

Newton South PTSO Meeting Agenda
May 27, 2014, 7 p.m.
Newton South Library

- I. Principal's Statement – Joel Stembridge
- II. Student Comments: Student Representatives: Samantha Berg (2016), Mary Levine (2016), Eli Lerner (2016), Ian Paul (2016), Jonah Kan (2015)
- III. Teacher Comments – Ryan Augusta and Marnie Bolstad
- IV. Brief Year End Summary of PTSO Events – Lori Lass and Emily Prenner
 - Approve minutes from November 2013 meeting
 - Success@South
 - Creating Emotional Wellness Committee
- V. Treasurer Update – Faith Paul
 - Fundraising summary to date
 - Budget Discussion
- VI. Grants Committee Update – Betsy Bladgon
- VII. Election of PTSO officers – Lori Lass

Slate for 2014 – 2015 School Year:

Co-Presidents:	Betsy Bladgon, Emily Prenner
Treasurer:	Faith Paul
Secretary:	Robin Sherman
- VIII. Special Education Update – Jo-Louise Allen
- IX. Feed back on PTSO Committees and thank you to outgoing chairs– Various Chairs
- X. Educatius Speaker

Newton South High School PTSO
Minutes of the meeting of November 20, 2013

Present: Joel Stenbridge, Lori Lass, Betsy Blagdon, Faith Paul, Marnie Bolstad, Jennifer Dimmick, Ethel Downey, Suzanne Feldman, Cynthia Lacasse, Carie Michael, Sara Ramirez, Emily Prenner, Bruce Blakely, Jill Bellio, Ryan Augusta, Jo-Louise Allen

Joel introduced the Success@South campaign, which is a fundraising effort aimed at supporting capital improvements at NSHS. Emily Prenner will chair this 2013-14 campaign. This year will focus on improvements to the library.

I. Introduction of PTSO Officers: Lori Lass introduced Emily Prenner. Corie Meith was elected Secretary.

II. Principal's Statement: Joel reviewed the year so far. The two student suicides have prompted several new initiatives aimed at suicide prevention. He is very excited about the Success@South campaign.

III. Student Comments: The student representatives (Samantha Berg, Mary Levine, Eli Lerner, Johan Kan) commented that they continue to work hard trying to find a balance among schoolwork and other commitments (and sleep). A discussion of homework and the success or otherwise of the homework-free weekends ensued.

IV. Teacher Comments: Ryan Augusta agreed that the year had had a rough start but felt that the school community had really pulled together. He feels that the timing of the grant cycle is awkward because it comes at the end of the term.

V. Secretary Update: In Corie's absence, Faith presented the Conflict of Interest statement, which all officers and directors need to sign annually.

VI. Treasurer Update: Faith presented the 2013-14 budget. It was approved as presented. We will present the 2014-15 budget at the May meeting. The year-to-date financial were reviewed.

VII. Grants Committee Update: Betsy reviewed grant requests and awards. Thirteen requests were received, split between fall and spring. We are fortunate enough to be able to fund every request. The Grants Committee will start publicizing the grant awards.

VIII. Special Education Update: Jo-Louise remarked that this year's issues seem to center around College Board accommodations. The College Board is

becoming stricter about granting accommodations. The PTSO website now has a FAQ about special education matters at NSHS.

IX. Feedback on Mental Health Initiatives: Cynthia Lacasse stated that the educational program for students is coming along. Sam suggested having a student's experience (or someone close in age to a student) as part of the program. Ryan suggested that when the program is presented in English class, parents receive an email to facilitate discussion at home.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith M. Paul, Treasurer and Acting Secretary

Attachments:

Agenda

Budget

P&L year to date

Newton South High School PTO
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 1, 2013 through May 9, 2014

