

Niwot Elementary Parent Teacher Advisory Council Minutes February 18, 2014

OPENING: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Sondra Leidesdorff with 17 members present.

PRESENTATION, GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Dawn Macy, Principal Sunset Middle School

- Sunset is a school of High Academics with an Arts focus
- Began looking into becoming an IB Middle Years School about a year ago
- Are applying to become IB Middle Years School now and are moving forward as if we will be accepted
- For each content area there will be some weaving over and will be keeping the Arts focus and weave it in as well
- Sunset is about 40% Free/Reduced Lunch; Minorities is about 40% hispanic; Have the highest number of GT kids in the district
- Have to build community within the school; Combining Niwot Elem., Indian Peaks Elem., Burlington Elem. and about 25 open enrolled students
- More about what Sunset will look like as an IB Middle Years School:
 - There will be a Pathways approach
 - All kids will be IB students
 - The 3 pathways: IB Certification, IB Advanced and IB Prep
 - IB Certification courses/requirements
 - Language A (Language arts)
 - Language B (Spanish)
 - Individuals in society (Social studies)
 - Math
 - Science
 - PE/Health
 - Arts (90% of students now do art year long)
 - Technology - will be weaved into classes (mini Ipads for all students next year)
 - 3 - 40 minute elective slots; Spanish/PE (Health) will be one of those electives
 - Personal Project and build on it through the years
 - If a student does IB Cert. all 3 years and fulfills everything every year (finish, maintain As & Bs) then they are automatically grandfathered into Pre IB at Niwot High School
 - IB Advanced
 - These students still need some Advanced classes but don't want to do all that is required in the IB Cert. Pathway

- So could take many of the classes in the IB Cert. Pathway but don't have to do all that is required
 - IB Prep
 - All of the classes at Sunset will be under the IB Curriculum but some students may need more intensive classes (these students tend to move into some Advanced classes in 7th grade)
- April 11th - 5th graders will be coming to Sunset for the day

Q: You said it takes 3 years to become an official IB school, what does that mean for the school during those 3 years?

A: The IB program makes you have a 3 year candidacy years to build units that align with IB, the district curriculum and the Arts focus.

Q: If a child chooses IB Cert., will they still earn that certificate during the candidacy years?

A: Yes

Q: How does IB fit with Colorado state testing?

A: We're not taking IB's assessment component. We're sticking with the state and district tests. Testing is not the end all, be all...it's embedded into the curriculum.

Q: With IB Cert., if you're currently in GT, is that incorporated?

A: Yes, the GT components have to be embedded in the curriculum.

Q: So for example, Language A will there be 3 levels?

A: IB Cert. and IB Advanced may be combined

Q: When will you find out if accepted to be an IB School?

A: Will not be until June 1st. We feel pretty good about our application. We may have to make a few tweaks but we are moving forward as if we will be accepted.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRINCIPAL REPORT: Presented by Nancy Pitz

We have hired Regan Burke to fill the 2nd grade teaching position (Ms. Lyon's former position)

- She's been a para at NES for 2 years
- Has 6 years teaching experience
- Today was her 1st day - great day!

In hiring Regan that leaves an 4th/5th grade paraprofessional position open; it has been posted.

Open Enrollment has closed (but as we know in St. Vrain, open enrollment is ongoing)

- about 50% of our kids open enroll
- there is not a magic number where we close to open enrollees; it's really a process that I (as principal) don't have a lot of say in
- Right now we are closed in 5th grade (we closed at 29 and all new students after that moved into Niwot so we are their home school)
- 2nd grade was closed

Testing

- 3rd Grade Reading TCAP is next week
- March 11 - 3rd-5th grade will continue testing
- More testing after Spring Break (PARC)

Celebrations - Ben Lenger: Spelling Bee is this Saturday

Next Wednesday, 26th, is the Mwebaza Sale

Learning Celebrations

- last ones are today and tomorrow
- I have loved them!
- Thank you for the food!

