

NSE PTO Meeting



Tuesday, February 9, 2021

I. **PTO Zoom Meeting was called to order by Nikki Tilson at 6:05 pm.**

II. **Introductions / Attendees:**

PTO Officers: Nikki Tilson (President), Melissa Messer (Vice President), Melody Benavides (Treasurer), Ajit Vaidya (Secretary).

NSE Teachers / Admin: Vickie Boudouris (Principal), Maryann Hewitt (Parent Coordinator), Laura Gutierrez (KG), Michelle Tucker (KG), Kristina Cameron (2nd Grade, Garden), Laura Porterfield.

PTO Members / Volunteers: Kristin Hallstrom (Communications), Courtney Hvostal, Michelle Tucker, Johnna Ali, Natalie Dougherty (Teacher Appreciation), Sudha Hariprasad, Sami Khan, Amanda Vassigh.

III. **Secretary's Report: (Ajit Vaidya)**

Minutes of the Jan. 12, 2021 PTO meeting were approved with minor corrections. The updated minutes will be uploaded to the NSE website.

IV. **President's Report (Nikki Tilson)**

A. **Read Across America spirit week: March 2 is Read Across America Day.** Vickie has been in contact with the new librarian to plan the event. Kids will dress up. There will be a game for the kids where they can guess which teachers have their favorite books listed. The whole theme is "Reading Can Take You Places". There will be a Spirit Day where kids can dress up as their favorite books character or setting. We will have parents and/or former students as guest readers who will do a virtual reading of a book. It would be nice to have some live reading during synchronous time.

B. **T-Shirt Design:** We have come up with a special tie-dye T-shirt design with the theme "Cheetah Strong". The idea is to sell the T-Shirt to raise funds for PTO. We will also sell sweatshirts, hats, and other clothing with this design. This will be part of the Spring Fundraiser.

C. **Student Council**

1. Will need student council volunteers to help MC the virtual talent show.
2. Upcoming Spirit Days
 - a. **February 12:** Backwards Day
 - b. **March 26:** Spring Colors Day

- c. **April 23:** Crazy Outfit Day
- d. **May 21:** Beach Day

V. **Treasurer's Report: (Melody Benavides)**

As of February 1, 2021 the bank balance was \$18,888.33. The Budget to Actual report updated with activities through 1/31/2021. The report does not include deposit made on 2/2 of \$776.29. We increased the Read Across America budget to \$150. We now have up to \$75 for student enrichment for each class.

VI. **Principal's Report (Vickie Boudouris):**

- A. **School Registration** – We are in the process of completing student registrations. We are behind on the online application. Kindergarten registrations are a little bit low. Parents are encouraged to spread the word to neighbors who have incoming kindergarten students. Natoma Station is losing a few students to the new elementary school in Folsom (Mangini Ranch).
- B. **Picture Day:** Picture Day this year is scheduled for February 23 for those in the Hybrid In-Person classes and on February 24 for virtual learners. There will be a process to take pictures in the Multi while still maintaining social distancing, but there will be no group pictures.
- C. **Daily Health Screening** – Parents have two options (Frontline online or paper screening) for daily Covid symptom screening. We are encouraging parents to use Frontline digital tool. We have seen a big jump with the daily text reminders. If you haven't used Frontline, it's very easy, and it only takes less than a minute.
- D. **New playgrounds:** School is up for modernization. We will update the playgrounds, and we are going to get state of the art playground equipment and shade structure for the outdoor amphitheater. The playground construction is expected to be completed by the middle of March.
- F. **Coffee and Conversation with the Principal:** This event will be scheduled in the Spring.
- G. **Learning Loss and Recovery:** Per the last FCUSD board meeting, assistance is being prioritized for those students who are not performing at grade level. NSE kids have generally been doing well, but there has been some learning loss. We are starting to set up interventions for students who are performing below grade level. We are using Lexia, Read Naturally, and targeted lessons for math. Teachers are using choice time to do quick, targeted, interventions in KG. 3rd grade team has an afternoon intervention for students that have learning gaps in reading comprehension. We are waiting to hear what other supports the district can fund. We have used daily math Quick Checks, iReady diagnostics, and embedded Benchmark and SIPPS progress assessments to monitor student progress. The CASSPP – State assessment will likely be administered sometime in April, although we are still working on the details. The test is shorter than it has been in the past. There are questions and concerns about security for people taking the test at home. We are working with our Testing and Assessment Department to understand how to use the secure browser.

