

**Newton Middle School
PTO Meeting
November 15, 2018**

Meeting began at 9:15 a.m. in room 1113.

In attendance: Jenni Rosen, Amy Leach, Jessica Alderson, Lisa Svede, Erin Miller, James O'Tremba

Call to order and approval of October 2018 Minutes

Principal's Report - Mr. O'Tremba

- Accountability meeting tonight; talking about staffing for next year. Will probably get projections the first week of December. The projections are for the number of students for next fall and get open enrollment numbers. Open enrollments this year are currently double of last year and there is a wait list. Final adjustments will be in January and then we do the staffing. Estimate is in the mid 600 range.
- PTO will need to pick a date at February's meeting for a May retirement party for 3 teachers Patty Andrews, Jo Mac and Peter Blake. Hiring will begin March for those 3 positions.
- Time change has really hurt the middle schools; more discipline problems in the afternoon; time change affecting kids waiting for rides in the dark/cold. Numbers are down for activities. Increase of parents asking for 504 plans because kids aren't getting any down time. Studies show middle school optimum is 8/8:15am.

President's Report - Amy Leach

- Update from the PPC meeting
 - The Littleton Bond was approved in the election. Got some learning to do since the last time a school built in the district was 1981.
 - There will be an oversight committee. This committee will have a 5 year commitment to oversee everything with selling bond, furniture, deferred maintenance all the spending, etc. etc.
 - The plan is to make it a flagship schools for the rest of the country.
 - Community meeting in January for input and building summer/fall of 2019.
 - With the failure to approve bond 73, the group is going to stay together and tweak it to make a referendum. It was a very close election.
- A sign up sheet was passed around for the PTO positions for next year (Indication of Interest).
- Amy asked Ms Rahne at if the staff needed anything -
 - Staff gift card drawing. We all agreed this was a good idea.
 - It was motioned (Erin) and seconded (Jenni) and passed to give a \$200 Starbucks gift card
 - We approved that this holiday season we will pay for gift cards so people can the Turkeys they need.
- Instead of meeting in December, we will have a PTO Social on Thursday Nov. 29 6pm at Hodson's Bar & Grill in South Glenn Shopping Center.

Treasurer's Report - Amy Leach

- Balance \$32,060.12 plus \$4,104.84 in savings
- Going to spend the teacher supply amount
- Fund drive \$27,440 going to stay open through Dec 4 Colorado gives day

Committee Reports

- **Fundraising** -Great job Lisa Zook, Kim Caster on the fund drive!
- **Fall Party** - Ashley Weldon, Steph Blackford
 - Jessica Alderson shadowed the team and will take over next year's party.
 - The party went well with 350-400 kids who were very well behaved.
- **Community Knights** - Lisanna Parkhurst
 - Next restaurant night is at Chipotle at University and Dry Creek on Dec 11th
 - Chic-Fil-A not as successful as usual. They have changed the way they do the fund raising. Probably won't do it again. Made \$130.
 - Garlic Knot raised \$346
 - Bad Daddys raised \$864
- **VIPS** - Bethany DeBerard
 - The volunteer login system is being changed. The first time you log in, you have to fill out information.
 - This year the District will pay for background checks for volunteers who interact with students consistently. Next year, PTO will have to pay this cost.
- **Hospitality Committee** - Peggy McCall, Charlotte Brady
 - Cookie exchange in December
- **Staff Appreciation** - Desiree Garcia
 - No Update
- **Backpack Program** - Shane Sawyer
 - Going well.
- **Community Relations**
 - Nov. 24 - LPS night at the Av's - Bring your Family and Friends - tickets on sale at the LPS foundations website <https://avalanche.teamkse.com/Littleton/>. Amy will ask Beth about the seating.
 - Jan 25 Denver Nuggets
 - March 9th Mammoth Lacross
 - We need a Stride Captain
- **PBIS Parent Representative** - no update
- **District Accountability Committee Representative** - Erin Miller and Courtney
 - These meetings are open to everyone.
 - Erin gave us the highlights of the presentation on Mental Health.

- LPS is on par with the state with mental health staff, but below nation. We have 32 councilors, 30 other staff, 18 social workers. Average caseload 350. Ratio has improved.
 - Safe to Tell program was discussed. It is good that the kids can text.
 - Colorado Crisis Center walk in clinic help you problem solve and will send out someone if needed.
 - “Safe to Snitch” 30% of received are false reporting and kids are using it as bullying. But overall very positive.
 - 176 suicide intervention since August.
 - 2 substance abuse counselors now in the district.
 - For students that need help, Christine Casey Perry, will help you find the right therapist and will get you in quick. LPS website mental health.
- **Teacher Grants - Nicole Spiers**
 - Will come out in December
 - **Joint Parent Teacher Organization (JPTO) Scholarship - Lisa Svede**
 - Scholarship applications will be available to teachers in December.
 - Meeting last week with district office. Moving to an on-line application and more streamlined
 - 20 applicants that requested \$20,000 but budget was \$4500. 15 recipients were granted some amounts
 - If every school could give \$50 more then budget could go up to \$5500.
 - Award presentation is Apr 30
 - **Run with the Knights - No update.**

Other Business

- The next PTO meeting will take place Jan 17, 2019 at 9:15 a.m.
- Reach out to people for next year’s positions.
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jenni Rosen, Co-Secretary