



New Kent Elementary PTO

General Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: November 14th 2024 **Location:** NKES Cafeteria

Meeting called to order by: Lauren Paone at 9:15am Attendance: (Attendance sheet attached)

Minutes: Minutes of September meeting accepted as written and distributed.

Motioned by Melissa Hummel and Seconded by Jarmila Poorman

Principals Report

Ms. Parson reported that they are very thankful for all of the help and support of the PTO. The first Otter Day was a big success. The PTO provided stuffed otters to be used as prizes for random drawing, as well as volunteers for the service project for Leashes of Valor. The next Otter Day will be January 31st.

New walkie talkies were purchased with at \$2000 grant from Rosie's and \$1400 from PTO. These are necessary for the safety of our staff and students, but we would like to be in a position where the county is contributing more.

Committee Reports-

Beautification- Jordan Wingenbach

Lauren reported that Jordan has been working on the staff bathrooms to make them more pleasant. She has done some wallpapering and still wants to do a little more work.

Yearbook- Laura Richards

Melissa Hummel read Laura's report.

Yearbooks sales sit right at 100 books which means \$544 in fundraising so far. We always sell more closer to personal page due date and end of year. Once we get pics from Lifetouch we can really start getting pages done. A big thank you to all of my inside photographers helping snap pictures.

PTO Workshops- Fantasia Eich

We had a super successful September Workshop, and we were able to help 8 teachers/staff members with their projects!

October's Workshop was another amazing success. With the help of our 10 amazing volunteers, we knocked out so many projects and we **GREATLY** appreciate Megan Worrell and Andrea Simmons for allowing us to use her room on such short notice!

This month we currently have 13 volunteers signed up to help – if you are available tomorrow between 1-3p feel free to sign up, you don't have to stay the whole time if you're unable! We currently have 6 teachers signed up that need our help. We usually have one or two sign up the day of as well. I just started working here at NKES, and I am so excited to be here, so I won't be at the Workshop tomorrow, Jarmilla Poorman has graciously stepped up to help me out tomorrow and thank you so much for all that you do Jarmilla!

December's Workshop is going to be a super fun one. It is on Friday, December 13, 2024, from 1-3p – I will be there! I have planned to show my appreciation to all my wonderful Workshop volunteers by incorporating a Holiday Celebration with treats and an ornament exchange! We, of course, will still be helping our otterly amazing staff with their projects but we will also be celebrating our volunteers and all that they do for us. If you'd like to attend, please see me so that I can take down your contact information to get you set up with our ornament exchange – Secret Santa's get drawn on Saturday, November 16, 2024! Also, if you plan to attend the Holiday Celebration Workshop, PLEASE let me know of **ANY** dietary restrictions/allergies you have so that I can be accommodating when choosing treats!

Our next PTO Workshop dates are Jan. 31st, Feb. 28th, Mar. 21st, Apr. 25th, and May 16th! We hope you can join us!

As always – **THANK YOU SO MUCH** to my amazing volunteers! We could not make these Workshops happen without you!

Staff Appreciation

Jarmila and Christina reported that they did a trail mix bar and a pizza luncheon for the staff in October. In November the group will help Dr. O'Dea with the Woot Woot Wagon loaded up with sliced pie to deliver to the staff.

Spirit Nights- Melissa Hummel

Don Miguel's brought in \$300 as Walter always rounds up after our receipts are tallied.

Pizza Hut brought in \$85

This Saturday, November 16th is Panera Bread in Lightfoot.

Treasurer's Report- Brittany Gutierrez

Fall Festival Fundraiser - \$23029.72

Silent Auction - \$8595

Entrance - \$677

Fall Festival Total - \$32301.72

Bank balance - \$27029.72

Pending deposit - \$2089.73

New Business-

Holiday Shop- Maggie and Erin (Jill and Melissa)

Holiday Shop will be December 3-9th and will be in one of the trailers. We will need lots of volunteers. Sign-up genius is on PTO Facebook page, but Lauren will email it to our membership as well.

Student Treat- December

We have purchased an otter craft to give to each student. Lauren is reading 4 different books to decide on one for some of the staff to record reading so that the students can watch it over Winter Break.

Valentines Grams Lead

Falon and Lorelei will head up researching what we want to purchase to sell for Valentines Grams, which will be sold from February 3-12.

