



**Newton North High School**  
**PTSO Board Meeting, December 7, 2021 (5:00-6:15PM)**  
**Location: Zoom**

**AGENDA**

<b>Attendees:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x Patty Egan</li> <li>x Heather Pozen</li> <li>x Karen Cutone</li> <li>x April Stein</li> <li>x Livia Aber</li> <li>x Janna Lacatell</li> <li>x Ellen Wrigley</li> <li>x Henry Turner</li> <li>x Amy Winston</li> <li>x Kim Buckton</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Bentley</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Susannah Wardley</li> <li>x Gayatri Aryan</li> <li>x Karen Ghiron</li> <li>x Borislava Stoyanova</li> <li>x Alberta Chu</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dima Basha</li> <li>x Mark Tackie</li> <li>x Linda Barros</li> <li>x Gabriella Kroszynski</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Attendees:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Joel Bloom	<input type="checkbox"/> Cecelia Kwartler

Agenda Topic	Owner	Time Allotted
<b>Call To Order @5:04</b>	Patty, Heather	1 minute
<b>Motion to Approve Prior Meeting Minutes Approved</b>	Janna, Ellen	1 minutes
<b>METCO Representation Nomination, Vote</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Linda Barros nominated               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion (none)</li> <li>○ Vote: anonymous approval</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Patty, Heather	5 minutes
<b>Financials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Treasurer's Report:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No big changes from prior report. Membership dues continue to come in. Still doing well. One parent from Class of 2022 had a private party/class of '22 prom fundraiser yielding more than \$1200, plus \$1200 for staff breakfast upcoming. Expenses have been under control. Grants and projects process is underway, and approvals will lead to spending.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	April, Livia	10 minutes

<b>Directory/Dues Working Group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working Group Update (not present to give an update)</li> </ul>	Jennifer, Cecelia	5 minutes
<b>Grants &amp; Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More grant requests than in past (17 or so in total). Meeting today for q&amp;a, followup with faculty will move process forward. A number of creative proposals</li> </ul>	Joel	5 minutes
<b>Ed Ex</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campaign has changed a bit: initially to help fund field lights, morphed into purchasing the tent, but that is up under a special permit and is only temporary.</li> <li>Exploring purchase of sail shades that can be put up on a permanent post and taken down in inclement weather, thinking about where to put them, liaising with building about best places for installation, keeping an eye on the costs. Intend to use this/these for classroom space, but also ceremonies during the year. Walk through with Henry and facilities upcoming to evaluate feasibility and cost of installation. Considerations are also in place for upkeep. Considerations on landscape architect and/or design students.</li> <li>Funding campaign being organized for after the 1st of the New Year.</li> </ul>	Karen	8 minutes
<b>Community Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second coffee meet-up: 10 attendees. Will continue every first Saturday of the month. Next two will be on zoom due to weather/cold, but this will increase accessibility for those who can't get to Newtonville on a Saturday morning.</li> <li>First evening event: 25+/- people at Union Square: mostly parents of sophomores and juniors. Well attended.</li> <li>Second event: after the Programming Meeting about STEM Education, Jan 31, 5:00-6:00 (on Zoom about preparing your teens for the digital transformation in careers, MIT speaker). Community event immediately after for those who wish to further discuss the talk.</li> <li>Just Think Program is under development. Students: outdoor expo format, April 6th, evening program for parents/guardians about managing family stress.</li> </ul>	Dima, Alberta	5 minutes
<b>Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome event in November for 9th graders after being postponed due to weather: snacks and games in the gym, well-attended (200 students?) and students were asking for a follow-up event. Delayed timing in November was good because the students have had a chance to get to know each other. Looking into future, more casual events for all grades, working with class advisors on creating more opportunities to socialize.</li> <li>Unstructured time seems to be a preferred format to "dances".</li> <li>Freshman and sophomores need some help and space to</li> </ul>	Patty, Heather	5 minutes

<p>connect more. Kids are happy to be together, be in the building. Need a little help and structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juniors are scheduling a karaoke night. The calendar is filling up - a good sign that people are able to come together, but the schedule is getting tight.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using facebook groups to spread information, in addition to Tiger News. Instagram account or facebook page for PTSO? Looking to strengthen social media strategy.</li> </ul>	Susannah, Gayatri	5 minutes
<p><b>Technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant updates, just keeping pace with posting events and announcements.</li> </ul>	Kim, Jennifer	5 minutes
<p><b>Principal's Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Echoing from School Council: congratulations to students for an impressive fall, especially extra curriculars: theater performances, music program, athletics: nearly all teams went to post-season, every time had a win in post-season. Boys soccer, girls volleyball went to State level. Dance team are state champs! Participation is up, winter sports tryouts numbers are up.</li> <li>• Students connectedness survey for sophomores. All students were surveyed on the new schedule, similar surveys planned for future. Looking at other ways to evaluate the year: grades, attendance. Attendance data: tardy rate is consistent with pre-pandemic - and before the schedule change. Upticks in unexcused absences. Looking at ways to improve this policy.</li> <li>• Appreciative of community support around discussion of difficult topics. Advisory has been using time to talk about social issues for marginalized populations.</li> <li>• Lots of board interest in supporting teachers, finding ways to have events similar to/in addition to Friday's Grab-and-Go Breakfast, ways to build community. Parents should reach out to teachers to ask about what they'd like to do.</li> <li>• ELL students: 3 or so each week join NNHS. Think about adding a parent rep to the PTSO?</li> </ul>	Henry, Amy	10 minutes
<p><b>Additional Topics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of PTSO mailing list by entities other than PTSO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Background: groups have asked to use the PTSO contact database. PTSO Board asked to consider how we can support these different groups while adhering to the PTSO charter and regulatory requirements for the use of email.</li> <li>○ Concerns Raised: Board Member bandwidth is a concern. Governance process is also not defined if we were to allow other groups, what the request process would be, criteria for use, exclusions, prioritization for</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Heather, Patty	15 minutes

<p>multiple requests, etc. There is also risk to the open rate to the PTSO Tiger News, and do we get classified by ISPs as spam. Federal law also requires unsubscribe options, and by using the same list for multiple groups our unsubscribe rate will likely go up which will reduce PTSO reach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recommendations included: Develop policy on use of Mailchimp for 3rd parties; consider adding links to 3rd party content in Tiger News instead of dedicated email (may not be ideal for time sensitive messages, but does provide a messaging vehicle and sets a policy); Consider equity across all parent groups - if one has access over another that may cause friction.</li> <li>● Administration to probe what the teachers would like in addition to the teach appreciation breakfast. May be good to survey teachers and involve the Teacher Appreciation Committee in the effort.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Total Time Allotted</b> <b>Adjourned: 6:24, 80 minutes</b></p>		<p>75 minutes</p>

Attached documents:

- Oct 2021 Meeting Minutes for approval
- 2021-12 Financials

2021/2022 Board Meeting Schedule: Sept 21, Oct 26, Dec 7, Jan 11, March 1, April 12, and May 31st. Annual Meeting: May 17th.