

NSE PTO Meeting



Tuesday, September 8, 2020

I. Call to Order at 6:03pm.

II. Introductions

Nikki Tilson, Juli Thompson, Melody Benavides, Maryann Hewitt, Kristin Hallstrom, Vickie Boudouris, Amy Pelzner, Laura Porterfield, Melissa Messer, Kristina Cameron, Sami Khan, Michelle Hadsell, Debs Hughes, TJ Bonner, Nicole Ball, Mary Swick, Stacie DeWitt, Ajit Vaidya, Margaret Whitehurst.

III. Secretary's Report (Ajit Vaidya): Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 12, 2020 PTO meeting were approved. These minutes will be uploaded to the NSE website.

IV. President's Report (Acting PTO President, Nicole Tilson)

The President's report was given by acting PTO President, Nicole (Nikki) Tilson, who served as PTO Vice President last year, and stepped into the acting President role after Shannon Todd left the NSE community this past summer. Given the transition to full distance learning, and significant turnover in PTO membership and roles, Nikki provided a refresher on the goals of the PTO and goals for the coming year, as follows:

A. Who we are?

1. In 2017, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) converted to a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and merged with the Natoma Station Education Foundation (NSEF). The Foundation has no larger governing body. It exists solely to support and enhance the educational opportunities at Natoma Station Elementary. An important part of the merger was the promise that the Garden would be cared for and funded within the new organization.

B. What we do?

1. Maintain a working relationship among parents, school and community
2. Financially assist teachers with specific needs for their classroom
3. Enhance the quality of education by raising funds for school supplies or programs that fall outside the school budget
4. Host family fun events

C. Current state of the PTO:

1. Elections: With move to distance learning, many people have left Natoma Station, so we have a number of open positions on the PTO.
2. Fundraising: What are we doing it for?
 - a) Support school programs and teachers
 - b) School events

V. Treasurer's Report (Melody Benavides)

Melody Benavides provided the Annual Treasurer's Report for the 2019-2020 School Year, which is attached to the September 2020 PTO Meeting minutes. The following points were made during the discussion:

- A. Per Table 2 of the annual report, the total funds available at the start of the 2020-2021 school year is \$15,377. Given that there will likely be fewer PTO sponsored events this school year, the funds appear to be adequate.
- B. It was agreed that we would not renew the movie license given the move to distance learning. If the situation changes, we can consider renewing the movie license when the time comes.
- C. The annual Cheetah Chase fundraiser will be postponed, but we discussed possibly moving the Cheetah Chase to the winter/spring of 2021. We may also consider doing a virtual fundraiser depending on funding needs for planned activities and events during the distance learning period.
- D. We have put the Special Friends program on hold, which is typically a \$1,500 budget, as we would have to hire another individual in a distance learning environment. Special Friends is a program that helps support peer relational skills. Facilitator works in small groups with kids, as well as one-on-one work with kids that have issues with self-regulation.
- E. That said, we have put in some interventions for some kids who are falling through the cracks during this pandemic period. Students with special needs will be assisted on an individual basis by the social/emotional learning department, as needed. A social worker intern and our school psychologist will provide some support for some kids with additional needs.
- F. Since we don't have any field trips scheduled this year, funding for scholarships used typically for field trips, is on hold. This could change if we resume in-person learning.
- G. Melody will revise the budget based on the discussions and decisions made during the September 2020 PTO meeting, and send out an updated budget.
- H. The current budget outlined in Treasurer's Report was approved by the PTO board.

VI. Principal's Report (Vickie Boudouris)

- A. Ms. Boudouris conducted a survey of all NSE teachers to find out how the PTO can best support teachers and staff during the pandemic / distance learning period. The NSE teacher survey is attached herewith to the meeting minutes.
- B. Welcome Back Parade: The parade was a huge success. It brought a lot of joy for kids coming back to school. People enjoyed seeing each other in person, even if at a distance. School supplies distributed at the Back to School parade were paid for with school site funds, so parents didn't have to get those items out of pocket.

- C. We would like to explore different ways to stay connected as a school community during this distance learning period. We want to maintain some of our traditions, even with distance learning, such as Trunk or Treat. We would like to have a monthly connection with families, focusing on an NSE character trait. Our first monthly challenge went out today (showing respect). Vickie also reached out to teachers. We will select a book that is a focus for the month. PTO is requested to help pay for books to be used as raffle prizes. Cheetah Champs winners will be announced in the Cheetah Bytes newsletter. We are using Class Dojo and Remind to reach out to parents.
- D. Thanks to everyone for participating and partnering with us. Ms. Boudouris is requesting to invite more teachers to participate in PTO meetings. This year, in place of having two teacher PTO representatives, teachers will participate in PTO meetings on a rotational basis. This way the PTO can get to know NSE teachers better and our teachers can learn more about the strong partnership within the PTO.

VII. Teacher Report (Ms. Juli Thompson)

Teachers appreciate the support of PTO.

VIII. Garden Report (Ms. Kristina Cameron)

We are ready to start planting for the Fall Harvest. We had a shout out on Facebook over the summer. We are looking at maybe doing a NSE garden Facebook page.