NKES Snack Cabinet

Last year PTO set aside funds to keep the cabinet stocked. Laura Richards has asked that we continue to contribute and make this a regular budget item. Laura donated containers for each of the teachers to be able to come and get snacks to take back to the classroom.

Power Pack Program (formerly Otter Pack Program)

This program has been moved to a county level and they are in need of donations.

From Laura Richards:

“Last year the PTO gave funds to help stock the pantry for the Otter Pack Program at the beginning of the year. I would like to ask if some funds could be used for a one time financial donation to help support the program again this year. Whatever you are willing to give I would GREATLY appreciate. Now that all three schools have a program, we are feeding just under 100 families currently across the entire county. Our weekly budget to fill this many bags is approximately \$1000 each week. The program is run completely off of donations. I greatly appreciate the PTOs consideration and also a huge thank you to NKES families for the food drive donations sent in this week.”

Lauren reported that there were some funds set aside for this program that haven't been used as well as funds we usually use during kindness week that are also available. The majority of the membership in attendance voted to give a one time \$1000 donation and talked about ways that we can encourage and help the other elementary schools to contribute as well.

Update through email from Laura Richards since we had so many questions and this should clear up most of them.

“So I greatly appreciate all of the help and suggestions and will take whatever I can get.

The backpack program is now under the wing of the local non-profit My Sister's Hope. We have a committee composed of the social workers for NKCPs, pastor Bowen from NK Christian, the counselor from GW, myself, two volunteers for the non-profit, and Mr. Hathaway from the county. I am still in charge of NKES. Jay Bowen is hard at work at QES and GWES and has NK Christian helping as well. Shay Abdus the director of My Sister's Hope has coordinated community support (churches and businesses) and applied for multiple Grants. Shay currently works for NK Social Services, but in January will be running the non-profit full time. We have local churches and a few businesses lined up and donating. If there are any other businesses that want to help I would love it.

This issue this year is we missed our window for requesting funds since we didn't get this process rolling until June. Most grant applications are due January-March. We did however receive a nice donation from Rosie's. We are working on funding from the county but missed this current year's budget requests. We have already put in a request for FY 2025/26. So next year the county will hopefully help support this program. It is just this year we are struggling a bit as we get everything up and running so that is why I requested a donation. The cost of stocking the bags has gone up tremendously. And of course the need for assistance from families has increased. I can create a flyer with Shay to share with folks who may be interested in donating and will speak to all school officials on sharing this. Dr. O'Dea has a NKES parent contact with Food Lion distributing but I haven't heard from them yet. We have reached out to the individual Food Lions but they typically give to organizations like Feedmore. So we have put in an application with them as well but timing just wasn't great for this year. So if all goes well, hopefully next year we will just need to run food drives at NKES and the PTO could just help with backpacks for NKES students (if needed) and the idea for having the BETA do stuff as a service project and the PTO helping fund that would be amazing.

I know they do a toy drive usually for grand illumination but food would be great as well, but I don't want to take away from something they already have planned. So keep me posted on what that contact finds out. All five schools have food drives lined up. So they are all contributing that way. NKES PTO will be recognized for their donation and I am hoping we can get the others on board. NKHS PTO has offered to help as well. QES PTO helped with shelf purchases and their backpacks

just like our PTO has. GW is a hard nut to crack...NK Christian stepped in and purchased their backpacks for them. Not sure what the issue is there.

I can help anyone interested in donating just send them my way. Setting up monthly donations is totally an option if people want to do that. We have the accounts all set up with My Sister's Hope so it is so much easier to accept financial donations now compared to previous years. We have big plans for this program...just having a few hiccups getting started. Lots of big businesses are coming to NK and we are already in contact with representatives with them. Our ultimate goal is to get this program funded and sustained for years to come. We appreciate the PTO helping us get this foundation going this year!

THANK YOU again for the generous donation. Again send any contacts my way if you hear of anyone else who wants to help. My cell number is 804-405-9106.

Website for My Sister's Hope (NKES PTO is listed as a sponsor already):

<https://www.mysistershope-va.org/>

Important Dates

November 15th- PTO Workshop 1-3pm

November 16th- Spirit Night at Panera Bread 4-8pm

December 1st- 7th Spirit Days at Five Below

December 3rd- 9th Holiday Shop

December 13th- PTO Workshop 1-3pm

December 28th- Spirit MORNING at McDonalds 9-12am

Next PTO meeting will be on January 10th at 9:15 am in the cafeteria