

Niskayuna High School PTO Meeting

June 12th, 2017

In Attendance:

David Koes	John Moskov	Eva Jones	Kristin Kennedy	John Rickert
Teri Shanahan	Tammy Bernard	Victor Wheeler	Cindy Strevell	Vince Bianchi
Michelle Dellaratta	Jen Ruotolo			

Meeting Called to Order at 6:02 by Kristin Kennedy .

Approval of May 15th meeting minutes by Teri Shanahan and John Whitney.

Presidents Report: (Jen Ruotolo)

- Three Mini Grants will be presented.
 - The family consumers science class: utensils for the students \$530
 - Art Dept \$630 going towards “Shorts Cuts” for film students- an annual trip for students.
 - Special Ed program needs \$500 to continue covering expenses for the program.

**Jen made the motion that the PTO covers all three requests. Kristin Kennedy seconded- total expense is \$1660.

- Vote on slate of officers for 2017-2018:
 - PTO President – Kristin Kennedy
 - Vice President – Anne Skrebutenas
 - Treasurer – Tammy Bernard
 - Secretary – Nita Chicatelli
 - Parent Liaison – Teri Shanahan

*** Vince Bianchi made the motion to vote on slate of officers. John Whitney seconded. All votes yes, no rejections.

- Cindy Strevell agreed to take on the role of directory and webmaster.
- Michelle Dellaratta said she would think about the NCAP rep.
- Voted to donate \$250 to the NTA scholarship fund in memory of Senor Jones.
- Voted to donate \$250 to the Nisky Now Backpack program. – which will become a line item in the budget.

• **PTO/PTA discussion:**

- Kristin Kennedy and Jen Ruotolo went to the PTO Council meeting on May 24th. After listening to the discussion, they suggested we rescind the motion to become a PTA. Reason being, we don't need to change the bylaws, our accounts will remain the same, we will still be covered under district insurance.
- Motion made by Jen and Kristin that we apply for our own 501c3 due to the dissolution of the Council. Vince Bianchi seconded, motion was approved and PTO will move forward with filing for a 501c3 over the summer.

Treasurer Report: (Victor Wheeler)

- Still outstanding deposits need to be made for Gala.
- Accounts not balanced until gala and bbq are finished.
- Handing over all files to Kristin and Tammy by the 18th.

Senior Gala: (Vince Bianchi)

- Sold 180 tickets. Contracts in at 268. Selling tickets one hour per day during regents testing. Would like confirmation from Victor Wheeler on deposits made.
- Sunny Lee needs debit card. Kristin Kennedy will get to her. Mary Conklin has been making deposits.
- Got tax exempt status on event so tax was removed from contract total.

BBQ: (Michelle Dellaratta)

- All set with volunteers.
- May need to send out one more email asking for donations.

Staff Appreciation: (Kristin Kennedy)

- Came in under budget.
- Everything went great. Staff very appreciative. Gift baskets a big hit again this year.

Craft Fair: (Kristin Kennedy)

- Approximately 70 crafters secured at this point.

School Board Report: (David Koes)

- 78% voter approval for new budget and bus proposition.
- Re-org meeting by July 15th to go back through and readopt existing policies.
- New high school code of conduct will be adopted by July 14th.
- Looking into engaging an outside source to do a capacity study and look at external factors in the housing trends, capacity levels. Hoping they will help us take a look at what it mean for the future.
- BOE may take a diversity training retreat over the summer.
- Interviewed 9 sophomores for the BOE student representative.

Asst. Principals Report: (Eva Jones)

- Wrapping up the end of the year. Junior and senior awards were held last week. Local and final exams are this week.
- Mrs. Jones said she would like to the Schenectady partnering with peers program (anti-defamation group) to continue to grow and may approach the PTO board for some funding in September.

Asst. Principals Report: (John Moskov)

- Relay for life is coming up. Student run event.
- Has last student forum for the year. Students proposed school offering a gender neutral bathroom for next year.

Principals Report: (John Rickert)

- Graduation rehearsal on the 20th. Class officers and administration address students. Students take district transportation to Proctors and then return and have the BBQ.
- Thanked PTO for sponsoring the retirement plaques.
- Received word last week from State Education Department that we are a reward school. There are only 154 schools in the state to receive this honor. A criterion is that you must be a high achieving school as well as in sub categories. We have won this 4 years in a row.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:23 by Jen Ruotolo, seconded by Tammy Bernard

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Kennedy-PTO Recording Secretary