	TOTAL			
	Jul 1, '13 - May 9, 14	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Proposed Budget
Income				
Direct Public Support				
Success@South				
Community Dinner	3,250.00	0.00	3,250.00	3,000.00
Success@South - Other	17,802.00	0.00	17,802.00	18,000.00
Total Success@South	<u>21,052.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>21,052.00</u>	<u>21,000.00</u>
Dues	48,195.54	45,000.00	3,195.54	48,000.00
SouthFest	11,290.00	15,000.00	-3,710.00	16,500.00
Music	47.00	0.00	47.00	-
Stage	17,094.00	10,000.00	7,094.00	15,000.00
Corporate Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Matching	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Direct Public Support - Other	125.00	0.00	125.00	-
Total Direct Public Support	<u>97,803.54</u>	<u>70,000.00</u>	<u>27,803.54</u>	<u>100,500.00</u>
Total Income	118,855.54	70,000.00	48,855.54	121,500.00
Cost of Goods Sold				
Cost of Goods Sold	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Merchant fees				
Success@South fees	449.85	0.00	449.85	500.00
Membership fees	1,118.56	1,000.00	118.56	1,000.00
SouthFest fees	210.61	350.00	-139.39	350.00
SouthStage fees	40.33	350.00	-309.67	75.00
Merchant fees - Other	2.36	0.00	2.36	10.00
Total Merchant fees	<u>1,821.71</u>	<u>1,700.00</u>	<u>121.71</u>	<u>1,935.00</u>
Total COGS	<u>1,821.71</u>	<u>1,700.00</u>	<u>121.71</u>	<u>1,935.00</u>
Gross Profit	117,033.83	68,300.00	48,733.83	119,565.00
Expense				
Success@South expenses				
Capital expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,400.00
Postage and printing	2,490.32	0.00	2,490.32	2,500.00
Community Dinner expense	986.76	0.00	986.76	1,000.00
Success@South expenses - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Total Success@South expenses	<u>3,477.08</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,477.08</u>	<u>20,000.00</u>
Benevolence	1,908.76	0.00	1,908.76	2,500.00
Grants				
Community Service Club Food	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Newton South High School PTO Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 1, 2013 through May 9, 2014

	TOTAL			
	Jul 1, '13 - May 9, 14	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Proposed Budget
Anti Racism Task Force	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Crisis Intervention	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Houses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grants - Other	2,548.29	17,360.00	-14,811.71	17,500.00
Total Grants	2,548.29	17,360.00	-14,811.71	17,500.00
Program support				
CORE	1,245.69	1,500.00	-254.31	1,500.00
Grade-level support	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	1,000.00
GELF	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
WISE	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	1,000.00
Southside	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
Program support - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Total Program support	4,745.69	7,000.00	-2,254.31	7,000.00
Discretionary funds				
Principal	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Vice principal	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Housemasters	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	1,000.00
Discretionary funds - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Discretionary funds	6,000.00	7,000.00	-1,000.00	7,000.00
Southfest				
				1,170.00
				1,500.00
Fire Dept	198.00	200.00	-2.00	4,200.00
Staff Appreciation	0.00	350.00	-350.00	1,220.00
Domain	0.00	25.00	-25.00	5,050.00
Supplies	0.00	775.00	-775.00	400.00
Advertising	0.00	350.00	-350.00	300.00
Decorations	380.86	5,000.00	-4,619.14	100.00
Entertainment	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	450.00
Printing	0.00	700.00	-700.00	500.00
Equipment Rental	1,216.00	5,000.00	-3,784.00	500.00
Postage	0.00	600.00	-600.00	310.00
Southfest - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Total Southfest	3,794.86	15,000.00	-11,205.14	16,000.00
Music support	0.00	100.00	-100.00	-
SouthStage support	16,600.40	10,000.00	6,600.40	15,000.00
Hospitality				
Faculty appreciation	1,400.68	2,200.00	-799.32	2,200.00
Faculty Breakfast	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Faculty Lunch	0.00	0.00	0.00	

**Newton South High School PTO
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 1, 2013 through May 9, 2014**

	TOTAL			
	Jul 1, '13 - May 9, 14	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Proposed Budget
Retirement	0.00	100.00	-100.00	100.00
Adminstrative	264.98	50.00	214.98	500.00
Custodian	0.00	65.00	-65.00	65.00
Gifts	75.63	250.00	-174.37	250.00
New Staff	0.00	50.00	-50.00	50.00
Appreciation Paper Products	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grade level socials	75.83	100.00	-24.17	100.00
Pot Luck Supper	0.00	150.00	-150.00	150.00
Senior Send Off	0.00	1,300.00	-1,300.00	1,300.00
Mugs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Hospitality - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Hospitality	1,817.12	4,265.00	-2,447.88	4,715.00
Holiday Gift Drive	0.00	500.00	-500.00	-
Directory	3,273.30	3,200.00	73.30	3,200.00
Website and communications	635.48	550.00	85.48	700.00
Office expenses				
Supplies	100.69	100.00	0.69	150.00
Printing and copying	96.48	0.00	96.48	100.00
Postage and mailing	0.00	100.00	-100.00	100.00
Office expenses - Other	25.34	0.00	25.34	75.00
Total Office expenses	222.51	200.00	22.51	425.00
Landscaping	499.31	1,800.00	-1,300.69	1,800.00
PTO Council Dues	125.00	125.00	0.00	125.00
Book Sale	25.00	250.00	-225.00	250.00
Other Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Insurance - Liability, D and O	345.00	335.00	10.00	350.00
Projector Lamp	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Events				
Speakers	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Events - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Total Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Legal Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Business Registration Fees	18.50	50.00	-31.50	50.00
Equip Rental and Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Equipment	0.00	500.00	-500.00	500.00
Facilities and Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Scholarships	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Lanyards	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Bank Charges	0.00	65.00	-65.00	-
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	0.00	0.00	-

