

Newburyport PTO General Meeting Minutes

Held outside at the Bresnahan

9/21/2020

6:00pm

Board Members Present: Katie Suchecki, Interim Co-President; Trish Boateng, Vice President; Pam San Antonio, Treasurer; Shannon Cormier, Assistant Treasurer; Christine Cioffi, Secretary; Andrea Eigerman, Cultural Enrichment Co-Chair; Joanna Fernandes, Cultural Enrichment Co-Chair; Adriana Kosten, Molin VP; Christy Teel, Grades 1-3 VP; Amy LeBlanc, Pre-K/K VP; Melissa Bouse, Communications Chair; Amy Sullivan, Bresnahan Pre-K/K Principal; Tim Miller, Bresnahan Grades 1-3 Principal; Lisa Furlong, Nock Principal; Pam Jamison, Bresnahan Teacher Representative

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Andrea Eigerman, Cultural Enrichment Co-Chair.

I. Welcome and Introductions (Andrea Eigerman)

Andrea opened the meeting and welcomed the PTO and guests. She then distributed nametags and encouraged everyone to introduce themselves.

II. Open Positions (Katie Suchecki)

Katie offered a brief explanation of the open PTO Board positions for the 2020-2021 school year. The following positions are open: President, Pre-K/K Co-VP, Grade 1-3 Co-VP, Nock VP. The Board is also considering changing the organization from Board positions to committees.

III. Proposed Student Events for 2020-2021 School Year (Andrea Eigerman and Board Members)

A. Boo Bash Substitute – Amy LeBlanc discussed the possible changes that could be made to the Boo Bash in order to celebrate safely and within the guidelines. Ideas included: taking it virtual, something done in each class, separate games in class, goodie bags, dancing in class, cookie decorating to take home, decorate other areas of the school, outside activities, and/or a pizza party.

Amy Sullivan responded favorably to Amy's extensive list, but reminded the PTO that nothing can be done with food. She then suggested an outside obstacle course, an in-class, individual craft. She stated that it sounds reasonable to be able to celebrate over two days in order to have all of the students participate.

Other Halloween themed suggestions included "Trunk-or-Treat" - Katie Suchecki offered to call the City Health Department to determine if this would be allowable; A themed scavenger hunt; a car parade; and Amy Sullivan reading a spooky story.

- B. Hoe Down (or Bresnahan dance of some kind) – Instead of the dance, it was suggested that a virtual talent show may be a viable substitute.
- C. Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts or Lunches – This might work if we could provide catered breakfast or lunch that is individually bagged.
- D. Other Events – the following were also briefly discussed:
 - a. 100 Day Celebration
 - b. Bresnahan STEM Fair
 - c. Molin Science Fair
 - d. Nock dance and/or move night
 - e. Speaker Series

IV. Proposed Fundraisers for 2020-2021 School Year (Pam San Antonio)

Pam walked the group through the typical list of fundraisers.

- A. Nunan's Christmas wreath fundraiser
- B. After School Program
- C. BOKS
- D. Boxtops – This is a simple way to earn money for the school. Parents download the app and then scan grocery receipts. Boxtops then sends the school a check twice a year. This should be advertised on Facebook so that parents can be educated to the ease of the app.
- E. Meadow Farms – This will not be held again, therefore we need a replacement for it. This should be something the students can sell and the school keeps a bit of the profit.
- F. Ecosmith Recyclers Textile Bins – These bins are located at the Bresnahan and Molin/Nock and accept any textiles, even if they are not donation-worthy. The company pays the school by weight for anything placed in the bin.
- G. Kitchen Tour – This unable to be planned at this time due to the pandemic.
- H. Opportunity Nights – This is a fundraiser we can do. We would have to find a restaurant that is willing to participate. 5 -10% of the sales for the night would go to the school.
- I. Original Art – This is a possible fundraiser. Pam Jamison is willing to spearhead this in class, but does need a parent volunteer to organize the forms and the art when it is returned. This is a Pre-K through 5th grade event.

- J. Spirit Wear – Katie Chase has volunteered to manage spirit wear. The desire is to be able to order online. Forms could also go home with the students.
- K. Boosterthon – We are unable to hold the Fun Run. Alternatives may include virtual runs, or something similar to keep the students moving.
- L. Candy Grams – These are Valentines delivered to homes. This may still be a possibility.
- M. Direct Donations – The hope is that parents and others in the community will directly donate to the PTO. The easier we can make this, the more apt people will be to donate.

V. Other Business

- A. Jen Groskin Spurling suggested implementing the “Shop with Scrip” Program where people could purchase gift cards and a percentage of the purchase would be retained by the PTO. She mentioned this was successful for other communities. This program could be offered at different points during the year. Katie Suchecki offered to look into this.

The October meeting will be held virtually. A survey will be sent out to determine dates/times that are convenient for parents to attend. An item that will be on the agenda will be the “Resolution Supporting Racial Equality and Equality Policies and Practices in the Newburyport School District”, which was passed by the Newburyport School Committee in September.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.