TEACHER REPORT: Presented by Sondra Leidesdorff

February 2014 **Teacher Report**

Thank you for all the meals for Learning Celebrations. The **teachers** very much appreciated the dinners on the super long days. J

Mwebaza Foundation

Mwebaza Book Sale, Wednesday, February 26th, from 3:30-6:00 p.m. in the gym

Music

1st Grade Concert - Tuesday, February 25th, at 6:00 p.m.

Niwot Elementary School Gym

Please arrive at 5:45 & students should meet in their classroom.

Wear pajamas!

Keyboard Lab Volunteers Needed!

1. Looking for volunteers to help set up the keyboard lab after school on Thursday, March 6th.

2. Also, I'm looking for volunteers to come in & assist during music lessons throughout the keyboard unit: March 7th-March 26th. No training necessary. There is only one of me to listen to 30 kids in one class period. I'd love to give the students more attention by having a second set of ears.

3. I also need help tearing down the keyboard lab after school on Wednesday, March 26th.

Please contact Miss O. to help.

Spelling Bee

Ben Lenger of Ms. Bladt's Class will be representing Niwot at the Spelling Bee on Saturday, February 22nd! Thank you for supporting our spelling bee!

5th grade

Science Fair: Wednesday, March 6th, from 3:30-4:30 in the classrooms (not in the gym this year)

*Looking for parent volunteers to interview students (please contact any of the 5th grade teachers)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Treasurer Jennifer Wilby

Financials were presented and reviewed. Financials are also available on the PTAC website.

[February 2014](#)

Q: Regarding the books being purchased with Differentiation money. Nonfiction Books - The ACE classes students are having to get Nonfiction books from the public library (higher level nonfiction). Is it just books for the classrooms?

A: The books purchased will be in the book room for teachers to check out. They are in sets of 6. That's an area to highlight/keep in mind if we have surplus at the end of the year.

Secretary: ReAnna Damek

The minutes of the January 2014 meeting were approved as posted.

The Nominating Committee has been formed and will hold their first meeting this week. The committee is comprised of ReAnna Damek, Leah Hanley, Jennifer Haratsaris, Kareny Hostelley and Heather Staples.

Committee Reports: Presented by Secretary ReAnna Damek

PTAC STATUS REPORT

February 2014

STANDING COMMITTEES: HOSPITALITY

Karen Ragland	203-216-1234	kikirags@gmail.com
Katie Weber	303-862-6690	wendtweber@gmail.com
Lisa Verbeck	303-652-0176	lisabootcamp@gmail.com

IN-SCHOOL SUPPORT

Karen Ragland	303-652-1588	kikirags@hotmail.com
Deana Reid	720-494-1503	deana@reid.cc

OTHER COMMITTEES:

BACK-TO-SCHOOL MOVIE:

Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com
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BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE:

Katie Weber	303-862-6690	wendtweber@gmail.com
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BOOK FAIR

Mary Klingbeil	303-581-0763	mdklingbeil@gmail.com
Patricia Lady	303-834-9529	patricia103@hotmail.com

Usborne Book Fair will be April 18-25

BUDDY FAMILY

Hadley Solomon	720-684-6624	vpniwotptac@gmail.com
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No report

BOXTOPS

Riki Frea	720-443-8844	freafamily@mac.com
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We collected about 6000 more boxtops last month. We are about 7000 boxtops from our goal for the year.

CORPORATE FUNDRAISING

Katy Boyd	303-241-6042	jkatyboyd@yahoo.com
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We are close to receiving a check from Safeway, but it turns out that there are only 3 (yes, THREE) people who are using those cards. If you have a Safeway card, go use it. Safeway gives us a check once we hit \$5K in reloads, we are over \$3500 from 3 people's reloads. A few more users would get us that check. We are over half-way to our fundraising goal for the year, would like to see people keep using those King Soopers cards so we can hit that mark soon! If you know anyone who has had a problem with their card, Safeway or Kings, please let me know. And please don't forget that I have Niwot Market cards. I know it's not the go-to for weekly shopping, but even little purchases add up (like 3 people supporting the entire Safeway program).

