



PTO MEETING MINUTES

October 10, 2019

Meeting Attendees: Ilana Forbes, *President*; Kimberly Saunders, *2nd VP Service*; Betsy Thalheimer, *3rd VP Special Programs*; Jackie Kardesh, *4th VP Family Outreach*; Sara Roach, *Secretary*; Courtney Olson, *Treasurer*; Austin Johnson, *Principal*; Nikki Krumm, *Teacher Liaison*; Ty Gorman, *Director of Instructional Technology, Barrington 220*; Laurie Carver; Amy Chopra; Tony Kircher; Kalin Lomas; Crystal McConnell; Meagan Merrill; Maria Palumbo; Nikki Schriever; Julie Watts; Courtney Young.

I. Call to Order and Welcome: (*Ilana Forbes*) Ilana called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Principal's Report: (*Austin Johnson*)

- A. **Reminder re: March 2020 Referendum:** Make plans to vote in the Spring 2020 election, and tell your friends and neighbors. One of the items included in the referendum is extra space at NBS. In future meetings, Mr. Johnson will be revealing more details as to what the extra space will look like, but hopefully there will be no more music room in the multipurpose room!
- B. **Teacher Development:** Lucy Calkins (Reading Curriculum) Teacher's College is currently taking place. The Lucy Calkins representative demonstrates a best practice lesson to teachers, and then there is time to debrief. Teacher's College sessions will take place throughout the year. Teachers will also be doing more professional development regarding NBS' new word study program.
- C. **2019 Fifth Grade Gift:** The horse statue is now installed in the front of the building, and beautiful flowers are planted around it, as well.
- D. **Halloween:** The Halloween Parade will take place on October 31 at 12:45 p.m. The classroom parties, for those volunteers notified by the Room Coordinators, will be from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Hopefully parents can decorate the classrooms on October 30 after school. Please remember that all treats need to be store-bought and nut-free.
- E. **Guest Speaker: Ty Gorman, Director of Instructional Technology, Barrington 220.**
 - 1. **Barrington 220's One to World Program:** It is somewhat controversial that Barrington 220 gives iPads to kindergarteners. We have a different philosophy in Barrington 220 than in some neighboring districts. One reason why is that students learn best when they are engaged. Technology

can enhance and amplify learning. However, technology can also be distracting, and children do not know how to be good digital citizens right away. The teachers try to teach the children to be safe, savvy and social. The District also wants parents to serve as good role models for their children in the way they deal with their own screens.

2. **Monitoring Screen Time:** Not all screen time is identical; Book Creator is better quality screen time than Fortnite. Children should have more active screen time than passive screen time. Mr. Gorman demonstrated the “Screen Time” feature on the iPad. Parents can set “down time” for screens during certain times of the day (even during lunch -- Prairie Middle School is experimenting with allowing iPad use during the second half of lunch). Parents can also restrict screen time based on the type of app, certain websites, or a type of website, and can also set a content rating. Parents can also allow children to access only specific websites. Tony Kircher asked if there was a list of suggested standards, but the District prefers to leave this up to individual families. The District does filter content when students are on the school’s Wi-Fi network, but their philosophy is that it is impossible to lock down the Internet, so let’s focus on student education. Teachers also use Apple Classroom to see what students are accessing in class.

III. Teacher Liaison Report: (*Ms. Krumm*) Ms. Krumm introduced herself as the new PTO Teacher Liaison. This is her second year at NBS. She asked if there was anything parents would like the staff to know, and to let her know how she can help the PTO.

IV. President’s Report: (*Ilana Forbes*)

- A. **District News -- eLearning/Distance Learning:** On October 15, the Board of Education will consider the adoption of the resolution to utilize eLearning as part of its Distance Learning plan for emergency days for the 2019-2020 school year. This will hopefully cut down on the amount of snow/cold days, which wreaks havoc on end-of-year school schedules. The assignments will be tailored to the different grade levels. Elementary school students will be assigned work in two core subjects, and there will also be opportunities for specials learning. Students will have five school days to complete the eLearning assignments, which will always include a weekend, so students will not have to stress if they don’t have power in their home. Staff will usually post the assignments by 9:00 a.m. the morning of the emergency day. There may still be emergency days if the District is taken by surprise (for example, the snow day that took place the day after Thanksgiving last year). Staff will be able to respond to questions from students during working hours. Unfortunately, NBS cannot yet use this new policy for Election Days, if NBS continues to be used as a polling site. A change in State



legislation needs to take place first; right now the wording of the law is weather-specific). Robin O'Connor, the Lake County clerk, is working to move the legislation through, and the goal is for NBS to be able to use the law in November 2020.

- B. Open Slate Positions:** We need at least two Chairs for the 2021 Adult Social (our major biennial fundraiser). 2021 seems like a long way away, but the PTO typically makes the save the date announcement the previous May. Please contact Amy Vandenberg (amykballet@gmail.com) and/or Ilana Forbes (ilanamorgan@gmail.com) if you are interested or know someone who might make a fabulous chair.
- C. B-Strong:** (*Julie Watts*) Congratulations to Julie Watts on becoming our School Ambassador for B-Strong. She will be bringing important info to the PTO throughout the year. Julie informed attendees about the Stand Up for a Kinder Community Event, October 22 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Barrington Area Library. There will also be a Parenting Toward a Kinder Community Parent Coffee on October 24 from 9:45-11:15 at the Library. Check the B-Strong website for details on the monthly day and evening Parent Conversation circles for different age levels.
- D. Thank You** - The PTO would like to thank everyone who has volunteered for the NBS Conference Dinner and all of our other activities. This has been a very active year for volunteers so far. Let's keep it up!
- V. Scouts! Pack 229:** Presentation by *Tony Kircher*. Tony told the attendees about the Pack 229 Cub Scout mission, which is "fun with a purpose." He described the structure of a typical meeting and the "Law of the Pack." Cub Scouts is all about family, and is open to all boys and girls grades K-5. Pack 229 was the first Pack in the Midwest to admit girls. All Den and Pack meetings occur on one day and at one time for maximum parent convenience. Membership is \$10 per month, although some activities are extra such as campouts. The Pack has a scoutership program, funded by private donations, for students who may not be able to otherwise participate. The Pack does many activities such as museum overnights, the Pinewood Derby, and the NBS Veteran's Day Program. The Pack and its leaders have received many awards, including the Journey to Excellence Gold Medal. The Pack is chartered by the PTO, but doesn't receive any money from the PTO. The Pack has one fundraiser -- selling Christmas wreaths -- so make plans to get your holiday wreath from the Pack. The Pack will be also be honorably retiring old flags in November at a ceremony, and the community will be invited to attend. Parents can deliver their old flags to the NBS front office.

