



New Kent Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 8, 2023 **Location:** NKES Cafeteria
Meeting Called to Order By: Lauren Paone **Attendance:** (Attendance sheet attached)

2023-2024 Current Board Members

President: Lauren Paone
Vice President: Vacant Seat
Treasurer: Brittany Gutierrez
Secretary: April Sabel

Our current Vice President, Mirasol, stepped down recently. If anyone would like to fill the position, please let us know. If we cannot fill the position we will amend the bylaws for voting purposes.

Principals' Report: Dr. Amy Stamm

Dr. Stamm thanked those who attended the meeting. Such a large group for the first PTO meeting. She also thanked the PTO for all their hard work in organizing the red carpet event and back to school lunch for the staff.

The school has finally been approved to move forward with the remodel of the school. On September 14th at 5:30pm the architect is hosting a public input meeting. They will present three questions and ask for input from those in attendance. We could possibly get a new building or just a remodel depending on the costs associated with both. The building was built in 1974 and codes have changed a lot since then so it could possibly be better to build a new building on this same lot just further back. Right now we don't know which we are going to do.

Dr. O'Dea and the assistant principals in the school division attended a training focusing on safety. Safety is very important to us. We have updated our cameras and the safety procedures we are following. You must sign in with the office and state the reason for your visit and where you are going to be in the building. Your visitor badge must match the location you are at. If you need to visit a different part of the building you must return to the office and update your location. It is also helpful in knowing where everyone is in the building in case of an emergency.

Picture day will be October 4th. We are using Strawbridge for school pictures again this year. We will need a couple volunteers to assist the day of pictures.

Every year on the 15th of September is International Dot Day. We ask that all students wear dots to celebrate the holiday. It is a day to celebrate the individuality of each child. They are all making a mark on the world and deserve to be celebrated.

The school division has made it so all communication must go through a school email or messaging system. We will no longer allow parents to contact their child's teacher through their personal cell phones or facebook. We are utilizing the school wide messaging system. In addition to our weekly emails I will send text messages. You should have already received one from me. If you did not please talk with the front office so we can make sure you don't miss any important communication.

We cannot thank you enough for your patience with the car rider line. Our car rider line was able to get 110 cars through in about 15 minutes. Someone asked why we dismiss the car riders earlier than bus riders and the reason for this is traffic. If we dismissed the buses at the same time there would be too much traffic on 249.

I want to thank the PTO again for all their hard work. At any time you all have any questions please feel free to reach out to me and I will do my best to assist you.

Committee Chairs

Yearbook & Staff Appreciation: Laura Richards

Staff Appreciation Days: Erika Durette

Spirit Wear: Cristyna Urquhart

Book Fair & Holiday Shop: Erin Begonia & Maggie Settlemyre

Beautification: Jordan Wingenbach

Outreach: Harley Blaire

Community Partners: Kristina Hall

Fall Festival Silent Auction: Remle Sherman & Kristel Lamp

Fall Festival Spooky Sprint: Cathy Day

Spirit Nights: Vacant

Committee Reports:

Staff Appreciation: Laura Richards

Laura is a former teacher and loves to be able to help show the teachers how much they are loved and appreciated. We held a Red Carpet event providing snacks and sodas after the staff got back from convocation. We also provide the staff with a welcome back luncheon from Don Miguels which is always a staff favorite. Please support them, they are always providing so much food at a great rate. Dr. Stamm likes to do a special treat for the staff each month. So she will get with her and we will plan out the months. If you would like you can donate snacks, drinks and supplies to help keep the lounge stocked it would be greatly appreciated. When you donate it helps us to save money and provide more for the staff.

Yearbook: Laura Richards

We use TreeRing and have for several years. We love how user friendly everything is. The yearbooks are on sale and if you order yours before October 31st you get a 10% discount. With each yearbook sold we get a percentage back. Last year we received \$1723. If you are ever at an event please take photos. We would love to include them in the yearbook. On our PTO Facebook page you will see posts for different events where you can just add your photos directly in the comments.

Holiday Shop: Erin Begonia & Maggie Settlemyre

The holiday shop we used in the past is no longer in business. Lauren was able to help us find a new shop. They plan to deliver mid November, before Thanksgiving break. We will need a secure location to keep everything before the sale starts. The sale will run December 4th-8th. We will need lots of volunteers to help set up the holiday shop, to help the children shop and to pack everything up.

Treasurers Report- Brittany Gutierrez

Treasures report attached

The treasurer's report, which included the proposed budget for the 23-24 school year, was handed out to those in attendance for review. After careful review the budget was called for approval, Maggie Settlemyre moved to approve the budget as presented.