DINING FOR DOLLARS

Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com
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March 4th - Smashburger is the next Dining for Dollars

DIRECTORY DATA CONTENT

Dana Dodge	720-212-0804	ddodge@virsage.com
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No report

DIRECTORY SPONSORSHIP

Jenn Bair	720-272-4949	jriggsbair@hotmail.com
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The "NES PTAC Preferred Sponsor Packet" distribution is set for March 7th. It will be a green pocket folder labeled on the front with "NES PTAC Preferred Sponsor Packet" and will contain business fliers from those of our forty-two 2013-2014 directory sponsors who choose to participate. This opportunity was included in the sponsorship agreement last fall with each of our directory advertisers. Last year approximately a dozen sponsors participated in this distribution.

EARTH DAY

Lisa Verbeck	303-652-0176	lisabootcamp@gmail.com
Marci Lary	303-931-5454	marcilary@gmail.com

F.A.N (FATHER'S ASSOCIATION OF NIWOT)

Dan Nicholson	720-771-7100	daniel.r.nicholson@gmail.com
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GREENSTAR PROGRAM

Marci Lary	303-931-5454	marcilary@gmail.com
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KISS-N-CATCH/SAFETY

Kelli Walden	720-890-6045	kelliinc@hotmail.com
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LEADERSHIP ST. VRAIN/SCHOOL DISTRICT ISSUES

Riki Frea	720-443-8844	freafamily@mac.com
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Highly encourage you to go to the District website if you are wanting to get involved with committees through the district. Right now they are looking at the Middle school math textbooks and next year will be looking at the elementary curriculum (required by the state to do that).

MWEBAZA/NES PARTNERSHIP

Ginger Douillard	720-841-5406	brahmaloka@aol.com
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"Next Wednesday, (the 26th) is the Mwebaza **"Books, Beads and Batiks Sale"**

from 3:35-6pm in the NES gym where most books are like brand new and are only \$1, with the super best (normally about \$15-20) for only \$2! And there will be hundreds of great books for only \$.50!! Also for sale will be beautiful hand-made African jewelry, and gorgeously framed African batiks. All proceeds go to the Mwebaza Foundation where 100% goes to furthering the higher education of our penpals!

NEWSPAPER LIAISON

Mea French	303-378-9580	jaymea@comcast.net
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No report

NiSci

Denise Thomas	303-485-1380	gregganddenise@msn.com
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NIWOT CARES

Karen Ragland	203-216-1234	kikirags@gmail.com
Stacey Bahr	303-594-6684	scnib@me.com

NIWOT TROT

Laura Sroka	303-439-8992	sdlaura2@msn.com
Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com

The Trot is on April 13th. I could still use some volunteers the day of.
 Participants that already signed up back in Sept before the flood do not need to sign up again.
 Walking to the Niwot Trot or biking if at all possible is highly recommended. Parking is extremely limited.
 new this year at Trot....food trucks!!!!!! Bring cash both trucks will give % of sales to school!!!!!!! Yay! Spread
 the word.

ORIGINAL WORKS

Donna Blondeau	303-652-6463	micro_d@q.com
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READING RESOURCE ROOM

Cindy Shepherd	303-652-8320	cmshepherd@comcast.net
Tina Helms	303-652-8679	tootinytoo@comcast.net

No report

ROUND-UP

Susan Rona	917-693-4315	susandrone@gmail.com
Julie Rich	303-588-6436	jtoorock@gmail.com
Stacey Bahr	303-594-6684	scnib@att.net

No report

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Janet Lopez	303-652-0201	janet@ajslopez.com
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No report

SCIENCE GARDEN

Leah Hanley	303-652-9977	l_hanley@earthlink.net
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In anticipation of warmer weather, Science Garden will be sending program info for spring presentations to our volunteers soon. If you would like get involved with the Science Garden, I would love to hear from you! Please e-mail me at: L_hanley@earthlink.net

SOCK HOP

Alyson Bell	303-652-1123	alyson@toolstudios.com
Holly Saia	303-819-1573	hollysaia@yahoo.com
Sue Cahill	781-879-9368	sue22cahill@gmail.com
Kelly Ferrero	303-652-0669	kberrero@aol.com
Amy Baxter	303-324-0863	amy@jones-net.com

We are gearing up for Sock Hop time! We need volunteers! Anyone that is interested can contact me at hollysaia@yahoo.com or [303.819.1573](tel:303.819.1573). Save the date for Friday April 11 6-8:30. I sent Sondra an email as well.

