

**PTSO Board Meeting  
October 23, 2019**

**Present:**

Patty McCabe, Valerie Pontiff, Janna Lacatell, Johanne Campbell, Livia Aber, Karen Cutone, Kim Buckton, April Stein, Joel Bloom, Linda Hanusaik, Henry Turner, Millicent Lawton, Beth Tierney

**Absent:**

Ted Vahey, George LeBlanc

Meeting commenced at 4:00 PM

**Call to Order (Valerie)**

- Approval of September 2019 minutes, minutes approved unanimously.

**Financials (April and Livia)**

- Near-final dues drive figures
  - Directory is on target to meet or exceed budget numbers by end of year
  - Planners – still pretty popular. Printed in-house to better match production to demand in real time.
- Rough Northside figures
  - Northside Dining – exceeded target budget and reconciling outstanding payments due (est. \$11-11500)
- YTD performance
  - On track
- Issue raised with having a comprehensive Email Contact list
  - The number of families declining to confirm their information is decreasing by ~30% YOY. There is a lack of coordination across email distribution lists between NNHS and NNPTSO. Exploring opportunities to share with legal. The issue is that the PTSO is missing families in communications. Principal Turner reiterated that NNHS can email on behalf of the PTSO to encourage families to add their contact information to the PTSO list.

**Grants and Projects (Joel)**

- \$14K budget for 19/20 FY
- Accepting applications for grants & projects – with a deadline of 11/26. Review of applications will start 12/2. Approval will be complete by 12/12. Often meetings occur with applicants (students & teachers) to obtain more details about the projects and also explore any alternative funding sources.

**Programming (Karen and Linda)**

- Budget & Amendment
  - \$1500 annual budget, with 5 programs required per year (3 programs, 1 Expo, 1 Registration for classes)
  - Valerie proposed a budget proposal amendment from \$1500 to \$3000 annually to be able to afford fall and spring events comfortably. Motion carries unanimously.
- Screenagers
  - Approximately 150-200 people attended. The topic was very broad and a lot of content was covered, with more focus on screen time and less on anxiety/stress/depression. Feedback was very positive, centering around both content and facilitated conversations.

- Karen will follow up with NNHS about an in-school screening before returning the DVD.
- Upcoming Programming
  - November 19<sup>th</sup> – Exploring possible presentation topics with Joani Geltman. Adolescent Psychology or a blend of topics. We could tailor the topics based on our community needs. The timing is really limited to promote the program, which may be a risk.
  - Alternative options to explore: Making Caring Common at Schools, Dr. Chris Willard – Harvard-based expert that has done talks on mindfulness and teens. Karen is having conversations.

#### **Formalizing Open Board Role (Patty)**

- We have a current open Board position. Someone who can be a liaison between Board members, events, and organizations to engage greater numbers of community members. Finding volunteers for committees, leaders for projects. Role will be advertised in traditional channels.
- George will be stepping down from the Vice President role.
- Recruiting for the open roles most critical for filling in the Spring and heading into the 20/21 school year.

#### **Introductions (Beth Tierney, Karen Cutone)**

- Welcome!

#### **Presentation of the 19-20 slate for vote (Valerie and Patty in for the Nominating Chair)**

- Review of the slate. Vote should have occurred in May.
- Valerie moved to approve the Slate, Second Millicent. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **Presentation of updated Bylaws for vote (Valerie & Patty, Janna & Johanne)**

- Valerie moved to accept revised Bi-Laws passed unanimously in 2018/19 and approve. April seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **Formation of 20-21 Nominating Committee (Valerie & Patty)**

- Need a chair, someone from the feeder schools, and executive board, and Principal Turner. Recommend Monika Jain and Jacquie Arbuckle as the inaugural committee. Group would meet approximately 4 times throughout the year and propose the slate in the spring for the following year.

#### **Educational Excellence Campaign (Patty & Melissa)**

- Melissa is returning as campaign chair. EdEx will be supporting TigerTalks, where teachers can apply for funding to support speakers, enhanced presentation materials. The campaign will kick off in November and run through February. Melissa will be working on promotional materials which will include teacher quotes, photos, etc. to share the experience with the parent community.

### **Updates from School Council (Henry Turner)**

- Working on looking at the high school transcript. Evaluating where we want to go with the school, and how can their transcript really showcase the great learning and opportunities that the students engage in. Longer term project.
- Start time conversation – After 7 years of work, there are decisions to be made and challenges to address. Larger challenges are around logistics including: transportation, adjusting elementary / middle school start times alongside high school, and collective bargaining. Plan is to meet with NSHS Student Councils however, collective bargaining limitations on teach times may prohibit the meeting from occurring as planned.

### **Updates from PTO Council (Patty)**

- PTO Council (Patty) – First meeting of the year with David Fleishman. Reviewed schedules, change in start time, and other hot topics.
- Equity policy – making sure that money raised is equitably distributed and appropriately spent, and review of financial best practices. Policy will not be applied to high schools.

### **Issues we should be discussing (Valerie)**

- Issue raised about inclusion in PTSO Newsletters and how the PTSO can ensure that communications and decision making are uncontroversial and inclusive. Discussed complaints submitted about being included in the PTSO Newsletter and reference to Columbus Day + Indigenous Peoples day.

### **TOPICS INTRODUCED TO ADDRESS IN NOVEMBER MEETING:**

#### **Ideal website concepts / best practices for PTOs (Valerie & Patty)**

**10 minutes**

- Interested in review of options for the website – Tech, Communications, and potentially a vendor to help us vision the new site. Want to also make sure that we are accounting for updates in the budget for the upcoming year.

#### **Multicultural Night (Monika and/or Pria)**

**5 minutes**

- November 14<sup>th</sup> – potluck, families welcome.
- New chairs will be needed for this committee for upcoming year

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Janna Lacatell