

## **NBJH MINUTES September 13, 2017**

**Attendance:** Kim Grief, Margee Gustin, Becky Heller, Amy Stern, Betsy Lawrence, Scott Meek, Joanne Mock, Caroline Hakel, Carrie Raymond, Celia Bullock.

Motion to Approve by Cari Hakel, 2nd by Joanne Mock. Approved

### **President's report**

Thanks to Jen Lawrence for helping with hospitality and other stuff . Last chance to order spirit wear tomorrow. Back to school party 7 to 9 this week. When school supplies passed out, noticed a ton was missing. Extra stuff sent to NBJH in Houston instead during Harvey. Was disaster. Been sorted out but rough.

### **Council Report**

Hewitt talked about innovate 28. Transgender plan being developed. Strategic planning process. State funding discussed and will stay the same for the next few years. New assistant superintendent introduced herself.

### **Executive Committee Reports**

#### **Website Coordinator- Amy Stern**

School store crashed system. Not perfect but up there now. Don't want to go back to sign up genius. The next big volunteer release of dates is dance assembly. Email blasts working. Can report a kid absent.

#### **VP Directory--Margee Gustin**

Nothing to report

**VP Membership—Joanne Mock** 305 families registered. There is a fee that comes out of our profit for credit card use. 4395.05. Free will 212 families at \$9501 with \$ 9126.51. Email to staff went out later.

**Corresponding Secretary--Carrie Hakel**

Nothing to report

**Recording Secretary--Kim Grief**

Nothing to report

**Treasurer—Cari Raymond**

Subscription fee for Paperless Post. See Docs attached. In good shape so far.

**Teacher Liaison--Becky Heller**

**Grant Status**

how the grants are benefitting students.



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Becky Heller September 13, 2017

Mike LaCerra: Gift card for classroom library

All good. PTO granted Barnes & Noble gift card for classroom library purchases. Keep stocking my library with best, most-sought YA books.

Jen Moran: Gift card for classroom library

Jen has used about half of her grant to update her classroom library and will continue to purchase books as they are identified.

Jason Piechowiak: Headphones

The 6th grade Social Studies grant request for headphones was driven by Ms. Yuhas, who has taken a leave of absence this year, and, upon her return, will join the 8th grade team. **M r. P says thank you for your generosity, but he does not need the headphones. He would like to decline the grant -- perhaps the money can go to the LRC rehab project?**

Aaron Sato: Raspberry Pi equipment

The grant applies to my 3rd quarter classes, so I have not ordered the equipment yet. Will order in the next month or so.

Velvet Thomas: Gift card for classroom library

I have worked with the Book Bin to select some awesome titles to add to my classroom library. I've spent a little over 1/2 the money. I have added four graphic novels that have been checked several times already. I am also waiting on some upcoming titles...I have created a NEW RELEASES section in my classroom.

### **Other News**

Student Council kicked off the year with the Opening Day Assembly. The next week, our Hats for Harvey fundraiser generated over \$1000 in 24 hours for the Houston Flood Relief Fund, a crowdfunding project organized by the Houston Texans pro football player J.J. Watt. Next up: selecting 7th and 8th grade Student Council reps (6th grade reps will be

selected after Outdoor Ed). We'll also identify this year's Charity of Choice.

Each year, NBJH competes in the AMC 8 Math Competition, a 40-minute, 25 question problem-solving math test. The test date is mandated by the organizers; the 2017 test is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14. A test session is held after school, but if students have after school conflicts, a second session can be held during the day. Students will have the chance to sign up for the AMC 8 test during October.

Student writers at NBJH (that's everyone!) have the opportunity to participate in the National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) Young Writers Program. NaNoWriMo occurs during November, but students sign up and start preparing in October. Students set their own word-count goals, and there's a celebration party at the end of the month for those who achieve their goal. Sign-ups will be held after NaNoWriMo info is shared with students during their Language Arts classes.

### **Principal's Report for PTO Meeting – 5/10/17**

- I'd like to start by thanking our PTO for their help getting us off to a positive start to the year. The school supply committee and the numerous volunteers for our summer student orientations were extremely organized and very helpful once again. Aside from issues with our school supply vendor beyond our control, things ran very smoothly because of your efforts. And another thank you to the hospitality committee for providing lunch on the opening day for staff as well as the cookies and refreshments at our Open House.
- In terms of the school supplies "fiasco"...I can't say enough about the work of Cathy Burnham and Michelle Steele. They put in countless hours, above and beyond expectations, to resolve the issues of missing supplies. They were persistent in making sure we received everything we ordered and maintained constant communication with us throughout the entire ordeal. Kudos to them!
- Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade team coordinated efforts with the Park District to hold their annual Ecology Day a couple of Fridays ago. Students were able to conduct some water sampling (from both the pond and the river), view macrovertebrates, and cut down some invasive species that threaten the health of some of the areas at Techny Prairie. Overall, a really positive experience for our 7<sup>th</sup> graders.
- The afternoon of the half day our staff spent time articulating student information between grade levels so our staff has a better picture of this year's students. Part of the time was focused on our new/transfer students – there were a total of 15 this year.
- Over the past couple of weeks we have conducted several of our safety drills so students and staff are familiar with our procedures in the event of an unsafe situation. As usual,

our kids have been great! Our final drill for the fall will be today as we run our bus evacuation drills during the lunch periods.

- This past Monday I met with the NF Township principals... (share some of the dates on the timeline for 8<sup>th</sup> grade articulations.)
- Tonight is our Standards-Based Grading Information Night at 7 pm in the small gym. Our Director of Learning, Stephanie Smith, and Mandy Stalets, a teacher and educational consultant with Solution Tree, will join me in presenting. We will videotape the presentation and post it on our website for those who cannot attend.
- Picture day is tomorrow! Pictures will be taken during PE and elective classes. For any students who are absent, our make-up date is scheduled for Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. (The 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation pictures will be held in April.)
- We're looking forward to Friday's Back to School party. Thanks again for our party planning committee and our parent chaperones.
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade departs on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> for our annual Outdoor Ed trip to Camp Timberlee in Wisconsin. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade team is already planning for the trip and is very excited about the three days they will spend up north. There is a parent meeting next Tuesday evening, September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:15 pm in the main gym for 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents.
- Parents' online access to grades through PowerSchool should be up and running. If anyone experiences difficulty setting up their account, they can contact Mrs. Gail and she can provide assistance. Our teachers will continue to update grades at two-week intervals each trimester.

Adjournment : Move to adjourn by Kim Grief , Seconded by Joanne MOck. Approved