SPIRIT SALES

Stacey McGovern	303-641-2258	jeffandstacey@comcast.net
Anne Oberg	303-442-4146	goannio2000@yahoo.com
Liz Napp	303-474-4116	e_bressler@hotmail.com

SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

ReAnna Damek	303-652-0324	secretaryniwotptac@gmail.com
Verushka Burris	303-652-4199	verushkita@hotmail.com

No report

TALENT SHOW

Liz Shakesheff	303-885-7444	elizabethshakesheff@gmail.com
Stacee McGovern	303-641-2258	jeffandstacee@comcast.net
Cori Batson	303-527-2808	cbgb0627@yahoo.com
Lisa Verbeck	303-652-0176	lisabootcamp@gmail.com

TEACHER APPRECIATION

Julia Franklin	720-771-1837	juliakf@comcast.net
Megan Rebich	303-809-2399	megan@emrc1.com

VOLUNTEER BADGES

Cindy Shepherd	303-652-8320	cmshepherd@comcast.net
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No report

WELCOMING

Hadley Solomon	720-684-6624	vpniwotptac@gmail.com
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YEARBOOK

Julie Jensen	720-340-4589	juliehjensen@comcast.net
Mea French	303-378-9580	jaymea@comcast.net
Becca Hult	303-619-7749	beccahult@gmail.com
Jen Porter	303-652-0515	jenjenporter@gmail.com

NEW BUSINESS:

May meeting date has been changed. The meeting will be May 13th.

Chipotle Dining for Dollars is coming up in April, trying to confirm April 8th (will let you know the date when finalized). A great fundraiser as they donate 50% back to our school.

OLD BUSINESS:

PTAC Bylaws Review: Presented by Hadley Solomon
[Proposed Bylaws](#)

Hadley reviewed the proposed Bylaws again, highlighting major changes made from our previous bylaws (these are the same bylaws as presented in January with no changes).

The Process

Bylaws Committee analyzed current PTAC Bylaws, revisions proposed in spring 2013, and boilerplate national PTO bylaws

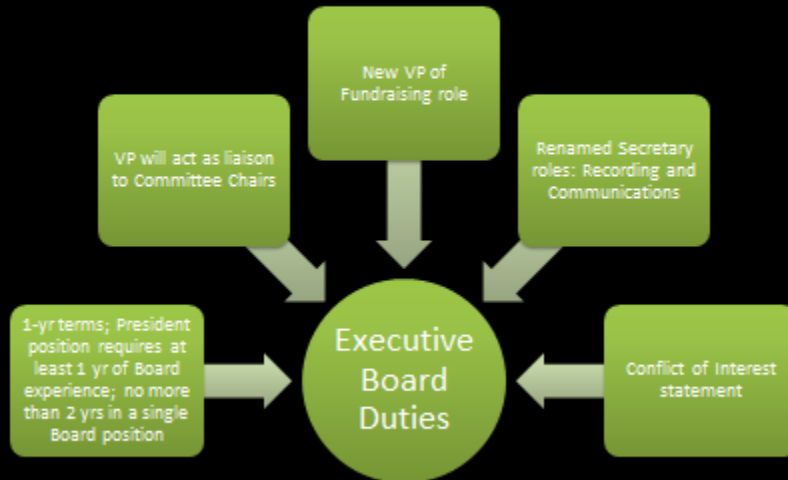
BC proceeded to *re-write* NES PTAC bylaws rather than revise, starting with boilerplate template and expanding with content from current bylaws and proposed revisions

First draft of re-written bylaws presented to PTAC membership Jan. 21, 2014

Meeting for draft bylaws review scheduled for January 29, 2014, 1:30-3:30pm.

