

Nesaquake PTA Meeting Minutes – 12/11/13

Meeting called to order 10:10 am
Pledge of Allegiance
Motion to waive reading of minutes – seconded.

Dr. Simmons - Principal's Report

Letter sent by 500 NYS principal's to Albany w/common core concerns. Addressed NYS testing – questions, length, etc. Students upset at not having time to finish test. College readiness benchmark – irresponsibly inflated. AIS – students scoring lower, but not receiving AIS due to financial strains on schools. Smithtown SD has also signed letter with 18 other districts expressing displeasure with common core implementation.
Happy Holidays to all from Dr. Simmons and Mr. Furey.

Sheryl Weiner – President's Report

Contract signed for Mixed Bags fundraiser in Feb. Signed contract with LifeTouch for pictures for 2 years. They provided better pricing & packages, as requested.
Attended State PTA Conference. Keynote Speaker – Deputy Cmmssnr of State Ed. Ken Wagner. Responded to questions, but threw responsibility back at school districts. What is state doing for special needs students? Will not do away with local diploma's at this time.
Resolutions proposed – passed: DOT safety Pts. for roads to determine busing revised & Food issue – where do schools get food? Declined Social Host Law.
Sat Night speaker J.C. Good – advocate for “Shut Up & Drive” – driver safety program (against distracted driving). Sheryl to recommend her to speak at HS.
Website available - www.PTA.org/benefits. Rewarding Student Commitment – workbooks for 8-12 grades. Provides road map to where students should be. Also provides (for fee) help w/college applications.
Mini Parent University – no response to letter sent out requesting questions to be addressed. Put on hold. Dr. Simmons can personally address small amount of questions if received.
Cat Amicizia attempting to set up Family Fun Night @ Islander game on Sun., March 2 @ 3:00.
Reflections – 4 entries rcvd. – 2 photography, 1 video, 1 fine art. Winners to be announced shortly.

Laurie Robedee – Treasurer's Report

Checkbook Balance - \$18,413.92

Fundraising

Mixed bags – will arrive for Mother's Day. Working on California Pizza Kitchen night fundraiser.

Council Delegate

Reported by Kerry. Working on another Parent University – inviting Ken Wagner from NYS. Also Bob Wolf – speaker on teaching children communication skills.
Annual Magic Show fundraiser upcoming (for Scholarship.)
Last BOE meeting – discussed 2% cap and common core.

Beautification

Mary Herrle provided holiday decorations for outside – “Thank you!” Mary stepping down as chairperson.

Blood Drive – no date set yet.

Box Tops – ongoing – continue sending in.

Cultural Arts

Egyptologist Mike Harold for 6th grade – next week. March programs – 6th grade – Franklin Institute Weather Show; 8th grade – CSH DNA Lab in science classrooms.
Looking into Motiv8 – mother/daughter program. Searching for similar program for fathers/sons.

Health & Wellness

Oct. – EKG screening open to all. Not good response. Spring – will offer Diabetes Screening.
Vending Machines at HS – healthy snacks not selling well, will put more junk back into machines.

Popcorn Friday – Made \$389 last month – next one in January. May sell pens/pencils, etc.

SEPTA – Mrs. Rafferty – advocate. Testing should be on instructional , not grade level. Dr. Bushman – overview of understanding test scores & bell curve. Membership at all time high. Dr. Clark-re: early intervention. Laura Spencer spoke at Ward Melville HS forum – link on website. January – Advocacy training for parents. Standards based IEP is goal.

Spiritwear – made \$450 this month.

Sheryl Weiner – announced she is resigning as President, effective immediately, due to personal reasons. Kerry to act as Interim President until new pres is elected.
Thank you to Sheryl from Dr. Simmons & Executive Board.

Meeting adjourned – 11:15am.