

## October 2022 Newton PTO Meeting Minutes

**October 14, 2022 - at Newton Middle School and via Remote**

**Attendees:** In-person- Sarah D’Orvillers, Deb Kennedy, Holly Lankford, Tracy Duhig, Catie Gambrell (6<sup>th</sup> grade principal), Emily Hodges, Ayrolyn Keady, Tiffany Hansen, Karin Svigel (teacher representative) & James O’Tremba (principal) who arrived at 10:30a

Virtually- Michelle Larsen, Eve Ackerman, Leslie Suh, Alli Clinton, Missy Crew... (others)

President Tiffany Hansen opened the meeting at 9:30 am. Introductions took place and participants shared highlights.

Meeting Minutes: Missy Crew moved to approve the September minutes, and Emily Hodges seconded the motions. Minutes are approved and are available on the website.

Budget: Tiffany supplied current budget handout. Pledge Drive is at \$11,250 and our goal is \$30,000.

Restaurant Newton Night Out: Alli Clinton Update

Recent Bad Daddy’s Night Out only brought in \$280 as opposed to \$460 last time. Please share with friends and family. Restaurant nights are being posted to FB, electronic marquee and daily announcement. Restaurant nights provide a portion of money spent back to Newton and support community restaurants. Receipts from restaurants in Streets of South Glenn can be uploaded for additional bonus to Newton.

- Next Restaurant Knight is on Tuesday, 10/18 at Fajita Pete's at 7300 E Arapahoe Rd in Centennial. 10% of sales all day (12 - 8 pm) will go to Newton. Order pickup and delivery only (no dine-in option). Orders can be placed [online](#), through their app, or by calling 720-708-6158.
- October 18<sup>th</sup> Fajita Pete’s
- November 9<sup>th</sup> Perry’s Pizza

A reminder to everyone to sign up for the King Soopers program. It’s doing well to bring in money for Newton.

Reading Counts: Paid librarian \$2400 for this year’s membership. Reading Counts is a middle school program that includes all grades. Students have autonomy in reading whatever they want with a multiple-choice quiz after completion of the book. Students can track their own goals and demonstrate understanding of literature. This year, Scholastic has passed this program to another company that is not keeping up with the quizzes and the program will only continue to be available this year. The LA Chair and Newton Librarian (Tish Lawler) are looking into other programs. We don’t want to lose this program because it promotes motivation for independent reading. Once a new program is established, PTO will allocate funds in the budget. In the past, PTO has allocated \$3500. This is a benefit for all students and Newton.

Backpack Program: Megan Rotter, Social Worker, has reached out to her contact at the BpS and reports that things are going great. Now that this program is no longer funded by PTO, admin staff works directly with the company with no cost to the school. PTO had allocated \$500 that can now be allocated elsewhere.

Annual Fund: In the past there was \$500 in the budget, which was put in the budget again this year. Last year we didn't use any of that money, so not sure why so much budgeted here. Do we need it? Lisa, our Annual Fund Communications Rep is a graphic designer and will create posters to show where PTO money is going and how we are supporting the school. Posters can be used for 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation meeting for parents in the spring, other incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade events, back to school night, and at the back to school teacher luncheon. We could allocate \$50-\$100 of the funds here for these posters if needed. That would leave us with \$400-\$450 to reallocate from this line item.

We will need to vote on where to put the money. Ideas:

- Could be added to the FTE School psychologist or the Teacher Supply Fund.
- Option to wait and see where we stand with funding.

**A motion was made by Deb Kennedy to table vote until next month to see where we are with funding. Seconded by Emily Hodges. All were in favor, and none opposed. Motion passed.**

Teacher Appreciation: Teacher Potluck for Parent/Teacher Conferences are Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up genius will go out in the Friday email.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080545aaac2faafe3-soup>

Bring items for teachers: crockpot soup, salads and supplies. Items should be dropped off by 3pm to get set up for conferences. Betsy or Tracy can pick up if you are unable to drop off. A notice will be sent out to parents if they want to help. A check-in will be done on Monday to see if items are still needed.

