

Niwot Elementary Parent Teacher Advisory Council Minutes October 15, 2013

OPENING: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Sondra Leidesdorff with 19 members present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The minutes of the September 2013 meeting were approved as posted.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Presented by Devaki Douillard, Mwebaza Foundation

Devaki is employed by the Mwebaza Foundation. She introduced Connie Bratt, Employee Liaison for Mwebaza Foundation (also former principal of Niwot Elementary). Devake shared a little about herself and then told about the work being done in Mwebaza.

Summer 2013 Trip

- People who went:
 - Jon Meese, Optometrist
 - Mary Jane Meese, teacher trained in Love & Logic
 - Jenna Olschlager, taught music and learned African songs and games
 - Katelyn & Lee, practicum students from CU; They checked up on construction around the new school site and made sure sustainability projects already started were being maintained

Sustainability Projects

- Lunch everyday
- Bus - used as school bus and taxi
- Secondary school site being built
- Solar power and rainwater collection at both schools

Latest News

- New partner school in Kenya which will partner with Eagle Cres - working on security, food program, electricity, transportation, water

Future

- Like to complete construction of new schools in next year
- Furnish schools
- Expand acreage of St. Paul
- Create sustainability at Empakasi Primary School
- Develop partnership between new secondary school and local middle or high school

- Trying to get solar power so buildings can be used at night

Reminders

- Like our Mwebaza FaceBook page
- Book Sale will be February 26 (location TBA)

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Presented by Nancy Pitz

Thank you for coming tonight

Conferences - two nights down, one more to go. Have had a great turn out. Thank you for the food provided by parents.

Technology Training on this past late start

- two people from the district came and worked with teachers; PK-2nd Grade focused on iPads and iPods and what we can do with them; 3rd-5th Grade focused on Chrome Books and what we can do with our students
- Alicia Keon has been amazing working with the kids on the Chrome books
- We are able to differentiate instruction
- Goal: not to buy more technology but how can we use what we have

Halloween Parade is happening on October 31 at 2:15 and then parties to follow!

November 14 is the next PTAC meeting will also be the State of the School (Building update from the principal). This is a big picture of the school academically. Will start at 6:00. There will be a new parent coffee beforehand at 5:30.

Two big initiatives statewide right now (the staff is working very hard on both of these right now):

- SB191 - What the teacher evaluation looks like (state level). 50% is how the teacher performs in the classroom and 50% is based on data. Look at the building goals, grade level goals and teacher goals - they are all tied together. Will discuss more at the building update night.
- Read Act - All kids will read by the time they exit 3rd grade

Q: Will you receive additional support for evaluations?

A: Based on our October count we could receive a part-time Dean to assist in school (will know more toward the end of the month).

Q: Are the results from SB191 public information?

A: Yes

Karen Ragland also added that Colorado hasn't funded education sufficiently since the 1990s so vote yes on 66!

We exceed in every area except math, we meet expectations in math.

Our October Count was 478 (we were projected 452/453). We know we won't have enough FTE to add a full time teacher but may get a little FTE to help (possibly add more para hours) maybe help in the cafeteria.

Q: Would that para be 100% district funded?

A: Yes - all our paras funded by PTAC are in the classroom (some do help a little at recess). Full time paras in Kindergarten are funded by tuition and the para in the Part time Kindergarten is funded by the PTAC.

TEACHER'S REPORT: Presented by Jenna Olschlager

Stephanie Horne, 4th grade teacher, gave an update on Student Council:

- Collecting milk caps for Moolah from Longmont Dairy
- 1st semester funds to go to the Art Program
- Will be doing a magazine this year
- Will have our annual food drive
- They want to collect change for animals affected by the flood
- Thank you for the PTAC money to support Student Council

October PTAC Teacher Report

Up date from 5th grade:

We continue to work very hard on our studies and are making great progress. We enjoyed our Colonial Craft day and have some wonderful examples of the children's work hanging in our hallway for your viewing pleasure. Next month on late start we will have a speaker joining us who will bring the Revolutionary War to life by giving our children a chance to experience a small taste of what being a soldier in George Washington's army was like. We are grateful for all of your support! Thank you!!

4th Grade

Mrs. Tagley's class has taken the dive literally head first on using the chrome books. It took a couple of blocks of time and it wasn't pretty, but

Library

A month ago NHS seniors in Mr. Ross' bestsellers class came to visit me to borrow books that they wanted to share with grades 4 and 5. I was happy to be able to offer them a wide range of books because of the incredibly generous gifts the library was given last year. They had a few weeks to read their books and then last week they started to do guest speaking/book talks with our students wherein a senior gave short book talks and then every senior was matched with one of our students and then they went off to discuss the book the senior was reading. I was overwhelmed with requests from our students for the books that the seniors were reading, what an awesome problem to have! The teacher/librarian from NHS Mrs. Demmel, Mr. Ross and myself were thrilled with the results we saw on the first day, we will be continuing this program until the end of this semester.

