

## **Newton Middle School**

Minutes 4/21/2022  
General PTO Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Sandra Barnes, Tiffany Hansen, Catherine Jones, Ben Berres, Alli Clinton, Michelle Larsen, Betsy, Tessa, Christine Izzo, Shawna McGuckin, Tessa Nesbaum, Betsy Burlett, Kate, Rebecca, Missy Crew, Jennifer Barnes, Olga Marlangoutous, Leslie Suh, Janet Arnold, Jennifer Benedict

Meeting began at 9:32am with a welcome from Tiffany Hansen. We have filled all open positions for next year in regards to the board, and had successful recruiting from incoming 6th grade parents. Ben Berres will be our new Vice President for next year, taking over as President the following year.. We were able to fill some roles with incoming 6th grade parents! The only remaining open position is for Community Relations assistant, but we will look to fill that role next year.

Kate made a motion to approve all current returning members (Tiffany Hansen, Catherine Jones) and it was seconded by Sandra Barnes.

Kate made a motion to approve Ben Berres as the incoming VP. Sandra seconded.

Sandra made a motion to approve Jennifer Benedict for incoming treasurer, Shawna seconded.

Sandra made a motion to approve Lisa Patterson for incoming Fundraising / Communications and Missy seconded.

Sandra made a motion to approve incoming Backpack program representatives of Rebecca Peck and Katie Johnson, it was seconded by Jennifer.

All board and committee changes were voted on and all passed with no objections.

**General Update** from Tiffany through James O'Tremba, who wasn't able to attend due to incoming 6th graders being in the building. Information on the schedule for the last week of school will be coming out shortly.

Code awards will be voted on by board members and Tiffany distributed the voting information last week. If any board members have questions about voting they can contact Tiffany or Brian Wykhouse. Tiffany explained a bit about the CODE award process.

James has indicated a potential use for the financial donation from the PTO to the school next year, to increase teacher reimbursement for the beginning of the year and we will increase the amount available for teacher grants. In the past we have earmarked \$50 a teacher for supplies, but we will increase that amount to \$75. We also fulfill teacher grants for things like speciality science tables and Abraham Lincoln impersonators, for example. We are proposing spending additional funds on teacher grants next year. We have concluded paying for the fitness lab, which was the previous large donation for the school for the previous two years. .

### **Shred - A - Thon**

Update from Alli, the event is Saturday and while the advertised time is 9:30 we will actually be ready to take customers at 8am. Volunteers are lined up. We could still use another volunteer at 8AM. Last year we raised \$12,000. Previous years we raised around 5-6 thousand. The bump was likely due to the pandemic.

### **Staff Appreciation**

Shawna updated us on the upcoming Staff Appreciation Week.

The plan for the week of May 2nd.

Monday - Staff will receive a gift certificate for a \$20 car cash at Waterworks.

Tuesday - The Burger Bus food truck will be providing lunch.

Wednesday - In the morning we will have a coffee barista at the front lobby at 8:30. Catherine Jones will monitor the coffee cart, and Maggie Benedict will help out.

Thursday - Snooze will be providing breakfast burritos for \$200 total paid by the PTO

Friday - Snack Attack - we will ask the Newton Community to donate snacks for the teachers which students can drop off at the office. If anyone wants to help they can show up Friday morning at 8:15am.

Total budget is around \$4,000

Jamie is also going to be sending an email to PTO asking for ecards to be sent to all staff members. PTO members should look for the email next week. Jamie will also be putting signs out front of the school.

Options - We will be providing the Options school (which does not have a PTO) with \$750 for them to use for staff appreciation. Sandra will be giving it directly to the school.

**Street Smarts** - We moved up to 3rd place in the Streets of Southglenn program. That would put us on track to earn \$1500 in money to be spent at Streets of Southglenn. Money must be spent by June 1st. Last year we spent \$1100 on a back to school luncheon and Betsy will research a way to spend the money at the Streets of Southglenn. Kate will research what the specific limits are for spending the money.

**SUBMIT RECEIPTS!**

**8th grade celebration** - Kate updated that 2 food trucks are coming on the 8th to serve 8th graders. Kids will receive wristbands. Total to be spent is \$2500. Students will NOT be asked to contribute any money financially. Sandra will be in attendance to pay for the trucks.

Olga updated us on the planned retirement tea - cake and balloons have been ordered. She is set to come decorate that day. Drinks will be provided. Olga is making baklava and also providing a cake from Costco.

**Minutes Approval** - Jennifer Benedict motioned to approve minutes for the year, and Tiffany seconded.

There was some concern about the February meeting minutes due to the sensitive nature of the discussion regarding Rex dolls. Follow Up - the SRO suggested that we just buy the version of the doll with less tags.

**Annual Campaign Kick Off** - Tiffany mentioned that donations through RexTrek will begin in July, so that anyone who donates to the PTO through the fees program can begin at that time. Bylaws, the bylaws seem to need some serious clean up, and Tiffany will work on it over the summer.

**Backpack Program Update** - Rebecca Peck provided an update. The backpack program provides food to any students who have food insecurity. For now, we will begin in May to partner with a non-profit called Backpack Society that delivers food to schools directly and it will be distributed by the counseling office. Bags will be delivered to the school on Thursday. The non-profit also offers a one time drive thru for families as well. It was suggested that we increase visibility to families using the website. Megan Roder is the contact person from the counseling department. We also need to update staff members on how to help enroll students into the program. \$500 from the PTO budget is earmarked to the program, and we will decide next year on how we can best appropriate that money.

**Financial Update** - Sandra Barnes presented the budget for next year. The proposed budget will be adjusted to remove any fees for background checks as those are no longer being done. We will be updating the amount earmarked for teacher grants as that is where Mr. O'Tremba would like to emphasize money. We are removing the End of the Year BBQ from the budget as we no longer provide funds for that program. We will change that line item to Retirement Celebration for \$300.

We have \$10,500 earmarked for the school contribution (previously used for the Fitness Lab and Rock Wall) and will direct it to additional teacher support.

Rebecca made a motion to approve the budget for the following school year. Missy Crew seconded and the budget was approved.

Tiffany provided an update on construction - according to the district wide president's meeting and Brian Ewart, a lack of asbestosis mitigators has delayed the tearing down of the old building.

Sandra mentioned that we need to increase interaction with the teachers. We will consider adding a budget line item for having a substitute teacher (Sandra will add to the budget) to take the place of a teacher so they can attend PTO meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58am. This is the final meeting of the year!

