

**Newton Middle School  
PTO Meeting  
November 21, 2019**

Meeting began at 9:32 a.m. in room 1113

- In attendance: Becca Winslow, Jenni Rosen, Megan Wilson, Shelley Shepherd, Kendall Cady, Craig Muller, Sandra Barnes, Amy Borman, Julie Kosloski, Christina Un, Jill Van Abbema, Jill Bowman, James O'Tremba

**Call to order and Introductions**

- During Introductions, someone asked about the PTO Presidents Council meeting. Contact Becca if you would like to attend. They are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.
- Minutes from Oct 25 meeting approved

**Financial Update – Becca Winslow**

- The bank balance is \$22.5K with a few checks received this week. We are about \$12K away from our fundraising goal. We do not have a dedicated fundraising chair, but are not pursuing until spring of 2021 for following year.

**Headlines – Becca Winslow**

- Thank you's –
  - Shelly Shepherd for a success for Stride
  - Jessica Alderson & Sheyla Gordon for another fun Halloween Party
  - Sandra Barnes and everyone that has helped organize the Pantry
- Sorry to everyone who has been getting spam email from a fake Becca Winslow email
- The school psychologist requested the PTO's help with 8 needy families for Thanksgiving. The executive team approved a donation of \$1600 in gift cards. The cards will go in baskets of food that the NJHS will be putting together.

**PTO Business**

**Teacher Grants – Megan Wilson**

- Megan passed out the list of requests from teachers. The budget was \$2000 but the requests added up to \$2,398.

**Community Relations – Shelley Shepherd  
(New Families, STRIDE, Shred-a-thon, Sprit Basket)**

- The Littleton Public School (LPS) Foundation's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual STRIDE 5K, 10K, Kids Fun Run & Wellness Expo was on Sunday, October 27, 2019.
  - It was cold day and about 20% showed up but they all had a great time.
  - We won \$1,000 for the highest participation although we could have won in several categories.
- Upcoming LPS foundation events are Denver Nuggets night and Colorado gives day.
- Shred-a-thon

### **Cookie Exchange for Newton staff**

- Occurs December 13 and the sign up genius will go out after Thanksgiving.
- Occurs the same week the staff participates in a Silent Auction to raise money for the Student Needs Fund.

### **Facebook/communications**

- It would be useful to let parents know via social media what is going on with PTO. There are often updates in the Mr O'Tremba's Friday email but not everyone reads them.
- Dan Cohen who use to work at Newton might have information about the admins of the pages currently on FB. Megan volunteered to contact FB to see the old sights could be deleted.

### **Run with the Knights**

- This is the current chair's last year so we need someone to shadow and take over next year.
- Last year's run was cancelled but Mr O'Tremba still has all the gift cards that weren't used.

### **Principal's Report – Mr. O'Tremba**

- Tracy Rizuto has moved to another position but Stacy Crews is back
- As mentioned last month a consultant from New York – Dr. Yemi Stenbridge will be working with administration and students around centered training and culturally responsible learning. Newton applied for him to train with him and Newton won an awesome video submission. Video can be found on the Newton website or this link <https://littletonpublicschools.net/schools/newton-middle-school/nr/dr-adeyemi-stenbridge-visit-lps-and-nms>
- The new school plans went around the table and the only comments were about the kids losing their playground beginning February 2020.
- To see Newton and all district renovation projects to to the LPS bond project website <https://littletonpublicschools.net/2018-bond-progress>
- James has purchased furniture samples that will be used in all LPS schools over the next four years. You can see the future in room 1111.