Spelling Bee

Monday, October 28th-30th will be the written tests
10 finalists will be announced on Halloween!

TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Jennifer Wilby

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

Overview of this month:

- A big month for income
- Round-Up: As of Friday we are at about \$43,000 against a budget of \$49,000; about \$4000 from last year's surplus goes to Round-Up also
- Book Fair: Total sales of \$11,590 with a profit of \$2,884
- Trot is on hold still (if not this fall, hoping to do it in the Spring)
- Directory - looks like we're coming in over budget income
- Box Tops - checks twice a year in December and May; Should be getting a check of about \$2100 in December so looks to be over budget income
 - Q: How do you like to get them?
 - A: The sheets do make them easier to count
- Grocery cards: a big target; we added Niwot Market

- Miscellaneous: \$4,000 that came from Whole Foods, at some point we will need to discuss what to do with that
- Surplus allocation from 2012-13
 - about \$13,000 went to Chrome Books
 - Clickers for the classrooms have been purchased
 - \$4,000 to Round Up
- In October we will need to write a check for \$20,000 to the district for paras
- Avid 4 Scholarships of about \$450
- Babysitters for PTAC meetings:
 - We provide babysitters for each meeting but they are not always utilized but we still have to pay them
 - In November we will have babysitters for the PTAC meeting
 - As of January, we will only provide babysitters if you RSVP

Q: Do you feel we are going to come in favorable on the budget?

A: We do have the extra \$4000 from Whole Foods but we may potentially not have the Trot. Hopefully we have a good solid budget and these different things come in throughout the year. Right now it's looking pretty even - like we won't have a large surplus. If we do have to have cuts we will discuss that as the year goes on. It looks like Round-up is going to come in pretty close.

Q: The grocery card difference is pretty big.

A: Yes, we budgeted about \$1200 a month, right now we are averaging about \$800 a month.

Q: Have they been pushed with new families? A suggestion might be at Sunset we purchased \$2.50 cards and handed them out to the new families.

Proposal:

Motion was made by Becca Hult to buy grocery cards at \$2.50 and distribute them to new families and Kindergarten families. Seconded by Donna Blondeau

Kareny: I think not having the new families night really affected donations. They were not as informed of what Round-Up is.

Round-Up is always open - year round!

Committee Reports: Presented by ReAnna Damek

PTAC STATUS REPORT October 2013

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

We are in the middle of teacher conferences. Need more cooks - we have a shortage of volunteers this year.

IN-SCHOOL SUPPORT

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

We are low on volunteers this year. We sent the volunteer pink packet to the whole school. It's the lowest we've ever seen. We've been putting volunteer opportunities in the newsletters. Links have been in the weekly email as well. Any suggestions?

OTHER COMMITTEES:

BACK-TO-SCHOOL MOVIE:

Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com
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Movie Night bumper - I will try again in the Spring. I know the kids love it.

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

Scholastic Book Fair has finished up - Total sales of \$11,590 with a profit of \$2,884 for NES. We also collected \$180 in change for Mwebaza. Thank you to the 19 volunteers who helped!

Plan on having Usborne Book Fair in Spring. Would love if all the profits go to the library. Currently the budget allocates \$3000 to the library and a Librarian grant of \$350.

BUDDY FAMILY

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

Riki Frea	720-443-8844	freafamily@mac.com
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We have received over 8300 Box Tops in our first two collections (this is over 1000 more than we'd collected in our first two months of school last year!)¹. BTFE sends checks two times a year (in Dec. and May). Our check in December will include a balance that we have from Box Tops submitted during last school year, a few dollars that have been earned from online shopping and promotions, as well as the value of the 8300+ Box Tops. Last year's balance due to us is \$1234.37. Therefore, we should be expecting our December check to be over \$2000!

CORPORATE FUNDRAISING

Katy Boyd	303-241-6042	jkatyboyd@yahoo.com
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If people buy a Niwot Market card, I ask them to be patient. This is a new program for them and some of the tellers know what to do, some don't. If you get an unaware teller, please ask for Allison or an aware checker. What they should do (to the best of my recollection) is print one receipt for the customer and a second one for the register. They write "Niwot Elementary" on the second one and that's how they track our sales.

DINING FOR DOLLARS

Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com
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Ollin Farms - I think I will try this in the summer when there are not so many things going on at the beginning of school. I've heard it's a great dinner!
 Dining for Dollars - Chick-fil-A brought in \$185
 November is Wahoo
 December is Basil Flats
 January (doing it the night of the Talent Show) is Subway.

