

November 18,2021

Newton Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes

Secretary – Catherine Jones

Attendees: Tiffany Hansen, Tracy Dulig, Betsy Brouilette, Leslie Suh, Shawna McGuckin, Jamie Turman, Tessa Nussbaum, Sandra Barnes, Rebecca Peck, Allison Huck, Kelly James, Jessica Fann, Kate Dore

Tiffany started the meeting at 9:30 am. Introductions were made and we shared a brief shout out to our favorite teachers. Lots of praise for the Annie Jr. musical, and many awesome teachers were praised for their enthusiasm, kindness and ability to challenge students.

Last month's meeting minutes were approved, a motion to approve came from Shawna McGuckin, and seconded by Kate Dove.

Tiffany shared thanks you for board members for all the events that took place this fall including the Stride, the financials, work on the annual fund, restaurant nights, and Streets of Southglenn.

Jessica Fann is taking on an role to reach out to various PTO members before events to offer help and remind them there are people there to help.

Financials

Sandra Barnes discusses financials. Sandra feels we are a bit ahead of the game fundraising this year. RevTrak money is higher than ever. King Soopers is going strong and a good source of passive income.

The staff appreciation Fund is out and has collected around \$700 for the staff for the holidays. The link is working well. Once we receive the RevTek money we will have completed over 80 percent of our fundraising for the year, and we still have the Shred-A-Thon.

Teacher reimbursements are winding down. Allison will send out one more reminder to the staff to submit receipts up to \$75 for teacher's supplies.

We will be in position to pay the school our commitment towards the fitness lab for the \$20,000 very soon, once the district releases the RevTrak funds.

Colorado Gives day is approaching and there is a direct link to Newton. Individuals can schedule donations in advance. It's a good day to give because there are some matching programs in place so that the more money we raise the more money we get back. It's super easy to

schedule your donation in advance before December 7th. Donating on Colorado Gives Day supports mainly Newton but also provides support for the LPS Foundation. Kelly James offered a lot of information on how the process works. She also mentioned that many companies offer special programs to employees who participate in Colorado Gives Day.

Restaurant nights are doing well.

PTO Business

Allison provided an update on the Halloween event. Teacher's felt it wasn't quite as successful as last year, probably just due to the set up of the building. There was some chaos doing it at the end of the day. Next year we may look at different ways to celebrate that are more to scale for the size of the student body. We will have another discussion with James and plan a slightly different event next year.

Stride Update – Leslie provided an update on the LPS Strife event. The weather was great this year. There was great activity at the tent and kids were really excited to see Mr. Wilmes (PE Teacher) and we distributed 5 \$10 gift cards to those who registered at the Newton tent. For middle schools, Newton won \$1,000 for the biggest increase in the number of participants. Kelly James will research when and how the check will arrive and update Sandra Barnes.

A photographer attended the event and will be providing pictures to the foundation, and Kelly offered to forward Newton photos to the PTO.

A discussion was held to see if we can bring photos to the hallways again, and Tiffany will follow up with James to see what our options are.

Shawna updated us on Staff Appreciation. They used left over drinks from the conference dinner and has popcorn donated from Regal Theaters and they passed it out on a Friday afternoon. Thanks to the Regal Cinemas at Southglenn for the popcorn donation. Feedback from them teachers was they loved it. Going forward teachers prefer less sugary drinks.

The Holiday Cheer campaign is taking place. Families are encouraged to make a single donation to the PayPal account, which is then split evenly among staff in the form of pre-holiday gift cards. There are boxes by the two entrance doors where students and families can drop cards or notes for teachers and staff. People can send e-cards to staff as well.

In February we will do out next event with candy bouquets. Jessica Fann agreed to head things up this year. Allison will get with Jessica on how many items we need to prepare. Anyone who wants to help can contact Jessica.

Our final event of the year will be in May at the end of the year. If anyone is interested in helping with staff appreciation going forward we need some individuals to help transition the roles. Tracy volunteered to help out!

Shawna and Jamie are looking for any feedback on ideas to celebrate staff in May.

We will have a coffee cart for the staff on a day in December. This is being provided by the spouse of a staff member.

Holiday Hand Ups

Tiffany explained we have \$1500 set aside for the school counselors to spread out as needed for the holidays for families in need. Allison will follow up if the amount set aside is enough to cover the need.

Back Pack Program. Sandra is wondering if the school has found a place for storing the items for the backpack program. There is some question as to how to quietly distribute the backpacks now that they don't have individual lockers. The program provides a backpack of food to food insecure students. We will be starting that up in January. Sandberg Elementary would like to get involved in helping to provide food. Tiffany will follow up with the Sandberg contact. The National Junior Honor Society needs volunteer hours and would be available to help pack the bags, but we want to make sure that the program remains confidential.

Jamie informed the group that the 8th grade Washington DC trip is due to take place.

Teacher Grants – Tiffany provided an update from Nikki Spires who wasn't able to attend the meeting. We have had three requests from teachers -one to have an Abraham Lincoln impersonator come speak to the students, one to have an infrared camera, and one for new headset mikes. Allison will remind teachers there is still a small amount available.

The question was raised as to why we aren't selling tickets to Annie. Allison explained the school doesn't think we should charge parents for a family event. Sandra suggested a donation bucket at each performance. Tiffany will follow up. It was also suggested to look into selling professional DVDs as a fundraiser. It may be an issue with licensing.

JPTO Joint Scholarships – Tiffany provided an update. This is a scholarship fund that takes money from various PTO groups and then a committee distributes the money to teacher who have applied for the scholarship for professional development.

Allison

Allison provided an update from the principals. Building capacity is 800 and projected is expected to be 750. We were able to accept most in district open enrollment requests. It is

unlikely anyone in the second request window will be accepted. No new 7th or 8th graders were accepted. This is the first year we've had to pull names out of a hat. There will be additional staff hired to make up for the new numbers.

Kelly shared information about the new career exploration center being built near Littleton High School. All three high schools will have access. 2023 is the target start date.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55