda Greene praised parents, teachers, staff and students for a great start to the year, emphasizing safety as the number one priority.

She touted the NES Facebook page as a great source for information (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northeast-Elementary-School/300206566826210>) and reminded parents that there is a text alert service for parents (sign up information at: <http://northeastchoolpto.weebly.com/sign-up-for-text-messages.html>).

Principal Greene talked about the teacher/staff role on the PTO – and committed to doing the popular Munson’s fundraiser again this year.

Two opportunities for parent involvement and communication are coming up: 1) School governance – Parents are needed to assist school administrators and staff make decisions impacting students’ education. Meeting dates will be Nov. 9, Jan. 18 and March 1; and 2) Parent Engagement – Three days of training (DATES) will be provided for parents to help families to become more involved with their children’s education.

She has booked three assemblies so far for this year: Nov. 21 – Magic of Math; Jan. 31 – Robotics; and March 21 – Basketball.

Picture day is Thursday, Sept. 15. There is an early release on Friday, Sept. 16 (1 p.m.).

A Spirit Assembly will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 20 to celebrate summer reading and math achievements and students will enjoy an indoor inflatable obstacle course on Wednesday, Sept. 21.

Question from Lisa Federowicz about September 29-30 conferences. Principal Greene explained that the new superintendent made this adjustment to the school calendar, eliminating the Fall open house and replacing it with early conferences which allow teachers and parents to have more time to discuss individual students. Christine Rylander stated that the September conference idea came from a parent/community meeting with the superintendent. The goal of this meeting was to find ways for come up with more opportunities for parental involvement.

Principal Greene encouraged parents to contact her with questions via email and those in attendance praised her promptness in getting back to them.

Old Business

Box Tops: Committee Chair Kristina Blanchette stated that box tops have started to roll in already. Once again, we’ll be doing “Tops for Pops.” The class that turns in the most box tops each month will be treated to popsicles at lunchtime. Therefore, it’s important that the student’s name, teacher and grade be written on the bag or envelope that the box tops come to school in. Box tops can be dropped off in the library or sent in with students. Fifth graders may be asked to help trim the box tops. Amanda Pompa stated that a message will soon be posted on the NES Facebook page that parents can cut and paste to their own Facebook pages, encouraging friends and family to clip those box tops and send them to NES!

Stop and Shop/Price Chopper: Committee Chair Christine Rylander reviewed the two programs, explaining that the Price Chopper program allows schools to earn points and then redeem them through a catalog. Stop and Shop calculates points based on those who are signed up to earn points and issues a check twice a year to the PTO. Flyers will going out soon.

Other Programs – Jacqui Heidelberger volunteered to look into Amazon Smiles and Diana Reutter volunteered to see if BJ’s or Costco offer school rewards programs.

Summer Board Meetings: Amanda Pompa described the first Fall event that was planned this summer. Lots of volunteers donated food, beverages and time to carry off the successful Teachers’ Welcome Back Brunch. The teachers in attendance at the meeting said the brunch was very popular.

2016-2017 Budget: Megan Liebe and Amanda Pompa reviewed the proposed 2016-2017 budget which outlines a projected income of \$13,025.00 for the year and projected expenditures of \$12,494.00. This would leave a projected year end balance of \$531.00. Megan explained that since the NES PTO is a non profit organization that our goal is to bring in money through fundraising that we then invest in programs and support for NES students. Crystal Jackson motioned to approve the budget. Brenda Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried with no objections.

Teacher Volunteers: Second grade teacher Jamie Valarelli and Math Interventionist Amy Violette agreed to fill the two vacancies.

Secretary and Corresponding Secretary: Crystal Jackson agreed to serve as Secretary (filling a vacancy created by a student leaving the school and Tina Kloter Glidden agreed to serve as Corresponding Secretary (filling a vacancy which hadn't been filled at the end of last school year).

Square 1 Art: Committee Chair Lisa Federowicz reported that Art Teacher Jayme Edlin has started working with the students on their projects. The art they create will be printed on high quality products. This year, Square 1 orders will be made in the Fall (Order Deadline of Nov. 2) and received in time for the holidays. Profits from this fun

Book Fair: Librarian Susan Rock reported the Book Sale will take place in conjunction with Sept. 29 and 30 conferences. Those students who are unable to attend on those dates will be allowed to shop with Mrs. Rock's assistance on Friday, Sept. 30 in the morning.

Ice Cream Social: Kim Derosier and Erin Pelletier are co-chairing this event. It will take place on Friday, Sept. 23 from 6 – 7:30. Flyers will go out in Thursday folders. Volunteers to help scoop are being sought.

Butterbraid Fundraiser: Committee Chair Crystal Jackson reported that orders will be taken between Oct. 14 – Oct. 28. Butterbraids and Otis Spunkmeyer cookies will be delivered on Nov. 11.

Other Fundraising Ideas: Amanda Pompa mentioned a science fair, a color run, Yankee Candle, Spirit Wear (Perhaps Crystal Blueprint).

Final thoughts: Amanda Pompa reminded those in attendance that the bylaws are available on line and that if there are changes people would like to see, that it would require a 2/3 vote. She also let PTO members know there is a PTO mailbox in the teachers lounge and that any volunteers should report to the office, sign in and get the visitor's pass before entering the school.

Motion to adjourn by Lisa Federowicz, seconded by Amanda Ruttenger-Hakian. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016 at 6 p.m.