DIRECTORY DATA CONTENT

Dana Dodge	720-212-0804	ddodge@virsage.com
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The directory committee is working diligently towards publishing this year's school directory. Unfortunately, we are experiencing delays getting data content from the school district as they were forced to relocate their offices due to the Colorado flooding in September. While trying to recover from the flooding, the data content team at SVVSD is also struggling with a high load or report requests as we settle into a new school year. Please excuse our delay in publishing this year's directory.

DIRECTORY SPONSORSHIP

Jenn Bair	720-272-4949	jriggsbair@hotmail.com
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Final ad sales total \$9650.00. We are still waiting on payments of \$1725.00 that are included in that total.

EARTH DAY

Lisa Verbeck	303-652-0176	lisabootcamp@gmail.com
Marci Lary	303-931-5454	marciliary@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	marciliary@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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MWEBAZA/NES PARTNERSHIP

Ginger Douillard	720-841-5406	brahmaloka@aol.com
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NEWSPAPER LIAISON

Mea French	303-378-9580	jaymea@comcast.net
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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
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Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com
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ORIGINAL WORKS

Donna Blondeau	303-652-6463	micro_d@q.com
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The Original Works project is still in progress. The student's artwork has been completed and the order forms have been sent home to their parents. Orders are beginning to be returned to the school. The orders must be returned to the school by Friday, October 18th. The committee will then organize the order and prepare it for shipping back to Original Works by October 25th. The fulfilled orders should arrive back to the school by November 19th to be organized for distributions to classrooms. The goal is to have the orders back to families in time for the Thanksgiving break.

READING RESOURCE ROOM

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

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

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Janet Lopez	303-652-0201	janet@ajslopez.com
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SCIENCE GARDEN

Leah Hanley	303-652-9977	l_hanley@earthlink.net
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The Science Garden is in full swing organizing fall programs for each classroom. On 10/4, Mrs. Murphy's 3rd Grade class learned about Compost and the Scientific Method, followed by experiments to illustrate decay assisted by yeast, germination and water transportation. The children also examined compost and found many types of organisms that assist in transforming organic material into compost. Thank you to Patricia Lady and Beth Scheer for your help with this program!!!

We are having difficulty coordinating volunteers due to the delayed directory, so if you have responded to previous requests for volunteers (At Open House or Back to School Night in the class room) and haven't heard from me, please email me at l_hanley@earthlink.net.

Thanks so much!
 Leah Hanley
 Science Garden Chairperson

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

SPIRIT SALES

Stacee McGovern	303-641-2258	jeffandstacee@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	secretaryniwotpac@gmail.com
Verushka Burris	303-652-4199	verushkita@hotmail.com

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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WELCOMING

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

Julie Jensen	720-340-4589	juliejensen@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

Communications: Presented by Anne Jentz

We are coming to grips with the weekly email and the PTAC website.

Old/New Business: Presented by Hadley Solomon

Motion: To change the name of Niwot Cares line name to Scholarships.

- Discussion of why it was called Scholarships as opposed to Financial Assistance
- Motion did not pass

Karen Ragland motioned to change the line item of Niwot Cares (\$1,000) to Financial Assistance.

Sondra Leidesdorff seconded.

Volunteer of the Month: Karen Ragland

Fundraising Chair:

- The Board has been discussing a Fundraising Chairperson since last spring. It's fallen to board members and committee chairs (not just one person). We have discussed forming an Ad Hoc committee which is the process by which to form the role.
- Karen Ragland motioned to form an Ad Hoc Committee for Fundraising.
ReAnna Damek seconded.
- This will give us this year to see in action what this person would do to then know how to write their job description.
- Q: So would this person be the key person for Niwot Trot, Spirit Sales, etc. to go to?
A: Yes
- Q: Could it be a standing committee?
A: Yes, probably a standing committee that has many sub-committees.
- If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Ad Hoc committee please contact Hadley Solomon.

Budget Amendment:

- Rockies Tickets - \$268 surplus
- Hadley Solomon motioned to put this money towards the music room.
Kareny Hostalley seconded
- Each year the choir sings at the Rockies game we have to put a deposit down in advance
- Hadley Solomon motioned to add a line item for Rockies tickets deposit.
Sondra Leidesdorff seconded

Q: Where are we on the bylaws update?

A: The Board has been focused on Round-Up. We are in discussions about forming a committee to work with an attorney to amend our bylaws. If you are interested in helping with the bylaws please let us know.

CLOSING:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,
ReAnna Damek
PTAC Secretary