IX. Parent Coordinator Report (Maryann Hewitt)

Thanks to everyone who has been submitting pictures or drawings to be put up on Cheetah Bytes or the website. We are now housing Cheetah Bytes on the "For Parents" tab on the NSE website.

X. Old / Current Business

- A. Fundraiser totals from TreeRing \$214.99 and Art To Remember \$476.75.
- B. PTO Membership Drive is currently going on till Sept. 26. 28 families have signed up so far. We are looking for more parents to join the PTO. All are welcome.

XI. New Business / Ideas for Events During 2020/2021 School Year

- A. School Event Ideas: There was a lively discussion about planning school events in the era of distance learning. There was strong agreement that limitations due to the Covid pandemic should not stop us from planning fun and exciting events, or from meaningfully connecting as a community, whether in a socially distanced or virtual setting. One way or another, we all agreed that this is going to be a memorable year, one for the history books!! Ideas included a drive-thru Trunk-Or-Treat, Spirit Nights, and Scavenger Hunt, which are further outlined below. Other ideas included virtual events focused on gaming, bingo, science, art, cooking, etc. There was an idea to do a Zoom cooking class combined with vegetables grown in the garden. There was a suggestion to do a "Virtual Talent Show" by class, as well as a Veterans' Day virtual assembly. It might be easier if we did smaller events for

different grade levels. It was agreed that we should do a parent survey on ideas for school events, and this will be discussed at the next PTO meeting as well.

- B. Trunk or Treat: We have been brainstorming ideas for a drive-thru Trunk or Treat event this year. We would set up in school parking lot and/or playground area. Cars would be spread apart, and would enter through one side of the school and exit through the other side. People would wear masks and keep a distance. Kids would get something to take home. Maybe each child would get a gift bag with some kind of fun surprises (but we will not distribute candy or food items). We might need help from PTO to purchase lights. We agreed to plan the event for October 30. More details to be provided at the next PTO meeting.
- C. Spirit Nights: We have scheduled a Spirit Night at Handel's Ice Cream on September 23, and one at Chick-Fil-A at October 8. We would like plan monthly Spirit Nights.
- D. Scavenger Hunt: We are planning a Scavenger Hunt in Folsom for November or December. The idea is that people would go a list of places and take pictures and post them. We could do the Scavenger Hunt on same day as Spirit night.

XII. Election of New PTO Board Officers:

- A. Nikki Tilson was nominated for President and Melissa Messer was nominated for Vice President. Both were elected unanimously. Congratulations to both of them !!
- B. We are looking for volunteers for other PTO positions, including:
 - Great Artist program
 - Box Tops: Debs Hughes
 - Cheetah Chase: Scott Tilson will co-chair, need someone else to assist
 - Cheetah Wear: Amy Pelzner
 - Family Events
 - Fundraising- need someone to help with Spirit nights
 - Membership
 - Pancake breakfasts- Monique Vinselli
 - Trunk or Treat
 - Yearbook

XIII. For the Good of the Order (Recognitions, Inspiration)

- A. Thank you to Kristin - Facebook
- B. Thank you to Amy – Spirit Wear
- C. Thank you to Amy and Michelle – Membership Drive
- D. Thank you to Melody – budget
- E. Thank you to Ajit – PTO minutes
- F. Thank you to Maryann - Peachjar
- G. Thank you TEACHERS and STAFF!!



- XIV. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Attachment A: NSE Teacher Survey

Principal Boudouris solicited input from NSE teachers for ideas on how PTO can support our students for the 2020-2021 school year. Here are some of the ideas that she received:

- It would be great if you could purchase some materials that will add some enrichment to our virtual classrooms. I would like Scholastic Magazine in both print and digital to replace some of the in-person science and exploration activities I usually do.
- Thank you PTO for your continued support! For my 3rd grade classroom (grade level possibly) I would like student Math Manipulative Kits that could be sent home for now, and brought back for their personal use when students return to NSE in person. I need to find a more affordable kit still, but students would really benefit with their own kits at home.
- For the classroom, support ongoing needs for whiteboard markers, highlighter pens, and pencils.
- School-wide need for technology (stands for iPad/phone).
- I would love to continue anything we can that is true to NSE. Thinking outside the box for things like trunk or treat, garden, etc. I'd love to hear how the parents want us to make DL fun for them. The kids probably have better ideas than we do. I feel guilty asking for anything from PTO for my classroom given our current situation.
- Since we have no classrooms enrichment donations from parents this year, it would be nice for each class to get a donation from PTO to cover enrichment items.
- I believe teachers and parents can partner to create fun outreach activities for students:
 - Banners hung at the school where students and families can see them as they drive by to encourage, praise, and motivate students.
 - Purchase prizes for students to win (Cheetah Champ).
 - Staff parade!
 - I think support groups for material pick-ups to drop at houses for those who cannot get to school.
 - Teachers need headphones with mic and ipad stands for document camera usage.
- Books to support our monthly Character Traits focus.
- Books for student raffle winners. We will be raffling one book each week for students who submit an entry to our monthly challenge. Students will get to choose a book from a curated list that offers book choices based on the monthly character trait.

Attachment B: (attached separately)

**Natoma Station Education Foundation
Annual Treasurer's Report
2019-2020 School Year**