Book Fair 10/31-11/4: Eva Seal, the coordinator, sent out an email through James, on Monday for volunteers and spots filled quickly. Thank you all for the quick response. The Book Fair is a weeklong event and purchases can be made throughout the week. L.A. classes will show students what is available in advance. During Library, students can tour the books and make selections. Purchases earn book rewards for the library. If parents want to purchase books for teachers, there will be a wish list.

Q: It's important for parents to have an event where they can interact. It may be helpful to have signup slots for parents to come.

Q: Is there something offered for kids who can't afford books and are in need. Could we donate a book? Could we use the \$500 backpack fund to offer support with this?

**A motion was made by Emily Hodges for PTO to allocate up to \$500 from the backpack fund to use towards funding books for kids in need. Seconded by Laura Reeves. All were in favor, and none opposed. Motion passed.**

The stride is coming up on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Newton currently has 58 registered. Mr. Wilmes will announce in P.E. classes. Students unable to pay can get scholarships provided by the Littleton Public Schools Foundation. Teachers can send names of students in need to Leslie to make sure costs are covered. There are 3 - \$1,000 grants offered to schools. Last year Newton won \$1,000 for biggest increase in participation for middle school level. We will have a tent and do a drawing for gift cards. Participants can enter their names just for participating and a second entry can be made for those wearing Newton gear or Halloween costumes.

Q: Will scholarships be advertised? - This will be included in weekly new letter and infinite campus.

Annual Fund: We have been advertising more and it is slowly increasing. Lisa Patterson has made a fabulous Newton graphic that is on the Newton webpage showing current numbers and goal. Please promote. If you have any other ideas, please let us know.

Principal James O'Tremba Updates:

We will have more information on the Make a Wish Dance a Thon after we meet with Student Council this week.

Junior Stadium: Newton Junior Stadium will be open in August 2023 and has 1500 seats. The Littleton High School stadium will be scrapped after fall 2023 football season and redone before the following football season in fall of 2024. The LHS stadium will have 4000 seats. This is not part of the bond and Capital reserve money will be used for funding. In the interim, Newton Junior Stadium will serve both Newton and community sports teams. It will provide additional playable surfaces for students in both district-sponsored junior varsity and varsity sports as well as club sports in the community. Attendance is too big for football games to be played here, that's why the LHS stadium is going to be built between football seasons.

Q: Football offered for Middle School? – No

Q: When the Newton Stadium opens, will it be open for public use? - School grounds are open after school hours but only as rented space by request through the district. Per the district, the field will not be open to the public due to safety and security reasons.

Q: Will Stadium information be posted on LPS Website or somewhere else? – information is currently posted under the LPS Bond website under Newton and Junior Stadium.

Open Enrollment: Enrollment period opened October 1<sup>st</sup> and Newton had 15 applications the 1<sup>st</sup> day. We have 35 now and there is still a month before the window closes. Last year all students were accepted in the first window and no students were accepted in the second window. We will have preliminary projections at beginning of November and should know by November 15<sup>th</sup> how many students we can take. State Law went into effect in July that changed the process. Initial application form cannot ask for special needs/education identification. Criteria will include grades, attendance and behavior. After this initial application, students will be accepted but not granted admission. To be granted admission, students educational needs will be identified and a group, with participants from the school and the district, will meet to see if school can meet the specific needs of each student accepted. If school can meet their needs, students will be granted admission.

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/colorado-faces-federal-civil-rights-complaint-on-enrollment-for-students-wi/632646/>

Mr. O'Tremba shared that the practices Newton has implemented within the last 4 years have been very rewarding. Newton's test scores are up significantly, even throughout COVID. Thanks to teachers that do a phenomenal job. Newton has had minimal behavioral issues. PTO always raises more than the goal and in the past 16 years, PTO has raised over a million dollars for the school. The community has been very generous with the new building and throughout COVID.

Rollover plan will include the addition of the 2nd full time Psychologist. PTO will sign a form to verify support per district requirements and funds will be paid toward the end of the school year after

fundraising money is totaled and available. As of now, PTO has budgeted \$17,950 towards the ~\$50,000 that James is paying to cover .5 FTE.

Newsletter: There is high volume of bulletins that need to go out and issues with posts not transferring correctly. Can help with posting by keeping notifications short, using normal font and not including graphics or highlighted/bold type. Posts can include links.

Adjourn at 10:55am.