

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

Meeting began at 9:15 a.m. in the conference room.

In attendance: Amy Leach, Therese Revitte, Becca Winslow, Shelley Shephard, James O'Tremba

Call to order and approval of February 2019 minutes.

Principal's Report – Mr. O'Tremba

- Open enrollments are at 205 – above projection
- 622 is the projected enrollment for next year
- Had to cut the 2.2 staffing point
- Design Advisory Group (DAG) committee meetings
 - The committee consists of 2 parents, 2 community members (South Suburban) Arapahoe County Sheriff (SRO and community liaison), project managers and architects.
 - There have been two meetings so far – going through room sizes, how many rooms for each grade level, how big the building will be, placement, property, parking and the stadium.
 - The building will be built for 800 students.
 - The current track is a 400 yard track (not standard size).
 - Ideally they will put the stadium where the current building is. Mr. O'Tremba wants the new school building as far from Arapahoe Rd as possible.
 - They are touring other buildings.
 - We only need half the amount of open space that we currently have. This can give us more parking and a bigger bus route. There will be more space for outdoor classrooms in the back of the building. In addition to the stadium, we'll have a turf field and a surfaced playground area, and some grass too.
 - Final drawings will be ready around December. Breaking ground April 2020.

President's Report – Amy Leach

- Thank you Jenni Rosen, for running the meeting last month.
- We are looking to fill the following PTO positions:
 - President and Vice President – go to the PPC meeting once per month – district-wide information and updates
 - Treasurer in training: This is on-line Quickbooks – keeping track of fundraising money coming in, transfers into account, tax letter for donations. This person is on the bank account, writes checks, reimburses (3-5 checks per month and put it in Quickbooks)
 - VIPS, but we need to evaluate that position. With the new recording system, the job has changed. The job now will be primarily setting up Sign-Up Geniuses for things like vision and hearing screening, CODE cart, the Shred-a-Thon, and Fall Dance. This is easy to do from home and not time-consuming.
 - Kim would like another fundraising person to assist and give ideas
 - Hospitality Coordinator
 - Community relations – 3 open positions are listed, but it could be one. This includes The Stride, Shred-a-thon, LPS community nights, and creating a Spirit Basket for the LPS Spirit Dinner/
 - Back-Pack Program – need someone to do it for the rest of this year. About 7

- Back Pack Program – Need someone to do for the rest of this year. About 7 backpacks are getting picked up right now.
- PTO positions already filled for next year
 - Jenni Rosen will continue as Secretary
 - Stephanie will coordinate the fall dance
 - Missy will stay on as District Accountability Representative
 - Teacher Grants – Megan Wilson will take this over to replace Lisa Svede
 - Community Knights – Lisanna will keep doing this
- The Shred-a-thon will happen April 27th, 9am-1pm. Student volunteers will get a \$25 gift card. The Credit Union would like kids out at each shift. People donate more money when the kids are out there. Last year brought in \$11,000 and the previous year \$6000). They will take electronics this year.
- PPC Meeting
 - The bond follow-up is going fast – architecture and design work
 - There was discussion about policies on homework and class size (related to staffing formula)
 - All-day kindergarten – LPS is in a good place to implement it, but Brian told Jarid Polis to let us know by May, so that LPS can deal with the logistics. Another consideration is what if the state passes it and then it reverts back after Polis’s administration. The State government needs to deal with that question. Note: East and Field Elementary Schools are currently on all-day kindergarten.)
 - There was a conversation about the on-line schooling program being available. They need more teachers monitoring and supervising it so that it can be an all-day program. They currently aren’t considering taking away the hybrid program (some online and some in-class), which is troubling to some.
 - The new Newton Middle School building will be done for 2021/2022 school year
- The last week of school will be different this year
 - The 8th grade continuation will be at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday
 - 6th and 7th grade recognition awards will be on Thursday – 6th grade at 11:00 a.m. and 7th grade at 2:30 p.m.
 - Early release at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. They will do the end-of-year BBQ instead for 6th and 7th graders on Friday (has been on Wednesday in the past).

Treasurer’s Report – Amy Leach

- Balance is \$28,715 in the bank.
- We hit our fundraising goal.
- The District won’t let us buy anything new for the building (e.g., Smart Boards) until the new building is built. This changes the goal we had for the fundraiser at the beginning of the year. We would like to use the money raised this year. Our philosophy is to spend the money on kids on programs that benefit all kids and the school community. Therefore, three other suggestions have been submitted for using the fundraiser money.
 - Drones and software – \$7000 – This year’s 6th grade kids will be trained to run them over the new building as it’s being built (the will be an elective or Knight-time class). Mr. Finer will run this.
 - Kent Wilmes is taking over the PE teacher position. He would like new heartrate monitors. \$5612 for one classroom set and would like 2 sets if we can.
 - Teachers have document cameras that are old and worn out. One per classroom would cost \$3500.
 - These total \$21,649. (Or about \$16,000 before the 2nd classroom set of heart rate monitors.) PTO originally funded \$15,000 for the Smart Boards.
 - PTO approved these 3 projects, waiting to pay for the 2nd set of heart rate monitors until some anticipated income is received for the year, upon which the 2nd set will be paid for.
- Everything will be new in the new building – will repurpose our sound system and other things that will benefit.

- Amy presented the 2019/2020 budget proposal. This proposal will be voted on at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

- **Fundraising – Lisa Zook and Kim Caster**
 - Decide whether to raise the amount asked for the fund drive. It has been the same for several years
- **Fall Party – Ashley Weldon, Steph Blackford**
 - No update
- **Community Knights – Lisanna Parkhurst**
 - Chipotle at University and Dry Creek on Dec 11th raised 257.57
 - Chic-Fil-A not as successful as usual. They have changed the way they do the fund raising - lowered their percentage. Probably won't do it again. Made \$130.
 - Garlic Knot raised \$346
 - Bad Daddys raised \$864
 - Noodles & Co - February 24th - around \$500
- **VIPS – Bethany DeBerard**
 - No update
- **Hospitality Committee – Peggy McCall, Charlotte Brady**
 - There will be a retirement party on 5/15 – 4:00-5:30 pm for 3 teachers who are retiring – Mr. Blake, Jill Mack, Patty Andrews.
- **Staff Appreciation – Desiree Garcia**
 - No update
- **Backpack Program – Shane Sawyer**
 - No update
- **Community Relations**
 - LPS Spirit Dinner will be April 13th – for every \$2 we raise, they will match it to the dollar up to \$50K, to support district mental health services.
 - May 3rd – LPS day at the Rockies
- **PBIS Parent Representative**
 - No update
- **District Accountability Committee Representative – Erin Miller and Courtney**
 - No update
- **Teacher Grants – Nicole Spiers**
 - Feedback from teachers that the application is still too long and they can apply to the Newton PTO's teacher grant more easily.
- **Joint Parent Teacher Organization (JPTO) Scholarship – Lisa Svede**
 - Evaluating all the applications now
 - Award presentation will be Apr 30th.

- **Run with the Knights – Sara**

- Requests are being sent out for volunteers

Other Business

- Next month, PTO will vote on the proposed budget and anyone interested in Board positions.
- The next meeting will take place Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 9:15 a.m.
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Therese Revitte, Co-Secretary