

Nelson Place School PTO Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2009

President Debora Connor opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Two members of the Norback PTO Board attended the meeting to get some ideas for their own PTO.

Mr. Kelley's Report

- Dr. Mulqueen sent a connect-ed message regarding H1N1 vaccines to be administered through the Worcester Public Schools. 1,700 shots have already been given at the high schools.
- The Holiday Show will take place on Wednesday, December 16 with performances at 9:30 and 1:30. It has yet to be determined when Mr. Hutchins' marching band will perform. A schedule of when children will perform will be sent home.
- A MCAS breakfast will be held on Tuesday, December 15 for children who scored proficient or advanced on last year's test. The breakfast will take place at Nelson Place School and parents and siblings will be invited.
- On Monday, November 23, the Annual Turkey Dinner Celebration will be prepared by staff for students, with the help of students from Shrewsbury High School. Mrs. Hebert and Mrs. Rich, who retired from Nelson Place last year, will be there.
- Operation Turkey – 6 families will receive a grocery store gift card and canned goods.
- Community Reading Day is Tuesday, December 8. Speakers will talk to the kids about the importance of reading.
- New tables and chairs for the library have been purchased. A Tax ID Certificated was needed and located, so the furniture should arrive soon.
- Forms to sign up for a call from the North Pole will be coming home soon. If you would like your child to receive a call from "Santa", please return the form. Forms are shredded after the calls are made. Phone calls will be made on December 23. Last year, Mr. Kelley and 6 of his friends made 320 calls to children from several local schools.
- It is important to ramp up communication with state and local representatives, as the budget for the 2010-2011 school year does not look promising.
- The Veteran's Breakfast on Tuesday, November 10 was a great success. The breakfast was for parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who have served in the armed forces. 29 veterans showed up to have breakfast with their children, grandchildren, etc. 72 people were served breakfast. The veterans really enjoy and appreciate the event. According to Mr. Kelly, "It means a lot to them. You brighten the day of 29 guys." and it is a lot of fun! Each veteran received a certificate and a 2 photos – one taken with the student and the other a photo of the entire group of veterans (minus a couple who had to leave early). Mrs. Cormier (the photographer) will send a photo to Beth Proko for the website and to Debbie Jerszyk for the newsletter.

Motion to accept October PTO Minutes approved.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report approved.

Treasurer's Report – Barry McGrath

- Most fundraising deposits are in.

Enrichment Committee – Gretchen Switzer (Chairperson) was not present, but a few comments were made by those in attendance:

- Help is needed at 9:30 tomorrow (November 20) in the library to sort canned goods for Operation Turkey.
- The magician who kicked off Books & Beyond was really great.

Fundraising – Deb Steigman

- The proceeds from the Entertainment Book and Yankee Candle fundraisers were approximately \$8,500.
- There are 5 Entertainment books left for \$25, and they make a great holiday gift. The entire sum from the remaining books goes directly to Nelson Place PTO, so contact Deb Steigman to purchase one.
- The Papa Gino's fundraiser tonight (November 19) was a bit of a disaster, but all worked out fine in the end. The flyer about the Papa Gino's night that went home accidentally listed the phone number for Papa John's (thanks to Deb's husband, Daniel, who has since been relieved of his duties as a fundraising helper.) So, Deb fielded calls from concerned parents and made calls to Papa John's and got it all worked out. Deb's husband showed up with flowers to apologize and when she went to Papa John's to pay for orders that were accidentally placed in all of the confusion, they only charged her half of the cost of the pizzas. She then delivered the pizzas to the Veteran's Shelter and made lots of veterans very happy.

Books & Beyond and TRIPP – Jill Andros

- Please keep an eye open for good deals on toys for 4th to 6th graders to be used as raffle items at the end of the year ceremony. If you find something good at an inexpensive price, either buy it and donate it, or buy it and submit a receipt to Jill Andros (bobandjill@androsfamily.com) for reimbursement. Alternatively, you could notify Jill about the bargain and she could purchase it herself.
- The first station is due on Tuesday, December 1.

Hospitality – Deb Steigman

- Community Reading Day will take place on Tuesday, December 8.
- Do we want to do a bake sale during the holiday show? Discussion took place. It's a nice way for parents to contribute and tends to raise several hundred dollars. Most likely will take place, but depends on how bad the flu season is this year. If the flu is bad, goods baked at home may not be a good idea.

Ice Cream

- We are breaking even as to the 75 cent cost of ice cream in relation to the price of the ice cream products purchased. This endeavor was not meant to bring in revenue. It is provided as a service to the students.

Scholastic Book Fair – Gretchen Switzer (Chairperson) was not present, but a few comments were made by those in attendance:

- Gretchen is still looking for an assistant to train during this year's book fair, who will take over next year. There are always plenty of volunteers, but someone to run the book fair is needed.

Shaws

- We are no longer collecting receipts from Shaw's Supermarkets. However, people are encouraged to register their Shaw's reward cards to donate 1% of purchases to Nelson Place School. Visit the Shaw's website to enroll at <http://www.albertsons.com/cp/shaws/>.

Holiday Store – Dave Francis

- The holiday store will take place the week of December 7.
- The merchandise will be delivered on Thursday, December 3. Volunteers are needed to set-up, break-down and to act as cashiers. A flyer with details will be coming home.
- Volunteers to set up are needed on Friday, December 4.
- Volunteer cashiers are needed during the sale.
- Volunteers to clean up are needed on Thursday, December 10.
- The library will be closed from Friday, December 4 until Thursday, December 10.
- Each year, a donation of up to \$500 from the proceeds of the holiday store is made to Union Hill School.

PTO Newsletter – Debbie Jerszyk

- Submissions for the December newsletter are due by Friday, November 27. Contact Debbie Jerszyk at debsavon67@aol.com.

PTO Website

- Meeting Minutes from the most recent PTO meeting, as well as the current newsletter are posted on the PTO website at <http://www.nelsonplacepto.org/newsletters.htm>.

CPPAC (Citywide Parent Planning Advisory Council) – Deb Steigman

- Meets first Tuesday of each month at the downtown library at Salem Square. All are welcome and encouraged to attend
- On Saturday, January 30, an event will take place at Clark from 9 am – 12 pm. The goal is to get 4 to 5 representatives from each school in the city to take part in a best practices discussion. Budgets have been discussed often recently at CPPAC meetings. Last year a math curriculum focus group was set up and it made a real impact.

Stand For Children

- The budget is going to be a challenge. A forum will take place in December. More info to come.

New Business

- There will be no PTO meeting in December.
- Discussion about which day of the week to have upcoming PTO meetings take place. It is best for people's schedules to have a regularly scheduled PTO meeting. The third Wednesday of each month was suggested. An overwhelming majority agreed. In an effort to accommodate those who were not present at the meeting, a discussion ensued as to how to choose the best day. A suggestion to collect data via a survey sent home in backpacks was discussed and discarded. Instead, there will be an anonymous survey at the next PTO meeting in which people can state their preference as to the day of the week and week of the month that the meeting is regularly held. For those who can't come to the PTO meeting, contact Debra Connor, PTO President at 508-856-0443 or dconnor@hanover.com with your day and week preference.
- The next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Landry
PTO Secretary