PTO meeting

May 5, 2021, via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.

In attendance: Principal Herlihy, Barbara Mauger, Sue Johnston, Lori Zinner, Liz Flaig, Jennifer Behr, Carolyn Virgilio, Anne Dixon, Keren Wolf, Shion (Shy) Walsh, Xiaodan Xie, Jessica Liu, Joris Gjata, Julie Winsett, Chantal Rocheleau, Sangeeta Jathar, Nick Jathar

Newton Serves – Sue Johnston

Was held this past Sunday May 2. Was a successful event despite a challenging year, given COVID. Limited room, short time period to sign up with City. Volunteers helped with outdoor projects (no classroom/indoor projects given COVID) – trash pickup, flowers at teacher entrance, mulch etc. Focused on COVID safety, with signup genius; could have used more volunteers but difficult to predict in advance. The signup may have been difficult to find in a crowded Update. There is extra mulch. A few people need to go back this weekend to clean this up. Need to mulch outdoor classroom, and then move extra to side/back. Will send targeted invites to past garden volunteers.

Rafi Nova masks – Lori Zinner

Distributed all the ordered masks. Have extras (9 adult, 5 teens, 14 kids masks). Will run blurb in Update re extra masks. Masks were given to teachers. A few teachers requested later and we were able to get them masks. Lori will reach out to a few teachers that did not respond to see if they want masks. Awaiting profit updates – covered costs and made small amount of money; was not intended to be a fundraiser, instead was a PTO event for community building.

Food truck – Sue Johnston

Scheduled for this Saturday. Company has been challenging to schedule with, but is all set. Food pre-orders are low. Sent another blast today to remind people to order. CS will get 15% of profits. Could put an order deadline in blast – to order in advance. Will send another blast on Friday.

Reviewed overall engagement with PTO events. Someone asked if there a way to include calendar invites with event reminders, so people can immediately add to their calendar as a reminder? It appears mailchimp has a function where you can add calendar links into mailchimp emails.

Fun Run – Sue Johnston

Off to a great start; have sent fliers and circulated in Update. So far, 9.6% participation, and have raised $1700 so far. There are school-wide incentives as we achieve fundraising goals. Once we get to next incentive, will ask room parents to send reminder. Maybe Beth can send reminder over intercom with morning announcements. Children will run with their class, organized by Mr. Crow, over the week; they will run loop behind school. Will have parent volunteers to help direct – maybe 2 per class. Will plan on blast next week – in the blast, specify that when school reaches different goals, there will be x prizes etc. Could have Mr. Crow send an email – a reminder from me might help motivate the kids. DLA has different options and are encouraged to participate if comfortable.

MCF – Keren Wolf

MCF planning is in progress. Will be a virtual event. The committee is adding countries. Countries are working on their projects.

COVID pooled testing – Principal Herlihy

190 children enrolled out of 285 kids. So far no positives. Have a system in place with collection, FedEx, results etc. NPS sent another reminder today. Could consider sending email reminder each week to send in specimen – just to those who are signed up.

Kids are doing great. Following all the rules.

5th grade experience

Planning an outdoor graduation in-person. Will be for parents only, will try to stream for grandparents.

Have ordered tshirts, bags, whoopie pies, video montage. Yearbook going well, have plenty of photos. Will reach out to 5th grade teachers to get a few more photos. Have class photos. Will have balloon arch for clapout. Will have sign.

There was a suggestion to have an art collage – Principal Herlihy will explore this with Ms. Movilia.

There was a suggestion for lemonade stands as fundraiser.

Need 4th grade parents to help setup for graduation. Usually have reception for 4th graders but can’t this year; looking for ideas on how to involve these families.

Also need to ask kids to stay so they can see slideshow.

Open positions

PTO needs additional volunteers. Many volunteers have graduated/graduating, and have major positions to fill. Will run blurb in update with link to list, and description of different roles.

Major roles include CAS, UOD, CPAC liaison, ELL, webmaster, and a lot of smaller roles. Need another co-P. Room parent coordinator?

Some volunteer positions may depend on if volunteers can go in building or not, like bulletin board, lost and found. Co-Ps will meet with Principal H soon to review prelim plans for next year.

Teacher Appreciation week

PTO will provide breakfast to teachers on Friday. Wegmans is providing $250 donation. Bagels, fruit, pastries, yogurt, etc. For DLA teachers, will provide giftcards.

Will plan a teacher luncheon later in year in June – maybe coordinate with report card timing.

Discussed in future allowing option to donate money for those that want to contribute but aren’t able to drop food etc.

Principal updates – Principal Herlihy

Building project – plans are beginning. Principal Herlihy is attending meetings. NPS would like parent involvement and representation on committees.

Virtual field day is coming up.

Will do 5th grade vs faculty game – usually this happens at Springfest – but will plan alternative activity.

Starting to plan for next year. Families have submitted requests. Planning on 18 classrooms. K parent night on May 20. Will have K visit day – hopefully can have kids eead or have them play. K screening will be in fall. K registration continues and parents are encouraged to sign up asap if they have not - should try to spread word of incoming K parents, or if people moving etc, to have numbers accurate and facilitate planning for fall.

Misc

Blue Zone violations. Discussed safety. Biker was almost hit recently.

Volunteer appreciation activity. Will plan one, outdoors and abiding by MA guidelines, for people who have volunteered this past year.

Next meeting Wednesday June 2

Closed at 8:38pm