

Newton PTO Meeting September 19, 2017

Meeting began at 9:00 a.m. in room 1110. The April 2017 meeting minutes were approved.

In attendance: James O'Tremba, Amy Leach, Therese Revitte, Erin Miller, Melissa Smith, Sian Miletich, Charlotte Brady, Sandra Schlueter, Jenni Rosen, Michelle Barnard-Hauser

Principal's Report – Mr. O'Tremba

- The two student suicides were difficult for all of the school community. Many staff and kids were affected. It was a sad way to start the year. The community is pulling together and supporting each other.
- Student scores from last year were excellent again. The data was just received and isn't put together yet. Reading and writing scores increased. Math scores were high. Newton's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) will focus on writing. The District will do a site visit on Monday to review the scores and make updates to the current UIP.
- Mr. O'Tremba's feedback to the District is always to provide more school time and more teachers, because those are what impacts students most.
- Newton is a No Place For Hate school and a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) school. However, we are experiencing some intolerance issues with some students. We want support from the community to help prevent and address these incidents. A Holocaust survivor will come in October to make a presentation to 7th and 8th graders. Because of the mature nature of the topic, 6th graders will instead watch and discuss a movie called Vince about a girl's uncle who has mental illness.
- Cyber-bullying presentations were done through the Sheriff's office last week. We will continue to talk about it with the students. We are continually working to educate our students. There will be serious consequences when these things arise. Superintendent Ewert supports this. We handle incidents internally and will call in the police when needed.
- The first Accountability Committee meeting this Thursday. Mr. O'Tremba reached out for new people to be on the committee and 5-6 people responded.
- Ms. Rahne asked PTO to purchase Starbucks gift cards for teachers.

President's Report – Amy Leach

- PPC Meeting Update
 - The LPS Board had 3 positions up for reelection and no one ran, and so the current people holding the positions will continue to serve.
 - The Long Range Planning Committee for the District are holding "open houses" at the middle schools for people to come ask questions about alternative school start-time schedules. Newton's open house will be September 27th from 6 – 8pm. The school board will vote on it in December. The District website has information about the research and different start-time proposals, under District Committees, Long Term Planning.
 - On October 10th, at Mission Hills Church 5:30 – 8:30pm there will be a community meeting on suicide prevention. The meeting will showcase all of the District's suicide prevention resources, including counseling centers, commitment centers, and the Safe-

to-Tell line. The Safe-to-Tell line resulted in successful interventions in 120+ cases last year. The District website will have information about the meeting.

<http://littletonpublicschools.net/district/nr/community-conversation-about-suicide-prevention-healing-and-education-oct-10>

- Newton MS will be implementing Littleton Foundation's peer intervention program and peer-to-peer mentoring program with the students. Mentoring topics include how to turn in assignments on time, anxiety, how to handle playground situations, and how to get into college at the high school level. The program provides support and interaction, much like the current WEB program.
- LPS Food Services is being fined \$150,000 per month (federal funds being withheld) for violating federal mandates around food sales. Schools are no longer allowed to have events where money is exchanged for food, such as food sales for fund-raising. Examples include bake sales, Boy Scout popcorn sales, Girl Scout cookie sales, and high school booster activities. Regulations are in place to discourage students from using their money on unhealthy snacks. There is a moratorium on all of these activities to put LPS in compliance.
- Littleton Foundation raised \$314,000 last year. A list of items that the money is being spent on can be found on the LPS Foundation website.
- The Stride is coming up on Oct. 29th. Early registration ends on Sept. 21st.
- Per parent request, *future PTO meetings will start at 9:15 am.*

Treasurer's Report

- Thank you to Melissa Smith, who has taken the PTO Treasurer position.
- We are currently at about \$21,070 for fund drive. Our goal is \$30,000.
- We paid \$170.45 for teacher grants, given to Jamie Waters and Joanne May.
- The Arapahoe Credit Union gave us a check for \$675, which is the remainder for last Spring's shred-a-thon.
- We paid \$625.50 to Shutter-Up for the Halloween Dance. We are looking for sponsors to help offset the cost of the booth.

Committee Reports

- **Fundraising – Fund Drive -** Lisa Zook, Kim Caster
 - Our goal is \$30,000 for the year. We have currently raised \$21,070.
- **Community Knights –** Mary Holmes
 - September 19th – Bad Daddy's (20% donation)
 - October 10th – Garlic Knot (25% donation)
 - November 14th – Chipotle at University and Dry Creek (50% donation)
 - December 12th – Chick-Fil-A Southglenn (10% donation)
 - February 13th – TBD
 - March 13th – TBD
 - April 10th – Chick-Fil-A (10% donation)
- **VIPS & PTO Newsletter –** Bethany DeBerard
 - Waiting to hear about the first newsletter
- **Hospitality Committee –** Peggy McCall, Charlotte Brady
 - We provided a BBQ luncheon for the teachers and staff at schedule pick up.

- During parent/teacher conferences on October 18th, we will provide pulled pork and salad dinner for the teachers and staff.
- **Backpack Program** – Erin Miller
 - A lot of the Backpack Program food comes from the Lenski food drive in October, and that lasts throughout the year.
 - A Sign-Up Genius will go out asking for donations to the program. There is a cart in the front office where donations can be left. Refrigerated items are dropped off at the front office and immediately put in the refrigerator.
 - An average of 5-7 backpacks are taken per week. Additionally, staff sometimes helps kids pack their own backpack.
 - The Clinic provides food to kids throughout the day when kids aren't able to focus because they are hungry.
 - Last year \$900 was spent on KS gift cards, to be given to families for the holidays based on need.
 - There is about \$900 in the budget now.
- **Community Relations** – looking for a coordinator
 - This committee connects with new families, advertises the STRIDE, and coordinates Book Club, Code Cart, and the gift basket for the LPS Foundation Spring Auction.
- **Staff Appreciation** – Desiree Garcia, Lisanna Parkhurst
 - Starting in October
 - Will be giving Starbucks cards to the teachers
- **District Accountability Committee Representative** – Heather Mantel
 - The first meeting will be September 20th.
- **Teacher Grants** – Nicole Spiers
 - Applications will go out in November
- **Joint Parent Teacher Organization (JPTO) Scholarship** – Lisa Svede
 - The funds come from the District in larger amounts. Lisa be part of the group reviewing applications.
- **Run with the Knights** – Christine Sweetland
 - This event will happen in the Spring;
- **Fall Dance (Ashley Weldon)**
 - Scheduled for October 27th.
 - Students bring costumes and put them on before the party/dance in the afternoon.
 - We are looking for a sponsor for the photo booth.
 - We will ask families to donate drinks.

Other Business

- Kim Caster had just come from author discussion of *Queen Bees and Wanna Bees* by Rosalind Wiseman. Her organization is Cultures of Dignity. Kim is wondering if that's

something LPS or Newton might want to delve into. Kim is getting addition information on the program to see if this is something that Newton PTO may want to sponsor.

- Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Therese Revitte, Co-Secretary