

Nelson Place School PTO Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2010

President Beth Proko opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m..

A motion to accept the minutes of the October PTO meeting was approved.

Mr. Kelley's Report

- The School Accountability Plan was passed in. A copy of it will be available on our website within a month or so.
- Operation Turkey is off to a great start. Canned goods and monetary donations will continue to be collected until this Friday, November 19 and given to less fortunate families in the Nelson Place community. Mr. Kelly has already been contacted by 5 or 6 families in need of help. Hat Days generated around \$250 for Operation Turkey.
- The Thanksgiving Feast will take place on Monday, November 22. This meal is put on by the teachers with help from students from Shrewsbury High School. This year, the staff will cook 21 turkeys. All students and staff will eat together in the gym. The Thanksgiving Feast has been taking place for the past 8 or 9 years and the kids really seem to enjoy it.
- Mrs. Racine (the school secretary) will continue to be out for another 3 months. She misses being here. We wish her the best.
- Report cards will be sent home on November 16.
- The third annual Veterans Breakfast was held last Wednesday. 110 people were served breakfast with 30 or 31 veterans in attendance. The veterans had 248 years of military service combined. Ryan Gallagher sang the national anthem and a pleasant time was had by all.
- Forms to sign up for a call from the North Pole will be coming home in early December. 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 20. Last year, Mr. Kelley and 6 of his friends made 360 calls to children from several local schools.
- The Holiday Show will be held on Monday, December 20. Those with last names beginning with A - L should come to the show at 9:30 a.m. Those with last names beginning with M - Z should come to the show at 1:00 p.m.
- Mr. Kelley handed out a paper to explain the various tests that are taken by each grade level at school:
 - K-1 Dibels (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) ongoing
 - K-2 DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) ongoing
 - Kindergarten at the end of the school year
 - 2-6 MAP (Measured Academic Performance) Reading and Math - 3 times a year
 - 3-6 MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System)
 - Grades 3-4 - Reading and Math
 - Grade 5 - Reading, Math, Science and Technology
 - Grade 6 - Reading and Math

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Matt Crue was not present. Beth Proko reported

Motion to accept the treasurers report was approved.

- The PTO tax year runs from July 31 to June 30. We filed an extension this year.
- We had a few tax challenges the past few years. Now we're all caught up. We are using a new accounting firm this year.
- If we do our profit/loss balance sheet ourselves, the cost of filing our taxes should be between \$500 and \$1,000.
- Our budget is only \$200 over last year.

- It is difficult to get information from the bus company about how much field trip transportation will cost.
- Jen Lemieux raised a question about a payment to Yankee Candle on the treasurer's report. The payment was made because checks bounced.

Motion to accept committee budgets was approved.

Enrichment Committee –Gretchen Switzer

- Native American Craig Standing Bear was at school today.
- It is hard to schedule enrichment programs for the children because of all of the testing and the holidays.
- Two programs are in the process of being scheduled for early January. A woman who goes on medical mission trips to the Amazon will speak to the older children. A science program for grades K-4 is in the works. Deb is waiting for a proposal.
- Historical Perspectives' Harriet Tubman is coming on March 4.
- Gary the Silent Clown has been scheduled for June. He does character building and teamwork. He was in the circus and teaches the children skills like juggling and riding a unicycle.

Family Nights – Chair Meg Mulhern was not present. Beth Proko reported

- Pumpkin Night was a huge success and the best one we have ever had! Over 800 people came back to school that evening and participated in pumpkin painting, dancing, and conversation. Meg is always so taken back by the great community we have here at Nelson Place. We had over 35 volunteers that day and evening, with the kids really stepping up after school and doing the dirty work of cleaning over 400 pumpkins. A Special thank you to the Mr. Joe, Proko Family, Sloan Family, Weilbrenner Family, Crue Family, and Tony Economou.
- Nelson Place Night at the Worcester Sharks will be held on November 29th at 7:05pm. Tickets have already been sold, and we have over 150 people in attendance.
- Grease - The Musical at Hanover Theatre reservations were sent out and all have been received back. We had 150 tickets at a very reduced rate, and they were all spoken for. Meg is always happy to be able to bring the children and their families to a Fine Arts Performance, and this one will be the best one yet!
- Just her monthly reminder, that her Big Pink Binder is looking for a home for next year! All the information for all Family Night events is inside. All you have to do is be the facilitator. If anyone is interested, it is an amazing and rewarding task to have. You can't knock seeing the smiles on every child's face with each and every event that you have put together. It is part of what continues to keep the Nelson Place Community a fun place for all families!