- VI. Treasurer's Report:** *(Courtney Olson)* A copy of the latest PTO budget was available at the meeting. The only major change to the budget was that staff grants were distributed on September 30. Ms. Krumm will be presenting a slideshow at the next PTO meeting which will detail the purchases that staff members made with their grants.
- VII. Secretary's Report:** *(Sara Roach)*
- A. **Approval of Minutes from the September 13, 2019 PTO Meeting:** Make sure to review the meeting minutes on the PTO website shortly after the meeting takes place. Julie Watts made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13 PTO meeting. Courtney Olson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - B. **Meeting Post-Party Tonight at ZaZa's!** The restaurant has invented four new drink specials with the PTO in mind, plus a martini special is also available. See you there!
 - C. **Off-Site December PTO Meeting:** The annual PTO holiday meeting and ornament exchange will be a brunch at Southern Belle's Pancake House in Barrington, on December 13 from 9:30-12:00. Stay tuned for a way to RSVP and pay in advance for this meeting.
- VIII. 1st VP Fundraising:** *(Ilana Forbes for Amy Vandenberg)*
- A. **Box Tops:** November 1 is the Box Top deadline. Box Tops are now processed through an app on your phone, so don't forget to scan your grocery receipts. There will not be a classroom contest this year, as the app doesn't allow NBS to break down donations by class.
 - B. **Fall Fundraiser:** This year's fundraiser will be gift cards. Think about all the gift cards you buy for the holidays for teachers, bus drivers, relatives, friends, or just for yourself, and purchase them from the PTO.
 - C. **NBS Spiritwear:** The Spiritwear sale will re-open on November 1. Don't forget to dress your kids in spiritwear every Friday during the school year.
 - D. **Simple Fundraising Through Heinen's and Amazon Smile:** These super-easy ways to support the PTO. Please remember that you have to re-register at Heinen's for each school year.
 - E. **Luxe Warehouse:** This fundraiser on Thursday, October 3 was very successful. A small but mighty showing earned almost \$300 for NBS (unofficially). Another shopping fundraiser is in the works at Kendra Scott in Deer Park. This will be perfect for holiday gifts, so watch for details.
 - F. **NBS Dines Out:** Save the Date for the annual Culver's Halloween Dine Out on Tuesday, October 29 from 4:30-7:30pm. This is a change in the date and time from previous communications. There will be a costume contest, and most likely a classroom attendance contest.



- IX. 2nd VP Service:** *(Kimberly Saunders)*
- A. Veteran's Day Ceremony and Hero Breakfast:** This event is coming up on Thursday, November 7. The NBS Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts are in charge of the Veteran's Day ceremony, and the NBS Student Council runs the Hero Breakfast. Look out for a Sign-Up Genius for breakfast food donations. Please let us know if you have any veterans or active-duty military in your family. NBS would love to honor them in person, and there will be a slideshow in the gym during the Veteran's Day Assembly.
 - B. Recycling Program:** Thanks to the many program volunteers. The Barrington 220 Green Council will be observing NBS' food recovery efforts on October 15, due to the success of our program.
- X. 3rd VP Special Programs:** *(Betsy Thalheimer)*
- A. Mini Courses:** The PTO needs volunteers to "teach" mini-courses in February. Mini-courses are a valuable fundraiser for the school. No talent is required to teach a mini-course, just enthusiasm! Betsy circulated a sign-up sheet to gather volunteers.
- XI. 4th VP Family Outreach:** *(Jackie Kardesh)*
- A. Fall Family Flick:** Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers, and to Little Caesar's for helping to feed everyone. We received great feedback about the new option to pre-order and purchase Little Caesar's pizza at the Flick.
 - B. Grand Dental:** Thank you to everyone who transferred their dental business to Grand Dental. The PTO will soon be receiving monies from them for referring families during the 2018-2019 school year, after they sponsored a family event.
 - C. Family Event Sponsorships:** Family events are beginning to turn a profit for the PTO, thanks to sponsorships. Please let Jackie know about any potential partnerships, or vendors who would be willing to get involved with a PTO family event. The PTO is planning a Block Party on a Saturday this coming spring, and would love some vendors. We already have a magician!
- XII. Other Business:** Maria Palumbo would love to be train someone to take over the Book Fair two years from now. The two Scholastic Book Fairs each year are the school's biggest fundraiser outside of the biannual Adult Social. Crystal McConnell suggested turning the school's spring fun run into a fundraiser, where students would get sponsors for running a certain amount of miles. Nikki Schriever reported that Ms. Tollefsen still needs a classroom yearbook representative. She also asked if attendees could take a creative picture of their kids in NBS spiritwear, in order to promote the November sale.
- XIII. Adjournment:** Ilana Forbes adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.