Amendments to draft bylaws to be presented and voted on at February PTAC mtg.; if further discussion requires another revision, vote to approve will take place in March

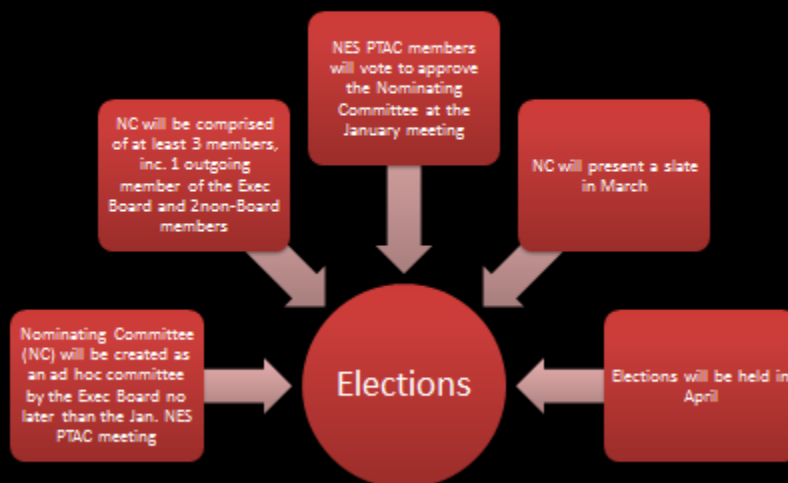
Highlight: Exec Board



Q: Victoria Bard asked Has there been a problem in the past of people staying on the board for a long time?

A: No. Cleared up the confusion - a person can stay in one position for two years but that person is then free to move on to a different position. For example, a person could serve as Secretary for 2 years and then serve as VP for 2 years.

Highlight: Elections



Highlight: Financial Policies



Discussion:

- We have planned all along to vote on the Proposed Bylaws tonight. A few hours before the meeting tonight, we received an email and had a parent request that we postpone the vote.
- Karen Kruse and Riki Frea rewrote the bylaws last Spring
- In the Fall, Karen and Riki requested to serve on the Bylaws Committee
- The Board decided to use current board members and past board members to serve on this committee
- We used Karen and Riki's rewritten bylaws in addition to our current bylaws and a National set of PTA bylaws in our rewrite
- The board decided to let you, the parents, decide if we vote on the bylaws tonight or not. Do we want to vote to hold a vote on the bylaws?

Do we want to read the email sent to the board by Karen Kruse?

Riki Frea - I don't think that is necessary. She's had a month.

Q: Heather Staples - Aren't these the bylaws that have been posted online since January?

A: Yes

Riki Frea - She and I saw a need last year for the bylaws to be rewritten and we took a good month researching PTAs' bylaws last year. In the revisions that the board presented, there

were several things included that were omitted. I think these bylaws suit this board at this time. My personal opinion is the bylaws can always be revised.

Jennifer Wilby - But there have been no revisions made by Karen over the last month.

Riki Frea - Yes, that's right. I would motion that we vote on the proposed bylaws tonight. Victoria Bard seconded. Motion approved.

Hadley Solomon: I move to approve the Proposed Bylaws and to go into effect in the 2014-2015 school year.

Lisa Granat seconded. Motion approved.

Motion from January meeting:

Motion to amend the budget to increase the Assemblies expense line by \$1500 and increase the Corporate Cash Miscellaneous line by \$1500. Motion approved.

Susan Rona - I would just like to commend the Board on this open process they followed with the bylaws and the thorough work done on them. Thank you!

Nancy Pitz - Yes, everything was transparent and even with getting an email a few hours before the meeting the board continued to be transparent.

CLOSING:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

ReAnna Damek

PTAC Secretary