

## **NHS PTO Meeting Minutes**

**February 12, 2018**

Attendees: Kristin Kennedy, Superintendent Cosimo Tangorra Jr, Vincent Bianchi, Jennifer Ruotolo, Audrey Waterfield, Becky Stansbury, Cindy Strevell, Anthony Malizia, David P. Koes, Eva Jones, Michele Harland, Anne Skrebutenas, Tammy Bernard

Open: Kristin called the meeting to order at 6:02, seconded by Cindy Strevell. January meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

### **Special Guest presentation:**

Audrey Waterfield, Center director for Sylvan Learning Center, Clifton Park

Heard presentation from Audrey about services for students available from Sylvan Learning Center: Pre-K through College Prep study skill classes. Explained and offered a referral program for PTO's to earn benefits which then can result in donated services for students. Passed out flyers and information. Questions answered about credentials of teachers, point spread after taking SAT/ACT prep classes, and if Special Ed services were offered.

### **Review and approval of Minutes**

Minutes from last meeting in January were not out electronically in time to be emailed for review, so copies were passed out and reviewed. Motion to pass from Kristin Kennedy, second by Becky Stansbury.

### **College Night**

Stacy Frisoni not present for meeting but it was reported that deli tray was ordered. College night is March 6.

### **After Prom**

Maria & Cyndi not present, but Vince Bianchi reported that they are working on finalizing contract with ViaPort for food, and the food check deposit had not cleared yet.

They are working with Elizabeth at ViaPort, but she doesn't have power to negotiate food portion, so process is slow. Kristin reported that 12 letters were sent out to corporations for donations and Maria is taking this on. Michele helping to keep track of incoming donations. Total of \$1300 in donations from parents to date, \$225 in donations came through Paypal. A \$250 donation from NCAP and \$100 from Niskayuna Community Foundation is expected.

Anne collected \$225 in gift card donations to various places (movies, starbucks, etc...) for After Prom student raffle that were given in memory of Shelley Minahan from the individuals at the NYS Labor Dept (Shelley's former co-workers). Gift cards given in envelope to Kristin.

### **Prom**

Vince Bianchi reported that he met with class officers and photographers from Lauren Studios about the photo package insert given with prom ticket packets.

Major difference from last year is that officers decided to opt out of video taping the walk-in. Cindy Strevel questioned if class was surveyed before making this decision, answer was no. Dave Koes asked why decision to opt out? Vince said it was financial.

Dave asked if still time to overturn decision, stating it is a tradition many kids and parents look forward to having. A suggestion of a power-point or slide show may happen instead and Vince said officers had an alternative in mind to stream at the After Prom.

Eva Jones offered suggestion to maybe have someone from video class make instead? Students are very skilled, and will be cheaper.

Vince said will set up next meeting with officers to further discuss, Kristin offered to attend, and noted also open to parents of Junior class.

### **Prom Tickets (selling and dates)**

Vince Bianchi announced that dates for selling will be a bit different this year due to AP exams going on, as to not overload support staff with daily distribution and collection of contracts.

There was discussion about when Tickets will be sold, but then agreed upon the following dates/times:

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>

(3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> sold only afterschool 2:45-3:45)

All tickets sold at Crossroads.

Marriot needs count by that Thursday, and Contract should be done (deposits are in). Chipotle fundraiser date for prom is all set and After Prom tickets are all done.

### **Staff Appreciation Day Luncheon**

Becky Stansbury reported theme this year will be “Beach Bash” with “mocktails” and fun tropical motif. Working with Perreca’s to cater, meeting with them next month to pick menu.

### **Senior Gala**

Kristin reported that Tracy and Denise are meeting with Michelle Dellratta from last year. Photographer and DJ are all set. Need to meet with LT’s. Vince reported meeting with class officers on March 8 to plan field day and games during the barbeque, which is new this year. Students are organizing 5 field events.

Can buy tickets for another person for Gala but need a contract. This will be available after prom is over to avoid confusion.

### **PTO President’s Report**

Kristin reported there will be several open positions for PTO officers and committees next year. Please let Kristin know if you are planning on returning and/or interested in another position.

Kristin also reported that Pay Pal links have been updated on website to allow for donations and that she also updated website with current information.

She expressed need for a secure cabinet to store PTO files, and that she was holding (1) box and Tammy holding (2) boxes at home, but these should really be kept at school in a locked unit. Asked for suggestions. Eva Jones offered to add a lockable 4 drawer storage cabinet to Faculty room for PTO.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer reported sizeable donation checks from two parents were recently made. Also reported \$350 from town hall bottle drive.

There was a discussion of CLYNK bottle redemption program from Hannaford, how would it work to get bags to parents of high school students, where would they be stored, etc... Eva Jones offered to check if this was something office willing to keep for pick up when families need bag replenished. Anthony suggested a possible task for recycling club?

### **Board of Education Report: Dave Koes**

Dave reported an enrollment study was recently done by outside company, and results are currently on Board Docs on website for public review. Study shows significant increase in enrollment expected which needs to be planned for.

IPAC committee on enrollment and facilities are also working on this. We can't build fast enough to keep up with trend, what would a capital project look like to accommodate growth? Capital project sub-committee is meeting, looking at buildings, upgrades to traffic, parking, handicap accessibility.

The next Students First presentations will be March 27 BOE meeting at high school with Glenclyff/Rosendale presenting on Growth Mindset. Budget presentations will be on-going.

### **Principal's Report**

John Rickert not present but Eva Jones read his report.

Scheduling is underway to determine course offerings and number of sections for next school year, and meeting with Asst. Superintendent and Dept heads are also happening. Master schedule will come out in March/April then counselors will meet with students in May to resolve conflicts.

Tammy asked question about minimum number of students to run a class? Answer was (15) Discussion of whether classes such as History of Vietnam should still be in course catalog, since it is cancelled every year due to enrollment.

Discussion of Capital Region BOCES programs at Mohannasen's Career and Technical Center and recent open house (well attended, 150-200) Greater awareness of these options for Niskayuna students.

### **Vice Principals Report**

Eva Jones reported efforts to patrol the bathrooms and locker rooms were increased to every 30 minutes and resulted in significant improvement in vandalism issues. D wing boys bathroom still closed due to vandalism repairs still needed.

There are 7 campus supervisors, not all are full time, who patrol.

Musical "Camelot" is first weekend in March with (4) performances Thursday through Saturday.

Mental Health and Wellness subcommittee is meeting Thursday at 4pm.

Focus of meeting will be discussion of offerings for student to de-stress such as Yoga in gym classes.

Athletic Director to plans to attend meeting.

Inspirational, positive quotes are now streaming on high school signage, suggestion from committee, working well.

Request submitted for Superintendent Tangorra to give overview of budget at April 9<sup>th</sup> PTO meeting.

Anthony Malizia reported that (10) APEX Learning licenses were recently purchased to help at-risk students make up credits.

**Kristin motioned to adjourn meeting at 7:01 pm, Cindy Strevell, gave 2<sup>nd</sup>.**