Presented for a vote to those in attendance was the purchasing of world kindness shirts for all the students enrolled. They would be handed out during world kindness week which is in November. The shirts were unanimously voted yes for approval to purchase. The author visit was unanimously voted yes as well. We would pay \$2500 which would include a full day of the author presenting their books to every grade level and talking about being an author as a profession. The author's travel costs would be split between the four schools interested.

Brittany also spoke about some programs that we earn money from using. Amazon smiles was a program we have used for many years, where we earned money from amazon purchases after linking our school. However, that program is no longer available. We took a huge hit with that program going away. We are trying very hard to earn that money lost with the current programs we already use. We have Harris Teeters Together in Education program. The program works when you link your cards to our school using our unique 4 digit TIE code and purchase Harris Teeter products. We also still use box tops for education. The program is a little different now and works by scanning your receipts using their app. We will earn cash with every box top item purchased.

Chevrolet has selected us and offered to donate \$1000. We can also receive an additional \$500 if we agree to have 20 test drives. We would work with our local Chevrolet dealer to organize these. If someone would like to work with the dealership to organize the test drives please let us know.

We also earn money from PTO memberships. We currently have 170 members, our biggest number of members. A lot of staff have signed up and paid to be a member. The only way staff can ask for funds is by being a PTO member.

If you know of any other programs we can sign up for that can help us earn money please let us know.

New Business

Fall Fundraiser

The fall fundraiser will start October 2nd and run through October 20th. To earn your spooky sprint shirt you will need to have raised \$50 by October 4th. The rewards this year have changed a little from last year. This year the top two earners will get to be principal for the day. We are still doing the coops. This year the coop theme is superheroes. We bought the coop cutouts to place on the stage to get the kids excited about earning the coops. We will need volunteers each Friday to help hand out coops that were earned that week. Last year we had many families make us candy monsters. We will be putting them out October 2nd to fill with candy for the fall festival.

Fall Festival - October 21st 12pm-4pm

The fall festival will start at 12pm with the spooky sprint. The spooky sprint will have different themed stations for the kids. We have a lot of holiday decor from other years we are using. We purchased a smoke machine and some different inflatables. If you would like to help set up the stations, clean up after the sprint or build a prop for the stations please let us know.

There will also be bounce houses, a DJ, a pitching machine, fall themed games and a pumpkin patch. Thank you Davis Farms for donating all the pumpkins this year for us to use for our pumpkin patch. Each child will get a pumpkin to take home.

Fall Festival Silent Auction

Kristel Lamp and Remle Sherman are working to gather donations to make silent auction baskets for people to bid on at the Fall Festival. Remle is organizing the grade level baskets. Each grade level will pick a theme and a flier will be sent home for students' families to donate to their grade levels particular theme. Last year multiple grade levels were able to make multiple baskets with the donations provided by families. Kristel is reaching out to businesses and having them provide donations for the baskets. Some businesses are making their own baskets to provide. So far 6 businesses have donated and she has 20 who have agreed to donate. She is also reaching out to businesses that have donated in the past. Kristel has made a list of businesses to reach out to. If anyone would like to look at the list and help by reaching out to any please let her know. They have made and printed an official letter you can hand businesses. Larger companies sometimes like a more official letter when donating. The silent auction makes a large amount of money, \$8k last year, so any help would be greatly appreciated. We will need volunteers to help put baskets together on October 13th.

Important Dates:

September

11th Don Miguel Spirit Night
11th-22nd Spirit Wear Campaign
14th Community Input on School Renovations 5:30-7pm
15th International Dot Day
18th New Kent School Board Meeting 5:30pm

October

2nd New Kent School Board Meeting 5:30pm
2nd-20th FALL FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER
2nd-13th Candy Monsters Come Out
3rd McDonalds Spirit Night
4th PICTURE DAY
14th Jodi Photography Fundraiser
16th-20th Anti-Bullying Week
17th Pizza Hut Spirit Night
18th World Unity Day (Wear Orange & Splash)
21st SPOOKY SPRINT & FALL FESTIVAL 12-4pm

November

4th Daily Fix Spirit Morning 9am-12pm
6th New Kent School Board Meeting 5:30pm
10th Red White and Blue for Veterans Day
13th-17th Kindness Week (Food Drive)
14th Wendy's Spirit Night

Next PTO meeting will be held November 16th at 6pm in the NKES Cafeteria

Meeting Adjourned At: 10:45 am

Minutes Compiled By: April Sabel, Secretary