

Niwot Elementary
Parent Teacher Advisory Council Minutes
September 16, 2014

[Power Point Presentation](#)

Link to the powerpoint presentation shown at the meeting and is referred to throughout the minutes.

OPENING:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by President Hadley Solomon with 21 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Presented by Karen Ragland, *Grass Roots St. Vrain*

Highlights:

Grassroots St. Vrain provides a link from what is happening at the State level in Education to our community in the St. Vrain School district. Basically, how what is going on in the capital affects our kids.

Historically we have focused on state funding and Education issues on the ballot State Amendment 66 (2014); Local mill levy overrides in 2012 and 2008.

September/October 2014 GSV presented at every elementary school PTO/PTA and showed a video about State Education Funding. Question asked most often by parents concerns class sizes.

This is a timely topic since this year St Vrain is experiencing population growth.

Luckily, our district has reserves to be able to meet these staffing needs right away, unlike many other districts in Colorado.

Karen showed a video, "*Class Size Begins With You*"

Message: We, the voters, determine Education funding in Colorado. The more knowledge we have about the process, the better decisions we can make. You can view the video by clicking the below link:

<http://grassrootsstvrain.org/gsv-videos/>

For more information, please visit Grassroots website: [Grassroots St Vrain](#) or contact [Karen Ragland](#).

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION: Don Haddad, Ed.D. *Superintendent of SVVSD*

Dr. Haddad was available to answer questions that any members of the PTAC wanted answered.

Highlights:

- Thanked the parents for their support for the 2 Mill Levy and Bond being passed.
- Class size
 - Is dictated by the state
 - Inform parents regarding Home Ratio (#'s in homeroom, specials, etc...) vs. Effective Ratio (#'s in Core Classes). Because we have G/T, Special Education, & Para support pulling kids, the number of students in core teaching are smaller.

- Stephanie Horne, 4th grade commented: "Effective size is felt during core teaching".
- Testing in the classroom
 - "As parents, do we think testing is beneficial or actually counterproductive in the classroom?"
 - 83% of parents not in support of testing.
 - Testing occurs 30-40 days of the school year.
 - Encouraged parents to form a group to advocate for issues in which we are unsatisfied and contact our State Legislatures.

Dr. Haddad can be reached at Phone: (303) 682 - 7205 Email: haddad_don@svvvsd.org or twitter.com/svvvsdsupt

PRINCIPAL REPORT: Presented by Nancy Pitz

Highlights:

- NES focuses on the Whole Child.
- Avid4 - 5th graders enjoyed their experience at the Boulder Reservoir.
- No late start October 1 due to districts official counting of student population. Please ensure your child is present at school that day.
- Celebrations
 - projected student count - 454; actual number to date - 476
 - Niwot was recognized as a *School of Distinction*
- 38% Open Enrollment; Mrs. Pitz has ongoing conversations with staff regarding class sizes.
- Introduction of New Dean - Chris Larson
 - position is half time.
 - main goal is to allow Nancy to be the Instructional Leader of our school
- Barb VanWinkle - full time GT teacher for Math and LA
- 6 Paras: Their hours are Instructional only; they will teach same subjects to students who are pulled out of the classroom as the students who are in the classroom. In essence, no subjects will be missed for students who are pulled.
- 7th Para to be hired for the Primary classrooms for enrichment.

TEACHER REPORT:

No report was given. Stephanie Horne was introduced at the Teacher Representative for the 2014/15 school year.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Treasurer Jennifer Wilby

Motion to buy 30 mice at \$6 each for the younger students to use when testing. They are having trouble manipulating the touchpad.

Karen Ragland motioned to approve. ReAnna Damek seconded the motion. Motion Approved.

\$2000 refund for the money raised for the Salad Bar that was paid for by the district. This goes on income side. Board will be brainstorming with the Leadership Team for ideas to earmark this money, then ultimately approved by the membership.

Financial slide show was presented and reviewed. (See link above: refer to slides 9-16).

Financials are also available on the PTAC website.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by Vice President Donna Blondeau
(See link above - refer to slides 16-18)

Science Garden

1) **Fall presentations and volunteers:** Back to School night was a great success in identifying some volunteers for fall presentations. We are still in need of some for several classrooms. I will be compiling lists in the next week or so and reaching out via the Facebook Parents website. I would like to request that room parents be the point person for identifying presenters in their individual classrooms where there isn't yet a volunteer identified. SG would greatly appreciate a list of room parents and their emails when that is available.

2) **Maintenance of Outdoor Garden:** We had talked about this being a separate responsibility from the curricular portion of SG. At present, no one has stepped forward. If anyone has interest in chairing this portion of SG, it would be greatly appreciated. For now, I will be in contact with Cathryn O'Connor with regard to ongoing maintenance needs. She has been doing garden maintenance at a reasonable cost for years.

Spirit Sales

Spirit Sales are soaring with 2 big sales this year with proceeds benefitting PTAC.
Next Sale is this Friday at the movie, 6-7.

Back to school Movie

- Rescheduled for THIS Friday, 9/19
- Muppets Most Wanted!
- Opens at 6pm, Movie starts at 7:15pm

Summer Learning

We had another successful Summer of learning by Niwot students!!! We had 108 students participate in the PAWSitive Summer Learning Program. Those students completed 297,140 minutes of learning over the summer!! Individual and classroom winners will be announced later this week and receive their prizes, which include PAW charm bracelets, medals, popsicle parties with Mrs. Pitz, classroom PAWS and Target gift cards. Thank you to PTAC for helping to fund our prizes!!

Open PTAC Positions

- Committee Chairs Needed!
- F.A.N. – Fathers Around Niwot
- Kiss-N-Catch (Subject Matter Expert & Advocate)
- Extra Help: Science Garden and Greenstar
- Look for your Volunteer pink packet to come home this week or sign up online at the PTAC website.

Talent Show - Around the World!

Important Dates:

- Online Applications Due: Monday, October 13th
- Mark your calendar - Show Off Dates: (each act must be at 1 of the 2 days at both show offs) and be in costume.....
 Tuesday December 2 or Wednesday December 3
 and
 Wednesday January 7 or Thursday January 8
- Dress Rehearsal: January 22nd at Niwot High School, Time: TBD
- Talent Show: Niwot High School, Friday, January 23rd at 6pm

COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by Vice President of Fundraising Riki Frea
 (See link above - refer to slides 22-31)

Fundraising Activities

- Niwot Trot
- Book Fairs
- Spirit Sales
- Directory
- Dine-4-Dollar\$
- Silent Auction
- Rock & Rails Tip Jar
- School Supplies

FREE Money (aka Corporate Cash)

Grocery Cards

- King Soopers & Safeway - reloadable cards give 5% back to NES
- NiwotMarket & Vitamin Cottage PRE-loaded cards earn 10% & 5%, respectively

Target Red Card

- Earns 1% of purchases for NES & 5% off for you!

More FREE Money.....

Box Tops for Education

- One Box Top = 10 cents
- Last year we earned over \$3400 with Box Tops

Online Shopping

- AmazonSmile – donates 0.5% of purchases
- Goodshop.com – donates up to 20% of purchases
- Register NES as your charity of choice, then shop as usual!
- It's Safe, Easy, and FREE!!!!

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

CLOSING:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm .

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Jensen

PTAC Secretary