Fundraising – Deb Steigman

- \$10,000 were raised between Entertainment Books and Yankee Candle fundraisers
- There are 12 Entertainment books left for \$25 each and we get to keep 100% of the profits from the sale of these books. It's a great deal! They retail at \$30 or \$35 at stores. Don't walk, run!
- Deb receives notice 24-48 hours before the Yankee Candle delivery arrives. The shipment is due in this week. Volunteers are needed. Parents, please come in and pick up your order soon after you receive notification that it is in. The orders aren't sent home with children because the products are glass and they are heavy. The Yankee Candle products are stored in the cafeteria, so children have to eat lunch in their classroom until space is made by parents picking up their orders.

- Nelson Place has rewards programs with Shaw's, Price Chopper or Big Y, so please register your rewards card.
- An art program will take place in the spring to raise money for the art teacher. It will take place in March, so that gifts will be in for Mothers Day and Fathers Day.
- Papa Gino's night is this Thursday, November 18 from 4 - 9 p.m. Our PTO receives 20% of the profit. You must bring your flyer. The flyer is available on the PTO website at <http://www.nelsonplacepto.org>.
- We need someone to be in charge of an ink cartridge program in which students bring in used ink cartridges and we are paid to drop them off. Flagg Street School is doing it. Beth Proko has the Flagg Street details, so if you are interested in organizing, contact Beth at bproko@charter.net.
- We have signed up to sell Wachusett Mountain lift passes again this year. Beginning November 20, people can purchase lift tickets online. By entering the Nelson Place number, you will save \$5 per ticket. At the end of February, we'll get \$10 for each lift ticket purchased using our number.

Hospitality – Deb Steigman

- Community Reading Day has been postponed. We don't have a new date yet.
- We may do a bake sale during the holiday show.

Books & Beyond and TRIPP – Chair Jill Andros was not present. Beth Proko reported.

- Both programs have begun.

Library – Chairs Peggi Harris and Karen Naylor were not present. Beth Proko reported.

- New books were recently purchased using Scholastic Book Fair credits.

Scholastic Book Fair – Amy Hurley was not present. Beth Proko reported.

- The 2011 book fair will be held in March.

Holiday Store – Dave Francis

- The holiday store will take place December 5 - 9.
- The holiday store is set up in the library and children are able to buy inexpensive gifts for their loved ones.
- Volunteers are needed either for an hour or an entire day, it's up to you. A flyer will come home with the teacher/classroom schedule, so you will have the opportunity to volunteer while your child's class is there.

Website - Sarah Kyriazis was not present. Beth Proko reported.

- We already have 5 sponsors for the website, so we have 5 sponsorship opportunities available. The cost of sponsorship is \$100.
- We should consider listing the website as a source for more information on flyers that go home to get people used to checking the website for more information.
- The Nelson Place PTO website is located at: <http://www.nelsonplacepto.org>.

CPPAC (Citywide Parent Planning Advisory Council) – Deb Steigman

- Meets first Tuesday of each month at the downtown library at Salem Square from 7 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

- The budget for September 2011 is not looking good as the stimulus is over. CPPAC is sponsoring a Community Advocacy for Public Education program. Public education has to be a priority. There is still plenty of time to rally.
- Last January, CPPAC sponsored parent roundtables and 100% of the Worcester schools were represented. In January of 2011, another roundtable event is being planned, this time focusing on workshops, such as fundraising, book fair, homework resources, etc.)
- The state mandates that children get weighed in school (certain grades only) and their BMI (Body Mass Index) number is sent home to parents. So, the note goes home, but what do parents do with it? CPPAC is collecting data, so if you have any insights to offer, contact Deb at dsteigo@verizon.net. A program is needed for education and support.

Hole in the Wall Gang - Miss Quitadamo

- There is a box in the front lobby of the school for donations to Hold in the Wall Gang.
- Representatives from Hole in the Wall Gang came to our school, intending to stay for a short time, but were here all day. They spoke about Hole in the Wall Gang to children in each grade and showed a video to children in grades 2-6. The 6th graders were very emotional about the plight of the sick children. There were lots of tears. The representatives were impressed with the students, staff and parents and at Nelson Place.
- We already have a couple of boxes of donations filled up and ready to go to Hole in the Wall Gang.
- A flyer has been distributed to local businesses and members of the community to let them know that a van will be parked in the parking lot at Nelson Place on December 10, so people can drop off items for Hole in the Wall Gang on that day.
- What will people get for donating? A good feeling. Kids should learn to give for the sake of giving.
- Business sponsors can be recognized in the newsletter and on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Landry
PTO Secretary