Newton South High School PTO
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 July 1, 2013 through May 9, 2014

	TOTAL			
	Jul 1, '13 - May 9, 14	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Proposed Budget
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Enrichment Programs	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Total Expense	46,036.30	68,300.00	-22,263.70	97,115.00
Net Income	70,997.53	0.00	70,997.53	22,450.00

Newton South High School PTSO
Minutes of the meeting of May 27, 2014
(DRAFT – June 6, 2014)

Present: Joel Stembridge, Lori Lass, Betsy Blagdon, Faith Paul, Ian Paul, Marnie Bolstad, Emily Prenner, Bruce Blakely, Jo-Louise Allen, Claudette Rowe (Educatus International), Kara Veley, Bonnie Barber, Jonah Kan, Eli Lerner, Kim Gallagher, Mary Levine, Mara Nislick, Carol Gerwin

I. Principal's Statement:

- a. Joel described the Signs of Suicide (SOS) suicide prevention screening program completed on the senior class over one week this month. The program took all of guidance counselors one week and included students watching a video and responding to a questionnaire. Students expressed appreciation for the support before going through the transition to college. Next year the administration will offer this program to the whole school in the fall and will make it opt out, rather than opt in.
- b. Regarding School Council initiatives, Joel wanted everyone to know that they have been researching a later start time and plan to continue the conversation next year. There are many repercussions, including on transportation and sports, but research shows that an extra hour of sleep every day is a significant improvement for the students.
- c. Thank you to Emily Prenner and all her work on Success@South library renovation. New tech counters are in place, plus stools and shelving have been ordered. This summer, the city will replace the rug, repaint the walls and improve the lighting.

II. Student Comments: The student representatives (Mary Levine, Eli Lerner, Johan Kan, Ian Paul) provided feedback on the SOS screening and advised not to make it too easy to opt out of the program, as it was worthwhile. Ian mentioned that the Science Learning and Instruction Center (SLIC) had strict new rules this year, effectively ruining the social ambiance and making it a place only for test taking.

III. Teacher Comments:

- a. Marnie said that it had been a very hard year, but it had ended on a positive note with the faculty talent show and Tertulia (school wide student talent show).
- b. She is pleased that Mike Cronin has hired boxes and a moving company to assist them in emptying the library in advance of the new carpet being installed this summer.

- c. Ms. Stonehill's English class participated with the preschool in writing original children's books and reading them to preschool students. Family chemistry projects were on display.
- d. Marnie is retiring this year, along with: Mary Ann Price, Mary Scott, Rich Catrambone, Betty Kershaw, Gwen Smith, Carol Whitehorn, Judith Khan, Steve Smith.
- e. Marnie expressed her thanks to Bruce Henderson for his help with the library newsletter.

IV. Year End Summary

- a. Approval of minutes from November 20, 2013. Lori, Betsy and Emiy expressed their appreciation to Faith for completing them in addition to her treasurer duties. Emily made a motion to approve, Betsy seconded it and it was approved unanimously.
- b. Lori reviewed the year in terms of PTSO events. Please Appendix A for complete list.
- c. Emily gave update for Success@South fundraising campaign. All of the funds (\$20k) were raised by March and did not interfere with SouthFest fundraising.
- d. The PTSO is in the process of creating an Emotional Wellbeing Committee (exact name to be determined). All interested parents are welcome to join.

V. Treasurer Update:

- a. Faith stated that fundraising had been strong this year. Next year, the PTSO plans to distribute more funds through a revised grant system, as well as spend down some of the surplus that has been accrued.
- b. Faith presented the 2014-15 budget and led discussion of key points. It was approved as presented, with Emily making the motion to approve and Betsy seconding it, and all in favor.
- c. Faith pointed out this was the first time in years that the PTSO budget had been approved in advance of the fiscal year starting on July 1st. Lori, Betsy and Emily expressed their great appreciation to Faith on her excellent work.

