

Nesaquake PTA Meeting Minutes - 10/9/13

Meeting called to order 10:05

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to waive reading of last meeting's minutes - seconded.

Dr. Simmons – Principal's Report

Test scores distributed. NYS changed cut scores for AIS due to low test scores. NYS posted 5th module for new common core curriculum – more time than expected to teach new concepts – will slow down process. Issues with new common core curriculum are regarding implementation, not new curriculum itself or outcome. Question asked – How are science & SS being affected by ELA & Math common core standards? Goal is to highlight language & vocabulary throughout all classes. 55 essential core words to be used in all classes. ELA & SS intertwined more closely now. Science may be revamped as well. Science different because it uses "discovery approach." SAT's may become more common core aligned. Anomaly's will be across the board – all students in same boat. Sheryl Wiener interjected at this point that NYS will be holding Town Hall Meeting. State Ed Dept will answer questions and listen to statements regarding common core curriculum. Tuesday, 10/15 at Garden City HS, 7-9pm. For LI residents. State testing this year will be totally common core aligned. Dr. Simmons can not see test questions anymore, so hard to determine which concepts are a problem. Also, passages are much longer & students are challenged to complete tests. Dr. Simmons reiterated that whatever scores students received was not due to them, but due to the test itself. Confirmed that it is an option to opt out of taking test.

Mrs. Sweeney – Teacher Liason

Great frustration among teachers with new curriculum. Dept. meetings are filled with training and new strategies. Teachers are attending workshops and then bring info back to other teachers. Smithtown SD has 6 teachers assisting at elementary level to help teachers with new curriculum.

Mr. Furey – Asst. Principal's Report

Red Ribbon Week – 10/28-11/1 Monday: announcements, Tues: Confidence building (encourage 3 positive comments to peers) Wed: students sign pledge (banner), will receive "prize." Thurs: Poster Contest Fri: Wrap up – Wear Red! No behavior issues warranting suspension to date. Dealing w/lunch issues – must have pass to leave lunch. School Notes should be available on Parent Portal very soon. 6th grade Halloween Event – 10/25. Costumes may be worn on Halloween.

Sheryl Wiener – President's Report

Napper Tandy Event – 10/25. Need help for Tulip Garden in front of school. Need 8th grade parents to volunteer for Moving Up Dance.

Council Delegate Report – 2 upcoming events : 11/3 – 5K Walk on for Hope, and 5k Running with Respect (no date yet.)

Other upcoming dates – 10/11 HSE – Homecoming Pep Rally; 10/12 HSE – Homecoming parade & game; 10/23 HSW – Parent University; 10/25 HSE – Spooky Hallways 3-6 pm; 11/7 – HSE production of Macbeth; 11/8 – Reflections entry deadline – theme this year is "Dream, Believe, Inspire"

Laurie Robedee – Treasurer's Report

Checking Acct. Bal. - \$7608.85. Accounts previously set up incorrectly, so new checks had to be purchased. Will be reflected in increase in Office Supplies budget line.

Fundraising Report – Purnima Shah & Lisa Colucci

Napper Tandy's Event - \$10 at door, Chinese auction & 50/50 raffle. (Mary H donated tickets for raffle)

Selling Savings Cards for discount at various stores - \$10

Dunkin Donuts fundraiser – 15th of every month.

Board of Ed Report – Mary Herrle

Most discussion regarding Common Core Standards, particularly for Special Ed.

Cultural Arts – Sharon Gorla & Christine Hall

Egyptologist assembly for 6th grade – 12/19

NFL Winning Program confirmed for 10/24 (splitting w/Accompset) All grades. Deals w/anti-bullying, anti- drugs, etc. Possible to have local news report on event? Dr. Simmons will make calls.

Beautification – Mary Herrle

Would like to redo planters in front of school. Is it possible to move planters and benches? Dr. Simmons will look at.

No date set yet for Blood drive

Box Tops – Lisa Gentile

Goal to collect \$542 – deadline to submit is Friday 10/25.

Membership – Mary Herrle

Approximately 215 to date. Thanks to Candace & Peggy in office for all their help.

Spiritwear – Purnima Shah

Approx. \$2600 sold this year to date (mostly at Meet the Teacher Nights.) Ran out of some items, re-ordered, due in next week. Order form available on website. Orders filled on Fridays.

Popcorn Friday – Donna Jarosak

Made \$389 in September. Next date 10/25

SEPTA – Mary Herrle

15% of Smithtown students receive some type of services (inclusion, speech, IEP's, etc.) SEPTA has added round table discussion group monthly this year. Membership - \$10, Notepads for sale – 2/\$5. New scholarship will be open to all students – Citizen's Scholarship for Peer tutors. Website is being updated.

Yearbook – Lorraine Bongiorno

Contest for cover art being discussed. Will be announced as competition for "Theme", and if entries are good may be used for cover. Art teachers involved. Lorraine will get guidelines from Lifetouch for cover. Need pictures taken by parents – volunteers by grade and boy/girl parents. Save pics on disc and give to Lorraine. 6th & 8th grade covered – need 7th grade parent volunteers. Early orders (until Dec.) - \$25, up to \$30 after.

Big thanks to Purnima Shah for setting up new PTA website – looks great and lots of info!

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am