

# March 2022 Newtown PTO Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2022

## **Attendees:**

James O'Tremba, Tiffany Hansen, Stephanie Benedict, Sandra Barnes, Jamie Turman, Alli Clinton, Kate, Brian Wykhouse, Jill, Megan Wilson, Catherine Jones

## **Principal's Update:**

James called attention to the CMAS schedule and the option to OPT out of testing. Forms must be turned in if a student is choosing to OPT out.

Spring break begins this week.

Brian Wykhouse shared information on the CODE awards. Students can nominate their peers, staff members can nominate students, and community members can nominate students. CODE awards are given out to students who demonstrate the CODE conduct standards. Brian and staff will narrow down the nominations and redact the information that makes the nominated individuals identifiable. PTO will then look at the nominations and vote on winners. April 9th is the deadline for submissions. Members of the PTO will be contacted by Tiffany who will distribute it to the PTO members who wish to participate in the voting process.

James shared some information on how the other middle schools handle different recognition programs. Other middle schools are far more academically oriented. Newton will continue to seek out different ways to recognize students, including character and growth. Brian continues to nominate students for awards outside of the community as well.

A meeting will be set up with James to follow up on the backpack program, to provide food for students with food insecurity over weekends.

Jill updated that she and Olga are making progress on the retirement celebration. They will continue to work with the school on the planning process.

Megan updated the group on the 8th grade celebration. It will be the 18th of May after lunch. There will be an ice cream and Churro truck (the Snowy Churro) and Kona Ice truck. The PTO will fund the trucks, and anything over the budget will be handled with the school's budget. We will likely add in a party budget for each grade for next year.

Shred A Thon is going well - Alli provided an update. April 23rd is the event. Right after Spring Break the office will add it to the sign on Arapahoe. Alli will be sending out a sign up genius this week. We will also have hand outs for the King Soopers program. We may set up a QR code to make it easier to sign up. Catherine Jones will have her student make videos for Amazon Smiles and KingSoopers demonstrating how to setup the accounts.

Staff Appreciation - There will be a meeting at Indulge led by Jamie to discuss next year's plans (March 31 at 6pm) Contact Jamie if you are interested.

Options - We supported Options last year by providing them furniture from the old building. James explained how Newton has provided money for uniforms for the Options sports teams for use in the next fall. Options doesn't have a PTO to assist the school. Last year we gave them \$500 for Staff Appreciation. Jamie made a motion and it was seconded by Sandra to support Options with \$750 for Staff Appreciation. Sandra will contact Options and let them know we will be making a donation.

Street Smarts - (Dore)

We are currently in 4th place in the Streets Smart program. Collection ends at the end of April. Money needs to be spent by June 3rd. In planning on how to spend the money we receive, we discussed the option to focus on gift cards in smaller denominations that can be used for the code raffles. We can't buy any electronics due to district regulations. However, we can consider using them to buy gift cards for teachers for next year for teacher appreciation. We will gather more information on the exact way the winnings can be used and discuss next month. Megan has been pushing the information on turning in receipts on the internet, and we will push it again in the weekly Principal's Message. Jamie will research how much Snooze would cost for a Staff Appreciation breakfast - a previous event cost \$200. Jamie and Kate will get together to research more.

Tiffany will create a list of all the random gift cards the PTO has so that we can track where they are and make sure they get used.

Financial Update - Sandra

Our Year to Date Expenses are \$33k. We have completed our entire commitment to the school for the Fitness Lab. We continue to be in really good shape financially. The Shred A Thon is coming soon and will be 'extra' money above our goal. We do need to pay for the additional \$750 now earmarked for Options. The only remaining expense this year is Staff Appreciation.

We have on final Restaurant night on April 4th.

Tiffany mentioned the incoming parent meetings, and we will try and emphasize King Soopers and Amazon Smile, and it was suggested that we have Mr. Wykhouse explain the CODE awards as many parents were confused about what the stuff really means. Tiffany will speak for around 3 minutes at the parent meeting. She will include the option for making donations on a monthly basis versus a lump sum as part of the back to school fees. It was suggested that we emphasize the Facebook Group.

A few positions are being held open for incoming 6th grader parents. We discussed adding in an option for a Member At Large for people to be able participate but not have a specific role. We

will also try and get the word out that PTO meetings include information about general things taking place at the school, and are not strictly limited to discussion of PTO volunteer projects.

Sandra provided an update about parties for next year. We, at the request of the teachers, will be doing away with the Halloween activity and will replace it with a once a year activity by grade level. James thinks this is a good idea. For 6th graders, James recommended meeting with Kevin Wood for some sort of welcome party for 6th graders. We are open for ideas for 7th grade. 8th grade would be centered around Continuation. Food Trucks work well with the school.

We need to decide how to fund the 8th grade graduation expenses for this year. Megan thinks we will be spending around \$1500 for the event. Stephanie made a motion that the PTO fund the 8th grade celebration and Sandra seconded. It passed without opposition. We will reallocate \$5,000 from next year's budget towards grade level parties, taken from the overall \$20000 we have provided the Principal each year. Halloween money will move over from the budget as well.

It's possible that we may need to return the VIPS position for next year to assist in getting a leader for each grade level party. Tiffany will explore.

Board Members will review the meeting minutes for the past year and we will approve at the next meeting

The meeting was Adjourned at 11.10.

Catherine Jones - PTO Secretary

