

October 2021 Newton PTO Meeting Minutes

10/22/2021

Attendees – Jessica and Bobby Fann, Tiffany Hansen, Jim O'Tremba, Catherine Jones, Alli Clinton, Katherine Kelley, Kate Dore, Eve Akeman, Megan Wilson, Jaime Turman, Shawna McGuckin, Sara Cogswell, Tessa Nessbaum, Jackie Sanders, Niki Spiers, Missy Crew, Sandra Barnes, Korina Padilla, Stacy Clune

Introductions, and everyone shared their favorite thing about Newton. Mr. O'Tremba shared some information about the design process of the new building, and how changes were made to make the school less traditional and to include the pods for the individual grade levels.

Headlines:

Thanks to Jamie and Shawna for putting on the soup ubbeft for the teachers during conferences. The staff enjoyed the soup and things went really well.

Finances – Sandra Barnes

Sandra discussed our income – current bank balance is \$6670.41 but an additional large amount will be coming from the donations made with the school fees. King Soopers linked donations have increased. Tiffany explained that the PTO generally pushes the general funds in the fall, but people can make donations all school year. Fundraising tends to change to more specific needs.

The PTO has promised \$20,000 towards the fitness lab and it will be paid to the school this year.

Restaurant nights were successful – Torchy's brought in \$500 and Big Daddy's night was wildly popular. We should receive about \$450 and Big Daddy's was super happy. Next event is in January.

Streets of Southglenn update – we are currently in 4th place. Submit your Big Daddy receipts for more points.

Amazon Smile – we haven't been paid out this year due to delays due to paperwork.

King Soopers – we will put out directions including the applicable stores in a newsletter

Ribbon Cutting / Open House

350 attended, feedback was great, the community seems to like the building. The WebLeaders did a great job. James mentioned we are working on a time capsule for the building.

Teacher Staff Appreciation update from Shawna. Jeremy Olster (PARTNER OF A STAFF MEMBER) reached out to do something for the staff at Newton and is lining up a coffee cart for the staff just before winter break. We will provide any volunteer support. Shawna also explained we had a lot of extra beverages from the conferences event and may use that for a popcorn and drink treat for the staff to take place sometime in November. Jamie suggested "Popping in to say Thanks".

We will be doing the Holiday Cheer (holiday staff appreciation donations) campaign again this year just like last year, although we will be starting earlier this year. We have some remaining gift cards from last year. Money will be collected via PayPal. We will also use FlipGrids to have children send messages to staff members. All staff are included and not just teachers. We are looking into an option for electronic greetings that don't include a charge. If anyone has a good free service please contact the PTO. With in person learning this year we can expand to in-person greetings or a box in the lobby.

The Littleton Public Schools Foundation Stride event is this weekend, 10/24/21. Alli shared that we will have a Newton tent. If anyone is around they could use help in taking down the tent on Sunday. Alli will be providing some water and a snack to people who come to the tents. With current sign ups Newton is the top middle school and has about 100 sign ups. The sign up deadline is noon today. Any kids attending please have your child wear your Newton shirt. It was decided to have kids who visit the tent to enter their name in a box and generate school spirit this way.

Halloween Fall Party – The Office purchased the candy for the end of the day trick or treating party. We will be having a Spirit Week – Monday, ultimate fan day, Tuesday is crazy hair and sock Day, Wed – Newton gear, Thursday

Niki provided an update on the teacher grants. An email will go out to the teachers in the next month to let them know they can put in requests for funds for unique projects. Historically we have been able to fulfill all requests.

Megan raised the idea of the examining the super heavy backpacks kids are carrying. Not every classroom has cubbies, but most do. Day lockers remain an option for most kids. A request was made to encourage teachers to tell students they don't necessarily need to bring things every day. PTO members will ask around the community to see what other parents are doing. James will talk to staff. We will revisit next year.

In January the backpack program will resume. We will have more details soon.

Tiffany reported from the district wide meeting. School Board election is coming soon, information is available online. Colorado Gives Day is coming in December and Newton PTO will have a website through the district for those daily donations. It is important to make the donation on the exact Colorado Gives Day. More information will be coming out as we get closer to the date.

James updated the meeting on Open Enrollment, which is taking place now. The process used to be first come, first served, and once the slots were full, they were full. In the past 10 years Newton had generally had a wait list which is generally always turned down. Newton will generally close at the end of the first window. The capacity of the school is 800. For next fall 760ish student should come into the district from the assigned feeder area. Not much room is available for any extra open enrollment students. It appears we will only have room to take 39 out of district children. The school district has prioritized in district students over out of district students. It is important that applications that are submitted are complete, as many are not.

The district is talking about changing the way that middle schools are staffed. Currently staffing is driven completely off numbers, but changes may be coming to make it more reflective of the unique characteristics of each school and the students. Class size is around 28 students. Staff report that mental health needs from the counseling office is strong. Monday mornings in the counseling office things are extremely active.

The meeting was adjourned by Tiffany at 11:07.