### **Summary of Action Items:**

- Anyone interested in going to the Dec 10<sup>th</sup> PPC meeting, email Becca.
- After the Thanksgiving break, Becca to ask Shane if he needs more help organizing the pantry.
- Becca to send out the by-laws to everyone with a PTO position.
- Becca to investigate Newton magnets.
- Everyone look for a person to shadow the Run with the Knights chair.
- Shelley to ask the Arapahoe Credit Union what day they would like to do the shred-a-thon. She will reach out to Amy to find out if there is a sign up genius.
- Becca to update the PTO calendar since we are canceling the December meeting.
- Becca to ask Denise Rice if she would like any more donations for the Silent Auction held in December.
- Megan to request that Facebook deletes the old Newton PTO pages and set up a new one.

The next meeting will take place January 16, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. Members stayed to finish school plan presentation

Respectfully submitted by Jenni Rosen, Secretary

## TEACHER GRANT SUBMISSIONS 2019-2020

### **Krista Krikke \$350**

I would like to purchase Boogie Boards (writing tablets) and cases for my math class.

\*My small group math class loves showing their work on small white boards, but I'm constantly buying expensive expo markers and erasers. I think they would be even more motivated to write on these boogie boards. They are electronic but with a swipe, they erase... no buying markers, erasers and cleaners and so smelly fumes, dirty hands and messy desks! My students need a hands-on experience and this will allow them to do that. Any money allotted will allow me to buy the boards and cases as I need. I would definitely share with my other resource teachers! Thank you for the willingness to help our teachers!

### **Carly Newman \$200**

This funding is for a subscription to Music Prodigy

\*I will use this funding to purchase a 1-year subscription to Music Prodigy. This is a newer program that my PLC would like to pilot as an option for sight-singing practice/testing. It allows students to work at their own pace with instant feedback from the computer. They can practice as much as they want at school or at home and then test when they feel ready. The teacher can track the progress of each student and then use that data to determine what to teach in class and how to break up students into effective small groups for sight reading practice. One subscription will allow an unlimited number of students to test the program for the full year. Thank you for considering!

### **Katie Benson \$398 (2 year subscription to Moby Max)**

Supplemental reading instruction to accommodate different learning style plus progress monitoring data in a pull out special education classroom.

\*I can assign specific reading skill assignments and the level is based on where the student is performing. It gives progress monitoring feedback and added with other data can be used to develop IEP goals.

### **Ilka Omdahl \$500**

My 8th grade SS colleague, Deb Alles and myself, would like to have an Abe Lincoln presenter and historian come to talk to our students when we teach our unit on the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation. We are trying to be more innovative and think an opportunity for a guest speaker will be a great way to get students interested in one of America's most historic leaders and a pivotal time in our history.

\*Given our 8th grade numbers, we will have our presenter/historian give two presentations: this will include a presentation and a Q&A afterwards. Each presentation is \$250/session.

### **Christina Wu, School Psychologist \$250**

The Mental Health team is implementing the Signs of Suicide program for all 8th grade students. As part of that program we would like to purchase posters, bracelets, and other promotional material to help emphasize and remind students and staff of the program's message.

\*As mentioned above, we want to help promote the Signs of Suicide program's message. The posters will be seen by all students and staff and displayed throughout the whole building. Bracelets will be distributed to 8th grade students as they participate in the program. A partial grant will also be helpful if we are not able to receive the full requested amount. Thank you for your consideration!

**Lisa Jenkins \$700.00**

Student hands on experience with CO Mountain Club or Guest Writer

\*During our 6th grade Shackelton/Non-Fiction unit of study, I would like to have in a guest speaker to make the learning experience authentic for students. We will collaborate with a published writer/cartoonist to come in and share his technique with creating stories with students. This will help students look at different writing styles and learn about how writers create published illustrated writing. If he is unavailable, I would like to continue a partnership with the CO Mountain Club and have students experience their winter/mountain survival in- house field trip experience. Both of these options are a part of the Project Based Learning Plan we are creating for January-February. A partial grant will be helpful. I am writing this on behalf of the 6th grade language arts team so that all of our students can experience this learning activity. This will benefit about 200 students. Thank you for your consideration!

Lisa Jenkins

Rob Atherton

Karin Svigel

Katie Mater