

Newburyport PTO General Meeting

Bresnahan School Cafeteria

9/16/2015, 7 PM

I. Welcome and Voting in of New Board Members

Welcome to the PTO – first order of business is to vote in the new incoming board members:

Amanda Bugli, VP

Brie Campbell, Secretary

Beth Humphries and Sue Moriarty, Bresnahan VP's PreK/K

Jane Dutcher and Julie Puleo, Bresnahan VP's 1-3

Steven Babjak-Dancey, Molin VP

II. Introduction of 2015-2016 PTO Board

Jackie Joyce and Katie Chase, Co-Presidents

Amanda Bugli, VP

Brie Campbell, Secretary

Beth Humphries and Sue Moriarty, Bresnahan VP's PreK/K

Jane Dutcher and Julie Puleo, Bresnahan VP's 1-3

Steven Babjak-Dancey, Molin VP

Laurie Naughton, Nock VP

Rachel Forrest-Hay & Anne McCoy, Cultural Enrichment Chairs

Brian Callahan, Technology Chair

III. Volunteer Opportunities (Katie Chase)

This year we are trying something different – asking parents to volunteer for the first quarter of the school year. The opportunities will be posted on the website.

IV. **Nock VP Report** (Laurie Naughton)

- Smaller group of Middle School Parents – we focus on the things that the school needs, such as bike racks, benches, etc. Our annual fundraiser is during the holidays we sell wreathes. Another fundraiser idea that was recently proposed is to sell bags of Plum Island Roaster coffee that are NBPT branded.
- Unfortunately this year we will not be able to have a Clipper Pride Pep Rally since there will not be any home football games.

V. **Bresnahan Principal Reports** (Amy Sullivan and Kristina Davis)

Kristina Davis, Principal 1st through 3rd

- Welcome all parents! The students are settling into the routine already in just a few short weeks! This is our second year at our new school and excited to say we have worked out most of the kinks. We had a fantastic assembly today, IllStyle, a hip hop dance group performed for the PreK through 3rd grade. Children received a msg about responsibility and the importance of trying. It was a little over the students heads, especially the younger kids, but the students really enjoyed the activity.
- Reminder that School Council elections are happening tomorrow during the Parents Night, grades 1 through 3.
- Classroom Liaisons – we had so many volunteers for the classroom liaisons. However we have a few classes that do not have volunteers yet.
 - o Grade 1: Kim Dow
 - o Grade 2: Janis Cahill
 - o Grade 2: Kelly Crowley
- Open House tomorrow from 6pm to 8pm for 1st grade through 3rd grade parents. Parents should arrive in the 1-3 doors.

- In addition to the classroom visits, the specialty teachers will be in the cafeteria to speak with parents. Specialty teachers include Title One, Nurses, Boys and Girls Club, etc. The librarian will be in the library so that parents can visit the library.

Amy Sullivan – Principal PreK through Kindergarten

- Open House is scheduled for October 1st
- Boo Bash is scheduled for Friday, October 30th 6pm to 7:30pm
 - A lot of activities for the students, students love it, always a huge event for the school!
 - In need of 20 to 25 students to run it effectively.
 - Flat \$5 family donation – just preschool and Kindergarten students
- Scheduling an even on October 7th to promote healthy living – more to come in the coming weeks

VI. **Bresnahan Pre-K/K VP Reports** (Beth Humphries and Sue Moriarty)

- We are excited to be on the board. We are getting to know our tasks, our big event coming up is the Boo Bash – we are eager to talk to those that have run the event before or have ideas. Mark your calendars for Friday, October 30th from 6pm to 8pm.
- Question was raised whether we could utilize the high school students since they have the required service requirement.
- Reminder that there is a Halloween parade for the kids to show off their costumes – parents are welcomed to attend the parade. Followed by a Halloween Singalong – unfortunately parents cannot attend due to space capacity. The parade is scheduled for Friday, October 30th.

VII. **Bresnahan 1-3 Report** (Jane Dutcher and Julie Puleo)

- We are scheduling four teacher appreciation events and four events for the students
 - October – Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
 - November 3rd – Bake Sale, voting day

December – Cookie Swap

January – Dance through the decades

March – Supply Drive for teachers

March – St. Patrick's Day Bingo

May – 3rd grade moving up celebration

May – Brunch for teachers

June – End of the year celebration

- Plenty of volunteer opportunities available over the academic year!

VIII. **Molin VP Report** (Steven Babjak-Dancey)

- A lot of great ideas are being discussed, one idea is a Talent Show. This event was a huge success at another school, parents were pleased with the event because it helped build confidence in students; demonstration of students supporting one another; and show cased different talents and fostered a culture of inclusiveness.

IX. **Cultural Events Chair Report** (Rachel Forrest-Hay and Anne McCoy)

- Our first event is at the end of March – asking for donations from restaurants to represent food around the world. We try to find as many international parents to attend, last year we had 18 countries represented. The evening wraps-up with performances, African dance, karate, something that the kids can get involved in.
- We will utilize the new database to get volunteers for the upcoming events.

X. **General Discussion/Meeting Closing**

- We still need a Communications Board person in the short-term
- Do you have an idea on fundraising? Email someone on the board and let us know
- School pictures on 09/30 – new photographer, please provide feedback
- Bucketful of News – if it's not hitting the mark please let Amy or Kristina know. They moved from a monthly newsletter to a weekly newsletter.

- Speaker Series:
 - o Speaker series, geared toward parents, initially started in the Nock but now inclusive of all schools. The program hosts three speakers a year, first speaker is Jessica Lahey, the author of the Gift of Failure. She's a teacher, a mom and a writer – the book discusses the importance of helping your children take risks and making mistakes. Open to the public, she is scheduled to speak on October 15th at the Nock Middle School. More speakers will be available to the public in the upcoming year.

- NEF:
 - o Golf Tournament on Monday 09/21 – still looking for volunteers and players. Great way to meet people in the community.
 - o Music Festival at Spencer Pierce-Little Farm on Saturday 09/26. The event is a fundraiser to restore the High School auditorium and update the Middle School Library.

- Next PTO meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st