

PTSO Board Meeting

October 26, 2020

Meeting started at 7:04pm, Adjourned at 8:12pm.

I. Welcome/Intro (May/All)

Attendance: May Chiu, Wayne Fitzpatrick, Helen Haley, Melissa Monokroussos (Secretary), Allison Lopez, Lisa DePalma

II. Financials Update (Wayne)

- Membership dues make up the majority of budget
- \$35,000 donations in dues so far this year (less than projected, although there are surplus funds last year)
- 70% of the dues collected were \$50, 25% gave more than \$50 and 5% gave less than \$50 (494 families)
- Most program funds have already been distributed (i.e. faculty appreciation/senior activities/NSHS Departments & Learning Community programs)
- We have about \$53 K in cash
- What do we want to do to support the staff and students going forward?
- Because of our lower funds than projected, we have to be conscious of costs
- Please look at the budget attachment from May and Wayne
- May would like to send all the department heads a note asking them to let us know what they're spending PTSO funds on this year so our community learns more about the programs that we are supporting with our funds
- Teachers can apply for special projects grants. Grant application date Nov 6. A reminder will be sent out to teachers from Vice Principal Hardiman this week.
- More PTSO donations may come in throughout the year

III. Bylaws Draft (May). Our bylaws are very out of date, so here's a draft using templates from other PTSOs.

- May would like the board to review the bylaws to provide feedback within the next week or so

- Goal is to have a review and approve new bylaws by next meeting on December 7.

IV. Feedback on Distance Learning (All)

- Zoom meetings are long/90 minutes seems too long
- Grading procedures/assignments
- Issues with Wifi
- Better than the spring
- Freshman may have more difficulty because of lack of social interaction
- It would be nice to have a longer lunch so kids could connect
- Late ending time
- Wednesday schedules are hard for some kids. Students are rushing through classes with little breaks. Some students like Wednesday because the blocks are shorter
- Could we utilize the Wednesday schedule more effectively?
- Some teachers are managing the 90 minute block more effectively than others
- Teachers and students were surveyed a few weeks ago-didn't like blocks, break out rooms are good for some kids, but other kids can tune out of the group
- Zoom environment works better for some kids, and not as well for others
- Camera issue-NPS policy is that camera should be on, there seems to be some miscommunication about this

V. NPS High School Working Group (May)

- Tasked with how to expand in-person learning this year
- We want people to feel engaged and have their voices heard
- Surveys went out to families today, due Nov 1.
- Teachers and students will also be completing surveys this week
- Looking at obstacles-understand what's movable and what's not
- Looking at other school districts to see how they are doing in-person learning
- There is not a predefined checklist to expand in-person learning
- Goal is to be transparent with the work being done
- Question: what percentage of staff were not willing to be in the building?
(August 2020 survey said 46% said they would be back in the building, another 14% said with childcare they would return to the building; 21% remote only;

18.4% didn't respond). New survey being asked to teachers, responses due Oct 30 per School Committee

VI. October Student Survey on Meet/Greet Ideas (ALL)

- Are there events that the PTSO can sponsor for the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes?
- Students want to do something at school
- Scavenger hunts?-by grade or house, in small groups around Newton
- For families that rely on transportation to get to school, could PTSO sponsor a bus?
- Students making videos in small groups (Lip Dubs)
- Possible outdoor event-concert/movie
- Chalk Art/sidewalk art

Next meeting is December 7 (officially)

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.