

NES PTAC General Meeting Minutes

10/17/17 9:15am

Attendees: Nancy Pitz, Riki Frea, Rita Ayer, Nikki Lee, Jess Sekley, Eve Bonn, Angela Hudgins, and Susan Granstrom

10 Parent Members

Special Presentation by Matt Hofmeister, MSW LCSW

1. At 9:15 Riki Frea called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The September meeting minutes were approved. While welcoming the parents to the meeting, those in the room took turns introducing themselves.
2. Principal Nancy Pitz delivered a short update. It is National Classified Employees Week. She requested that we take time to thank those that help the school function: janitors, bus drivers, cooks, office staff, etc. NES performed a lockdown drill last Wednesday. A "shout point" was sent to notify parents. The staff ensured that the discussions about the drill were age appropriate. Nancy expressed the importance of discussing this further with our children at home. Next week, we are celebrating our 10th year as an Eco-Cycle Greenstar School. On Tuesday, October 24th, Eco-Cycle will hold an assembly for grades k-2 and another one for grades 3-5. On November 7th, Senator Fenberg will visit Niwot Elementary School to meet with staff & students to discuss education. This visit was organized by Grassroots St. Vrain. The district provided the new banners hanging outside the school highlighting excellence and differentiated education. As part of the new bond measure, the district will be installing security cameras throughout the school (inside & outside, but not in classrooms) in November. New construction on the entrance/lobby area will begin at the end of this school year. Watch Dogs has been incredibly successful this year. Only 2 spots remain available.
3. Jodie Popma with St. Vrain Healthy Kids discussed the upcoming Harvest Day (10/26) which is sponsored by Boulder County Farmer's Market. This will be Niwot's 1st year participating and SVVSD's 11th year. The goal is to get children engaged in healthy eating. Aspen Moon Farms will provide raw and roasted carrots for students to sample and the salad bar will be free to all students on 10/26. Parent volunteers are needed to help distribute samples. A second similar event may be scheduled in March, if the October event is successful.
4. Jess Sekley distributed NES PTAC Profit and Loss summary from July-September 2017. She explained that financially, we are roughly in the same position as last year and highlighted a few items. The Niwot Trot was very successful with record attendance this year. All Trot expenses have not been received yet. Cougar Campaign income is a little lower than last year, but that may be due to the

Campaign's later start for the 2017-2018 school year. Last year, the PTAC included sponsorship income under each event, but this year sponsorship income from The Niwot Trot & directory was combined in 1 line. Sponsorship income is up from last year. Spirit Wear has done a great job so far. The complete P&L is due to be posted on the PTAC website in the next couple weeks.

5. Rita Ayer provided a quick VP update. The 5th grade sponsored Staff Appreciation Lunch was scheduled for October 19th. Movie night was rescheduled for Friday, October 20th. We will be playing the Lego Batman movie with music and activities beforehand. We are encouraging picnic dinners on the lawn, and we will be selling popcorn.
6. Nikki Lee, VP of fundraising, provided a brief Cougar Campaign update. Cougar Campaign helps the PTAC meet our commitment to the District to pay for the 6 paras funded by the PTAC. As of 10/17/17, \$12,110 has been raised. Our total goal is \$40,000 by November 10th. A \$225 donation has been suggested per family, but any amount is appreciated and is helpful in reaching our goal. Our goal is 100% participation. Weekly raffle prizes, provided by Regal Cinemas, are awarded to randomly drawn Cougar Campaign participants. A dodgeball game against the staff will be awarded to the class with the highest participation rate. If the \$40,000 goal is reached by November 10th, Nancy and other staff members will be slimed on 11/17/17. A discussion followed about the benefits of increasing participation by publishing the names of Cougar Campaign donors without publishing the donation amount. Nancy expressed strong preference to keep the donor names anonymous.
7. A special presentation of the InFocus Social Emotional Curriculum was provided by Matt Hofmeister who is the Mental Health Coordinator for the St. Vrain Valley Schools. This curriculum has been implemented this year at NES in grades k-5 and lessons are taught several times per week. Age appropriate lessons have been developed for grades k-2 and grades 3-5. The same lessons are presented to both age groups. Matt conducted a simple experiments with the parents to show ways to raise happiness in individuals through personal connection, sharing vulnerabilities, modeling feelings, and setting boundaries. He provided several examples of studies showing how happiness affects our lives. Instead of viewing happiness as an eventual goal, science shows us that starting with happiness first creates more opportunity. Dopamine in the brain encourages creativity. Matt further explained the different areas of the brain and the ages in which they develop and the importance of mirror neurons. He recommended the InFocus books along with Howard Gardner's "Frame of Mind" which highlights the different 'types of intelligence'.

After a simple Q&A the meeting adjourned.

Minutes Compiled by Susan Granstrom, Recording Secretary

