**PTO Meeting minutes -** January 6, 2021

Called to order: 7:05 pm

In attendance: Principal Herlihy, Lori Zinner, Sue Johnston, Barbara Mauger, Jess Lourie, Liz Flaig, Joris Gjata, Shion Walsh, Jen Behr, Monica Shook, Nick Jathar, Xiaodan Xie; delayed attendance Julie Winsett

**Agenda**

Updates – Principal Herlihy

Staffing update: Ms. Woodhead will be going on extended leave prior to maternity leave. Whitney Simpson will be longterm sub; they had some overlap and will have meet and greet; she previously had longterm sub position in Natick.

Schedule update: extended 2pm days for K-2 began. Shifts in student learning time: in early Dec, DESE released new guidelines re live instructional hours, with 35 hours over 10 days. For K-2, minimal appreciable shifts other than the extended hours. CS was already implementing some things, such as the literacy and math check-ins, will adjust to make guided learning opportunities. The 3-5 grade 2-3pm will likely be combined cohort. K-2 now have additional specialist time in afternoon. Eating lunch at school – in classrooms, so that children have familiar, safe routine, similar to what they do for snack. Free lunch for all students, delivered to classrooms. 3 lunch blocks. Working with teachers to finesse schedule, with updates to follow. Will roll out 1/19. Looking at DLA hours as well. Trying to keep balanced and equitable between Hybrid & DLA; although Hybrid has lunch at school, this is not social. Principal Herlihy continues to ask people to reach out with questions and concerns, and she will help, and address any concerns.

Snack Cart: many generous donations. Fun deliveries to classrooms with bells, music on cart. Lots of fun for teachers! Teachers were very appreciative, and was a lot of fun for everyone.

PTO purchased a few speakers for teachers: microphone with portable speakers that teachers can wear. Teachers were straining voices, so they could be heard thru masks; this is tremendously helpful. Some classrooms have speakers already.

School Committee meeting at CS: will change date as one of the SC members had a conflict, will update.

Spiritwear – Xiaodan Xie

Delivered, and arrived on-time. Tried to distribute prior to winter holidays. Xiaodan reports turnaround time was very quick. We had short window this time, as we wanted to get to people before Christmas/other holidays; consider having another opportunity in the spring, for people who missed the narrow window. Vendor prefers we spread these out, so we have bulk order. Maybe in Feb or March – will plan for spring, so we will hopefully have more orders. Will start to advertise for another helper, so Xiaodan can train someone this year, to help with this next year; will run ad in Update.

Pet Calendar – Joris Gjata

Calendar is ready. Working with Newton North graphics dept. There was initial delay from NNHS but moving along now. Had many submissions, of diverse animals. Have had about 30 orders, expecting more. Will skip birthdays, as might be challenging to ensure all are included. Should advertise, with a screenshot of the calendar, to boost interest. Should clarify with people it is not a contest, and that all submitted photos will be included. Need to save images in unique format for mailchimp; will send to Julie/Lori for blast.

Community puzzle

Gat not able to attend – sent email and Lori updated everyone. 67 puzzle pieces missing – have sent multiple reminders; at this point, will fill these in with alternate pieces. These will be reprinted at North, and then will allow staff, or students who are around to decorate. Then will laminate and display at school; goal of February, to have up for Valentine’s Day. All of the classroom teachers and Beth got puzzle pieces, but there are other staff that can participate.

CAS update

Kerry & Steven sent teachers menu of CAS options. Hope to have choices from various grades by next week. Hopefully K-2 and 3-5 will have same presentation. Teachers will rank-order their choices. Story telling, painting, music, dance options. Will be on Wednesdays.

Community activity suggestions

Looking for community engagement opportunities, that can be remote. One school ?Memorial Spaulding and NNHS did trivia night. Could do bingo for kids. Could have adult-only trivia night; especially as we won’thave parent party. Jess can ask Sheri for ideas, who recently organized trivia night elsewhere. Will look for volunteers to help – run in Update.

Blue Zone

People engaging in unsafe behavior – opening doors on street side, illegal u-turns. No crossing guards at the 2pm dismissal; cross guards are there at 12:30 for 3-5 graders, particularly as these kids often walk home alone, whereas the K-2 are usually picked up. Increased transgressions this year. Also reviewed mask rules on buses; bus drivers supposed to enforce, will f/u. Will rune blue zone reminder in Update.

Essential items drive – running thru 1/29

Student Council has started – 5th grade only, as they missed last year. Led by Ms. Emily Restivo, Ms. Jennifer Terrazino, Ms. Kim McDonough. Usually PTO gives stipend, but was in budget this year. Will start by planning NMLK assembly.

Adjourned: 7:57pm Next meeting: Wed 2/3/21 at 7pm on Zoom