

Newburyport PTO November General Meeting

Molin/Nock Library

11/18/2015, 7 PM

I. President Welcome and Announcements

- Thank you to all the board members and volunteers that attended the many events we have had through the fall.
- New Board Members will be elected during this meeting:
 - o Julie Spence and Ellen Metsker – VP Molin
 - o Emily Sheehan – VP Communications

II. VP Report

- Shutterfly - 13% of the proceeds will go to the PTO
- Working with Amazon Smile to see if we can get an opportunity with them as well
- Opportunity night with Famous Pizza – aiming for after Thanksgiving week
- Opportunity night with Leary's too – 50% of proceeds will go to the PTO

III. Election of Molin VP's and Communications Board Position

- Vote in the new incoming board members:
 - o Julie Spence and Ellen Metsker – VP Molin
 - o Emily Sheehan – VP Communications

IV. Budget Vote

- Review of budget – compared 2015/2016 goal vs 2014/2015 actuals
 - o Key changes for income, increased Kitchen Tour and Spring Fever. Ambitious goal for increased income for these two events but attainable.
 - o Cultural enrichment line item increased by 5k
 - o Bresnahan and Molin Science Fair – evened out at 4k

- Speaker Series, a program that is designed for parents – shifted to other expenses
 - Typically runs \$1,500, last FY we made a deposit for this FY program. Payment crosses over between the FY – line item is \$1,000, but our actual expense is only \$500.
- Yoga, Roots to Wings just added to the budget
- Increased a few of the funds for School Functions/Hospitality to help cushion the budget.
- All of these fundraisers will require champions to help build excitement and brand in the community.
- PTO goal is to zero out at the end of the year, spend what we earn
- All in favor in of approving the budget presented, unanimously passed

V. Cultural Chair Report

- Recent Events:
 - Jim Jordan presented at Bresnahan – anti-bullying event
 - Pre-K and Kindergarten – puppet show, Fairy Circus
 - Mexican artist for 4th graders
- Upcoming Events:
 - Starting process of planning the multi-cultural night – scheduled for April 1st at the Bresnahan
 - Need committee members to help plan the event and solicit restaurants

VI. Nock/Molin VP Report

- Clipper Pride night – next Tuesday night, geared for 4th through 8th grade students
 - Looking for volunteers to help with the event
- Bike racks have been delivered and will be installed in the coming weeks

VII. Bresnahan Pre-K/K Report

- Cookie swap is scheduled for the staff on December 23rd
 - o We are still looking for bakers

VIII. Bresnahan 1-3 Report

- Dance for grades 1-3 is scheduled for January 22nd from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
 - o Volunteers will be needed for this event

IX. Bresnahan Principals Report

- Thank you card was passed around from the Staff at the Bresnahan for the breakfast the PTO recently hosted
- Boo Bash was a huge hit! The kids loved it, great feedback, thank you for all that were involved in making it such success.
- Enrollment for the next year will be underway after the holidays
 - o January 12th for preschool and kindergarten
 - o Looking very closely at enrollment – influx of early identification, might require the school to add classrooms.
 - o Currently reviewing the current curriculum for each program full day/half day
- Strongly encourage parents to attend the School Committee Meetings
 - o The next meeting there will be a discussion around trends in Newburyport
- Teachers are implementing next generation science standards – grade levels are developing units. For example, kindergarten is focused on physical science, push and pull.
- Teachers are in the process of revamping curriculum brochures for parents for each grade level.
- School Counsel is in the process of writing the new curriculum plan for 2016-2018
- NEF auction was a huge success – thank you for all of those that attended and volunteered.
- Upcoming Events:
 - o 11/23 – Spirit Day, color day, all children can wear their NBPT colors

- 12/23 – Spirit Day, pajama day
- Teacher Parent Conferences have been ongoing for grades 1-3

X. Treasurer Report

- Year to date:
 - Kitchen Tour earned 18k
 - Gift wrap fundraiser earned 4k
 - Holiday wreaths is still ongoing
 - New teacher donations have been distributed – \$200 from PTO and \$50 for support teachers
 - Student activity fund \$1.50 per student that participates in the organization
 - Field trip busses have spent a total of \$5,000
- Funding proposal:
 - Financial Review Committee is made up by VPs of each school and teachers
 - Curious Creatures to come and meet with students will cost \$1,800 for the funding. Financial Review Committee recommends that we fund this proposal.
 - Unanimous vote to accept the funding proposal

XI. General Discussion/Meeting Closing

- Speaker Series
 - Open to all parents across the grades – goal is for 3 to 4 speakers each school year
 - First speaker was Gift of Failure, Jessica Lahey – turnout approximately 100 parents
 - Second speaker is scheduled for 03/02 – Dr. Ruth Potee to discuss the Opioid Crisis
 - Third speaker is scheduled for 03/30 – Lynn Lyons, psychotherapist, childhood anxiety
 - Fourth speaker is scheduled in late spring – dating violence

- Planning to distribute a survey to parents to help build out the presenter list for next year
- Next general meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20th