

Nesaquake PTA Meeting Minutes - 11/13/13

Meeting called to order 7:35

Pledge of Allegiance

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

President's Report – Sheryl Wiener

Dr. Simmons to check w/teachers regarding meeting at Nesaquake w/parents & staff to go over core curriculum. Suggestion to have parents e-mail questions/concerns to PTA prior to meeting so all can be addressed. Also get list of web sites for help (EngageNY, Kahn Academy, etc.) NYS PTA website – Login is Diversity & password is means.

Thank you from Sheryl to all who helped w/Napper Tandy's night. Raised \$1580. Thank you to Lisa Gentile for Box Tops. Sheryl to attend NYS PTA Conference this weekend.

Treasurer's Report - Laurie Robedee

Vote to increase office supplies line item on budget by \$50 – new checks needed. Approved.

Checkbook bal - \$18,703.07. Please put phone #'s on all checks submitted.

Fundraising – Purnima Shah

Yankee Candle order has shipped – made \$1775. Dunkin Donuts – 15th of every month. Pictures-made \$4066.

Last PCF raised \$375.75

Council Delegate – Debby Posner

New Nesaquake PTA website complimented at meeting. Smithtown Children's Foundation event @ Mercedes Dealership 11/14 @6 pm. \$25/person – Taste of Smithtown (sample local restaurants)-link on PTA website.

Nesaquake cheerleaders raised over \$4000 for Breast Cancer.

Box Tops – Lisa Gentile

Ck to be cut in December. 2 6th grade & 1 7th grade winner. Next contest in spring – start submitting now.

Membership – Pam Mullahy

Membership @ 231 to date.

SEPTA – Elaine Jarvis

Fundraiser for Special Ed Scholarships held 11/11. Next round table 11/21 – 7pm @ NY Avenue.

Spiritwear – Kerry & Purnima

No profit shown to date due to restocking of items. Boys soccer team ordered hoodies & t-shirts, band ordered shirts. Open to all teams/clubs/activities to order through PTA.

Principal's Report – Dr. Simmons

Reporting on meeting 11/12 at Ward Melville HS w/John B. King, NYS Commissioner of Education regarding Common Core Murphy, Laura Spencer & Jennifer Bradshaw. Allotted 2 mins to speak, and after 10 speakers, Dr. King gave 5 min rebuttal.

Most attendees against implementation of Common Core Curriculum, not curriculum itself. According to Dr. King, roll-out began in 2010, but no modules were received by school districts until Aug 2013. Dr. King spent too much time thanking everyone – parents got annoyed and wanted discussion to begin. Dr. King seemed “meek” in face of opposition. Attendees’ main concern was effect of Common Core on children.

Meryl Tisch of NYS Board of Regents – how will special ed be handled? Currently, NYS must test based on grade level. May see change in this for Special Ed students. Only compromise discussed.

Dr. King & NYS not backing off Common Core – committed to roll out. Will get easier over time once all students have basic core needed.

Much cynicism towards Pearson, company that provides state tests. Schools no longer able to see test questions & results in order to see what topics, etc. cause most problems. Not Good! Discussion raised about a 3 year moratorium on state testing until common core implemented.

What about opting out of testing? Each family must make their own decision. Will we lose state aid? At least not until after 3rd year of less than 95% participation. According to Rockville Centre principal, Carol Burris, no aid will be lost if students opt out of testing.

Race to the Top Initiative – national program that provides grants to school districts complying w/common core.

Requires testing every year. Why such long tests? Who approved/agreed to rigorousness of tests?

In 2008, Newsweek rated top 5% of US schools – 58% of LI ranked in top5% of nation. Our schools are great!

45 of 50 states have signed on for Common Core – different ways of implementing & testing.

There is 3 year turnaround for everyone to be on board with Common Core Curriculum.

Issue also raised regarding Regents vs. non-Regents Diplomas in NYS. By 2015, those not taking Regents will be issued “Certificate of Completion” rather than local diploma. Regents not recognized anywhere but NYS, so why do away w/local diplomas?

Cultural Arts – reported by Pam Mullahy

NFL player assembly well received by all. Harassment workshops completed. Motiv8 – workshop for Moms & daughters – may bring to Nesaquake. Also looking into program for dads & sons.

Main question at the end of the day is “What’s best for the kids????”

Meeting adjourned 9:10 pm.