

February 2022 Newton Middle School PTO Meeting

Attendees:

Tracy Dohig, Angie, James O'Tremba, Catherine Jones, Tiffany Hansen, Jamie Turman, Sandra Barnes, Alli Rassmun, Kate Dore, Oglia Mantangoutous, Missy Crew, Megan Wilson, Jill, Megan

Tiffany called the meeting to order at 9:33am

Vision and Hearing Screening took place and went well, thank you to the volunteers who assisted the school.

Valentine's Appreciation went well and candy and treats were distributed to all the staff.

There is a link online to check out the new Career Exploration Center and follow along on the development of the new LPS facility and program.

Alli Clinton

Update on the Shred A Thon for April 23. PTO members have done well distributing the information in the community, on NextDoor, to Elementary School neighborhoods, etc. It will be advertised on the marquee as we get closer to the event. Arapahoe Credit Union will handle most of the set up, and a Sign Up for Volunteers will go out next month.

Sandra Barnes - Budget Update

Sandra shared an update on the budget. All the money has finally come in and we are at 111 percent above our goal. Sandra will be giving the school the check for our commitment (\$20,000) for the Fitness Lab. We have a good amount of money left for staff appreciation. We have set aside dollars to fund some form of the backpack program, in lieu of trying to store food. Rebecca and Sandra and Tiffany will meet to discuss logistics for the backpack program.

Tiffany is working with her neighbor (Owner of the Garden of the Paws) on our basket for the Spirit Celebration. The basket is due March 11th.

Tiffany introduced Tracy who will be joining the PTO board next year. She is new to the area. She will be working with Betsy on Staff Appreciation next year.

Olga and Jill are working on the end of the year BBQ event, and the school will need to go through Nutritional Services. We won't need a lot of help from the PTO.

We will be having a retirement celebration for staff, and will need a small celebration for three staff. Jill and Olga will meet with Tiffany to see if it makes sense for them to assist. The celebration will be May 19th. (Update, Jill and Olga will assist with the event)

Open positions for next year. We still need to fill Vice President, Fundraising communications, and Community Relations. We will try and look to the incoming 6th grade parents to fill these roles to include a larger variety of individuals.

Staff Appreciation - Jamie offered an update on what's taking place with Staff Appreciation. Contact Shawna McGukin, if you would like to attend a planning meeting on plans going forward. Meeting will be March 31st. Actual Staff Appreciation week is May 2-6. Last year we did coffee truck, burger truck, and sweets truck, and provided baskets of treats, plus a small gift card. The food trucks ran around \$2300 total.

James explained that a new service dog will be coming to Newton in the fall, and a fundraising event is taking place to raise money for the training of the service animals. James would like the PTO to purchase 20 Rex Stuffed animals to give away as part of the code raffles next month. The stuffed animals cost \$20. Dog tags which say 'Police Lives Matter' will be removed so as to not have any political connotations to the stuffed animals, as some students who has seen the stuffed animals at the school expressed concerns for the message conveyed. We would need a total of \$400 for the raffle. We will use some of the money set aside for the end of the year BBQ (which we no longer need) for the code raffle. James will check with Mr. Finer on the possibilities of making unique tags for the animals. The importance of communicating to those who felt distress at the tags was emphasized, and Mr. O'Tremba will follow up.

We have one remaining restaurant night at chipotle in March.

James shared that the staff does get very excited when there are treats or events available for them, and it can make their day.

We discussed the possibility of doing a school dance and James shared that in the past dances were only attended by mostly girls. We will look into doing something different next year. Anyone with ideas should contact a board member with possible ideas for things that kids would enjoy. James explained how we used to do the Run With the Knights. Many present expressed a desire to have some sort of event. The final Wednesday of the year would be the best date. We discussed many options from food trucks to Kona Ice Trucks. Megan, Kate and Sandra will work on brainstorming some other options. We took a vote on having some sort of event and everyone agrees it is something we should pursue. They will work with James to further narrow down options. James will also touch base with the school's SRO.

We took a vote to raise the amount budgeted for Staff Appreciation week to an increased amount of \$2500 extra for the cost of Staff Appreciation week in May, and all individuals vote to make the raise.

We continue to have members of the PTO to reach out to incoming elementary schools to provide a welcome to the incoming parents. April 7th the school will host a meeting for the incoming parents, and we will have a presence there. Tiffany will set up a table there, and look for volunteers. We will likely pass out more magnets to incoming parents.

Principal's Update

April 7th will be a meeting for the incoming parents for next year. Presentations will begin at the elementary schools. Incoming 6th graders don't really have to make class selections as they are scheduled for all electives. Students will come visit the school and take a tour, and Web Leaders will be assisting the staff. Testing for incoming 6th graders will all be online and the information is in packets being provided to the students at their elementary school.

We will gain 2.5 teachers next year. We will need to hire between 5-7 positions for the fall based on movements of staff and retirements. Next year's budget just arrived. Projected enrollment for next year is 788 students. Positions will be posted soon.

James was asked about his retirement, and he isn't leaving immediately but in the next few years retirement is likely.

There will be no spring Parent Teacher Conferences unless there is an issue with a student, in which case the teacher will reach out to the parents to set up a meeting.

Bylaw Review

Tiffany will send out a copy of the bylaws and if people would review them and provide any feedback, that would be helpful.

Tiffany provided an update on the LPS School Board meeting. Things were contentious at the last meeting. Alli can provide an update to any individuals who are interested. From a PTO perspective, the board must remain unpolitical, but we can provide a voice of support. From a staff perspective, James has always felt supported by both the district and the PTO.

Tiffany shared words of thanks for the community for supporting the PTO. James agreed.

The suggestion was made to consider thanking "up" to the administration and district personnel who support the school. Tiffany will follow up at the next PPC meeting on what rules may be in place.

The meeting was adjourned by Tiffany at 11:01am.