H. **Screen Addiction:** There was an extensive discussion about excessive screen time and screen addiction during this pandemic. There is a growing concern that, with the advent of extended virtual learning, kids are getting exposed to excessive amounts of media at home for long periods of time. Kids are getting addicted to media, electronic devices, and video games. Studies have showed that excessive electronic screen time can be harmful to children's brain development, and can be extremely addictive. There was a discussion of ideas for breaking this habit in children. This includes making an effort to get kids outside daily. This is not only a physical education (P.E.) requirement, but it's a healthy break from continuous screen use. Other ideas include going for hikes on weekends, going on drives, and going to new parks, especially with the weather being so nice these days. The main thing is to try to get kids outside. Ms. Boudouris will send out some resources in Cheetah Bytes. We may consider sending the newly purchased jump ropes home for distance learners as an added activity for P.E. We can also check out physical books from the library, which may be a good alternative to electronic media. To access this, please visit the library tab on the Natoma Station website. There was also an idea to share videos for Monday Morning messages on activities that kids like to do outside (like hunting for buried objects using a metal detector).

VII. Teacher Report (Ms. Tucker, Ms. Gutierrez)

Ms. Tucker: We just finished Kindness Week. February's theme is about fairness and equity. We are donating food items, canned goods, and used clothes to Goodwill. We thank PTO for the jump ropes, and for the \$75 student enrichment. Ms. Gutierrez thanked the PTO for additional funds for Kinder.

VIII. Garden Report (Ms. Cameron)

The garden is growing as it should during this time of year, and Ms. Cameron will be working over the next few weeks to prepare it for spring planting. The new garden website is in the works with the help of Stephanie Cantu, our music teachers, and NSE parents. Green Team has been on hold due to the fact that we have been in the purple tier. We are trying to come up with ideas for when we go back to the red tier. We want to make it more user friendly for people to use the garden and do lessons. Garden is not just about planting and growing, but also about cooking and eating. Grandma Esther will be coming back to volunteer in a few weeks.

IX. Parent Coordinator Report (Maryann Hewitt)

- A. Continue sending pics for distant learning and events. Ms. Hackert has been sending a lot of pictures. Pictures of groups need to show people with masks on in order to be posted to the website.
- B. Check out our website to stay up to date with the happenings at the school. We have cleaned up the school news area, so it's easier to find things on the website. Monday Morning Messages are all in one place now. The website includes the Virtual Library, Staff read-alouds, Videos (A Day in the Life), NSE reopening handbook, etc.

X. Old/Current Business

- A. February 19: Yearbook Cover Contest - If you have kids that are artists, we need more submissions for the yearbook cover. Kids will have until Feb. 19 to submit a picture.
- B. February 24: Fusion Taps- The next Spirit Night will be Feb. 24 from 3-9pm at Fusion Taps. Please mention the fundraiser and 10% of the bill will be donated to the PTO.

XI. New Business

A. **March 15:** Donuts for Dads and Mom's will be held this year as a drive-through event on March 15. There will be to-go donut packets for pickup.

B. **Talent show-** We will be planning a virtual talent show in March. The rough dates for milestones are as follows:

1. **March 12:** Submit audition video of childrens' talents.
2. **March 26:** Submit final video with full dress.
3. **April:** Viewing party sometime in April. We still need to get a date. It will be pre-recorded and played. We will share it with our community.

C. **Spirit Night @ Taco Loco:** We are still working on a date, likely sometime in March.

D. 2020-21 Yearbook

1. Spirit Day pics needed. We will use student pictures from Spirit Day.
2. Download pics to TreeRing or email to natomastationyearbook@gmail.com

XII. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.