

**Newton North High School
PTSO Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

Present:

Livia Aber, Kim Buckton, Valerie Pontiff, Patty McCabe, Johanne Campbell, Karen Cutone, Linda Hanusaik, Millicent Lawton, Patty McCabe, Valerie Pontiff, April Stein, Ted Vahey

Absent:

Dima Basha, Alberta Chu, Janna Lacatell, Beth Tierney, Henry Turner

Meeting called to order at 4:01 PM (Valerie)

- Check-in with attendees on how things are going during lockdown

March 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes approved (Johanne)

- Unanimously approved
- Janna and Johanne will collect and forward to Ted and Kim items to be posted to the web site (meeting minutes, budget and by-laws)

Treasurer's Report (April and Livia)

- We front-loaded fundraising this year except for Celebration, so most of the fundraising for the year has been completed.
- Expenses are even for the year, but generally we have more in the spring. So fundraising is in, but expenses cut short due to Covid-19. We have a larger balance, but we will likely have a more difficult time raising money next year due to people's uncertain circumstances. April has done a projected budget scenario for next year; assume the same level of expenses but less fundraising next year. We will end up with a deficit, perhaps a net negative of \$12,400. We should not go on a spending spree because we have a surplus right now.
- Patty noted that four TGIF breakfasts will be more than \$1000 because Whitson's charges more than the previous supplier.
- Grants and Projects: should we carry over the balance not spent?
- Final proposed budget for next year will be presented at the next board meeting.
- Any proposed changes to the budget should be submitted to April by May 15th.

Zoom account for Principal Turner (Valerie)

- Principal Turner would like to have a paid Zoom account (which allows for meetings longer than 40 minutes). All agreed that this should be funded until things are back to normal. The rate is \$14.99 per month.
- Valerie posed the question should we have a Zoom account for the PTSO? It was decided no, not necessary.

Annual Meeting (Valerie)

- Annual Meeting will be on May 26th and will be open to all.
- Year-end volunteer appreciation gathering TBD.

Community Engagement – Class Meet-Ups (Valerie – in place of Dima and Alberta)

- There have been Zoom class meet-ups for 9th and 10th grade parents.
- 10th grade seems to have gone better (Dima and Alberta are both 10th grade parents, which helped); no feedback on 9th grade.
- No date yet for 11th grade; 12th grade not well-publicized.
- Not much support technologically.

Programs Update (Karen)

- The April 2nd webinar was a success. 85 people signed in; good community event. Great presentation, good follow-up tips.
- Question from Valerie: Do we need another virtual program this year? It is easier to dial in and listen to a webinar than to dial in and participate. Karen thinks yes, but not sure what.
- The consensus is that it is a good idea; subject matter and execution TBD.

Web Site Update (Ted and Kim)

- Zoom meeting tomorrow (April 15th) on the web site to be set up by Ted

Celebration – Anticipated Changes (Patty)

- Three scenarios:
 - Return to school and have prom (scaled-down Celebration)
 - Return to school and have no prom (scaled-down Celebration)
 - No school, no prom.
- Can we do something in June for seniors? Maybe a DJ, photo booth and prizes, if allowed?
- What can we do virtually? Graduation is up in the air.

School Council Update (Patty)

- Only three people came forward to be on the ballot, so all three will serve, but the votes will determine which role each will play (two members, one alternate).

Newton Serves (Patty)

- Newton Serves has been cancelled. Anna Ford asked if we would be interested in doing some Newton Serves projects in the fall. The inclination is not to, as fall is too busy.

Nominating Committee (Valerie)

- Things are in good shape. We need a Co-President and Programs Chair. Vice President will be a current 8th grade parent; this person should probably not be a Co-President in their first year at North.
- Millicent will emphasize that we need a Co-President in Tiger News.

Communications re: Covid (Valerie and Millicent)

- Should we express sympathy to families suffering a loss? Consensus is that the PTSO should stay out of it.
- Think of how we can thank the teachers at some point. Perhaps through Newton School Foundation's Honor Thy Teacher program.
- Get a paragraph from Anna, Amy or Henry on each retiring teacher.
- The Asian Culture Club has asked for assistance in posting something (a video) on YouTube. It was agreed that Ted would assist because of the current Covid environment, but not to set a precedent.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Johanne Campbell, NN PTSO Co-Secretary