Newton PTO Meeting Nov. 9, 2016

Meeting began at 9:08 a.m. in room 1110.

In attendance: James O'Tremba, Clare Ambrose, Cody Sherrod, Ashley Weldon, Amy Leach, Jane Becker, Jenna Sellers, Bethany DeBerard, Mary Holmes, Sian Miletich, Robyn Zaqoren, Ashley Festoso, Jessica Schultz, Erin Miller, Kim Caster, Brian Wyckhuyse

New Business

- October 12, 2016 Newton PTO Meeting minutes were distributed and approved.

Principal's Report – Mr. O'Tremba

- The Super Intendent is going to be coming to Newton on Monday, Nov. 14th at 3:00 p.m., in the mini theatre to talk about his vision for PLC days and the upcoming calendar. Wants to have late start every Wednesday – starting 1 hour late instead of 2, and adding 5 minutes to each day to make up the time. This has not been decided on, so input is welcome. Please come to the meeting if you can.
- The project in the gym has started! The screen for the gym has arrived and the electrician should start work as early as this week. The gym is going to be completed this year and the cafeteria will be completed next year. Projected completion date for the gym is mid-December.
    - An outside electrician had to be brought in, which raised the total cost by $6,200.
    - The school is going to need an additional $20,000 to complete these projects
    - PTO presidents will meet with treasurer and send out an email vote to approve additional spending

President's Report – Clare Ambrose/Cody Sherrod

- Updates from the LPS PTO President's Council (PPC)
    - Brian Ewert will be making a big push for PLC days
    - A big report will be coming out soon covering changes made to LPS as a result of the shooting at Arapahoe
    - A law has been passed that medical marijuana can be administered by a care giver to a student at school. Currently there are no students in the district that need this, but be aware that this is a new law.
    - On Dec. 2nd, 6:30 p.m. there will be a documentary film screening, location TBA – called "Screenagers" – a film about kids' addiction to screens. Anyone is welcome to attend.
    - Starting next year in 2017/2018, 8th graders will be allowed to take Littleton High School classes. Mr. O'Tremba encourages everyone interested to really do their homework on this issue before enrolling your child. Once LHS is chosen for your child it will be considered your home school.

- PTO positions for next year – IOI (Indication of Interest) – PTO is putting out feelers in the next month to find people interested in joining PTO, or if anyone wants to change positions. Amy Leach will move into the spot of President next year. Please let Cody or Clare know if you have interest or know someone you could suggest.
- Teacher's wish list from the book fair – PTO purchased 25 books for $244 – to be distributed among the Language Arts teachers.
- Mark your calendar for a PTO social activity, Thursday, December 8th. Exact time and location TBD. Please bring anyone interested in joining PTO.

Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Day

- Not in attendance – will send updates

Committee Reports

- **Fundraising** – Mary Holmes, Sian Miletich, Kelly Brandner
  - The Fund Drive grossed $31,321.80!!! This is the most money ever raised in the Fund Drive. Way to go!
    - An ice cream sundae party is being planned for each of the 3 winning homerooms (one per grade level) in the participation contest. These will take place before the holiday break.
      - The winning homerooms are:
        - 8th grade - P. Andrews Knight Notes Treble Makers with 70% participation
        - 7th grade - Gardner with 86% participation
        - 6th grade - Osthoff Overlords with 78% participation
    - Jenn Day, PTO Treasurer, has indicated that she is trying to get the 3% payment fee to PayPal lowered, though she has cautioned that this may only be by .5%. Jenn will also advise the fees PTO is charged by RevTrak for on-line donations made during Registration. For next year, we need to explore other payment options to try to reduce the fees that PTO is charged, for all on-line donations.
  - Community Knights
    - 11/11/2016 – Yogurtland - 11am-10pm
    - 12/6/2016 – Tokyo Joes - 4pm-8:30pm
    - 1/24/2017 – Chipotle – 4:30pm-8pm
    - 2/21/2017 – Mellow Mushroom – 5pm-Close
    - 3/14/2017 – Noodles (pending)

- **VIPS & PTO Newsletter** – Jane Becker and Bethany DeBerard
  - Newsletter looks great!
  - Need more volunteers for the health clinic and the library
  - Newton is going to add a "Volunteer at Newton" button to the homepage of the website to help bring in more volunteers

- **Hospitality Committee** – Peggy McCall, Charlotte Brady
    - No update this month

- **Backpack Program** – Jessica Schultz & Robyn Zagoren (LPS District Wellness Coordinator)
    - Over 60 boxes of food were donated to Newton from the Lenski food drive!
    - They are averaging 2-5 backpacks being picked up each week
    - Have plenty of food and supplies for now
    - Brainstormed other ideas for helping kids get the food/supplies they need
    - The program is going to start providing weekly bags of snacks for Mr. Wyckhuyse's after school study sessions
    - Holiday Outreach Gift Cards
        - Staff is coming up with a list of families for this year's gift card donations
        - Would like to increase the amount from $25 per card, to $50-$75
        - Would like to have the budget for this increased next year
        - Cards will be signed – "from Newton PTO"
        - The program would like to give to everyone on the staff proposed list

- **Community Relations** – Kim Caster
    - The STRIDE went well
    - A tent has been requested for next year's STRIDE – David Leach has volunteered for this
- **Staff Appreciation** – Kathleen Pope, Kimberly Lefever
    - There were Fall Afternoon Sweets and Savories on November 4th for the staff.
    - Cookie sign up for December will be coming out soon - please help if you can

- **Fall Party/Dance** – Ashley Festoso
    - The event went well – kids had a great time

- **Accountability Committee** – Ashley Festoso –
    - Mostly focusing on restructuring of PLC days

- **Teacher Grants** – Kelly Brandner
    - $3,800 budgeted for grants
    - Letter requesting applications sent to teachers by Mr. O'Tremba in Oct.
    - Applications due by Nov. 16; received 3 to date totaling $750
    - Need 2 volunteers to help review applications in late Nov/early Dec (did anyone indicate interest on PTO form?)
    - Grants will be finalized by Dec. 14 PTO meeting

- **Joint Parent Teacher Organization (JPTO) Scholarship** – Mary Kritenbrink

- Meeting tomorrow, doesn't anticipate any new changes. The application for JPTO scholarship will go out in December via email and in their school mailboxes. James will be contacted to seek his assistance in promoting the scholarship

- **Run with the Knights** – Christine Sweetland
  - No update

Other Business:

- Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.
- The next PTO meeting will take place on December 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Weldon, Co-Secretary