VI. Grants Committee Update: Betsy said that certain annual grants have been made in to program support, totaling \$17k. This year, \$9,867 was given away in Grants, which is just part of the budget allotment. Grants Committee working with Joel to create new system that puts money into departments more quickly. She noted that teachers have difficulty getting in grant requests, so system needs updating.

VII. Election of PTSO Officers

Slate for 2014 – 2015 School Year:

Co-Presidents: Betsy Bladgon, Emily Prenner
Treasurer: Faith Paul
Secretary: Robin Sherman

Carol made a motion to approve the slate, Jo-Louise seconded it, and vote was unanimous.

VIII. South Stage Update

- a. Jo-Louise stated that this year South Stage surpassed its fundraising goal, raising \$17k, \$31k if you include ticket sales.
- b. On June 12th, there will be a parent meeting. They are looking to recruit new board members.
- c. They are finding it positive to create events that establish more connection between parents. For example, 2008 South alum, Antonia Lassar performed an original production of *The God Box* in a private home, which raised money and gave parents chance to be together.

IX. Special Education Update:

- a. Jo-Louise has been working with Holly Schneider to run this group.
- b. This year, Special Education Director Kathleen Farnsworth hired Melissa Gambel as Assistant Department Chair. She is an attorney with experience in the state Department of Education.
- c. This school year saw a huge spike in the number of mental health hospitalizations. Jen Pontilo has been hired by the city as the critical care coordinator for students as they re-enter Newton North and Newton South.
- d. North has a new SPED department chair: Katy McCarthy, whom Kathleen will be mentoring. North is currently looking for a North parent liaison, and Jo-Louise looks forward to working more closely with North in the future.

X. Feedback on PTSO committees:

- a. Directory – the new online directory worked well, although we plan to continue to offer the paper copy, along with the electronic version. Betsy commented that a number of Newton schools had gotten together to use the same software for directory creation in an effort to streamline the process. Right now, the middle schools are running a test to see how it goes to bring in new elementary graduates and send on middle school graduates to high schools.

XI. Hosting International Students

- a. Guidance Counselor Kara Veley described the increasing number of international students who want to come to Newton South, either for a semester or for a year. These are very wordly, interesting students, some of whom speak English very well, but are new to our culture. This year's students have come from Italy, Norway, Germany, Brazil and China, among other countries. They add tremendously to the school experience for the American students. This past year we had 9 students and next year we expect to have 20.
- b. To make this system work, we need more Newton South host families. Claudette Row, from Educatius International, spoke about her company's relationship to the Newton Public School system. The student visas require that the school they attend accept them in advance.
- c. Claudette explained the process of screening host families. Each family is required to provide an extra bedroom, 3 meals a day, transportation to and from school, sports and events. As compensation, each family receives a \$700 stipend per student per month. She is looking for host families to register by June 15th for students coming next year. They will arrive one week before school starts.
- d. Experience has shown that families hosting often become very close to international students and their families, who in turn invite them to visit them in their home country.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Lass, acting on behalf of Robin Sherman

Attachments:

Year End Summary

Agenda

Budget

P&L year to date

Appendix A

PTSO Year End Summary for 2013 – 2014

August:

- Rising Freshman Parent Info Sessions
- Lunch for new teachers
- Lunch for all staff
- Weekly newsletters (PTSO and Community Notes) start up for school year
- Ongoing updates to PTSO website

September

- Back to school night: Directory distribution
- Grade-wide coffees in private homes
- Ongoing support of Booster Club, South Stage, SouthFest, Music at South, etc., including new Booster Club Friday Athletic Email

October

- Support for the Stack family
- Superintendent forum

November

- Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
- Fall PTSO Meeting
- Kick-off of Success@South Campaign

December

January

- Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
- Grade-wide coffees at school with housemasters and guidance counselors

February

- First Annual Community Dinner
- Support for Grutman Family
- Superintendent forum #2

March

- Global Education Leadership Fund (GELF) event
- Athletic Director Search
- Ongoing PTO Council discussion about technology

April

- Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- Fundraising for SouthFest
- Final round of grade-wide coffees in private homes
- Success@South: library renovations started
- NewtonServes

May

- Book Sale Event
- Acknowledgement of retiring staff
- Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

June

- SouthFest
- Senior Send-Off
- Success@South: library renovations completed/new stools purchased
- Ice Pop distribution review week
- Last day breakfast for teachers