

October 21, 2008 Nashua PTA Meeting

In Attendance

Kristen Reel	Jill Hoover	Courtney Church
Lisa Sparks	Sherry Thomas	Anna Miceli
Angie Baker	Liana Shelley	Courtney Wheeler
Nancy Flynn	Pam Knapp	Sandi Brown
Mary Botts	Kathy D'Anza	

Opening

The meeting was opened by Kristen Reel. A formal agenda was distributed. Motion from Lisa Sparks to approved the September Minutes, second by Mary Botts. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report

Angie Baker distributed the Treasurer's Report. Nancy Flynn motioned to approved the Treasurer's Report. Second from Lisa Sparks, motion passes.

Principals Report

Kathy D'Anza reports that there are currently 385 students enrolled at Nashua. She also reports that Nashua Elementary has a new Business Partner – Air Zone. Details will be coming soon.

Ms. D'Anza also reports that McTeacher Night raised a total of \$436. The teachers are discussing some technology opportunities where they could utilize the money.

A small group discussion takes place regarding the newest teachers with Smart Boards – Mrs. Reddoch (3rd) and Mrs. Narron (4th).

Calendar Information...

October	Buster the Bus Assembly	22 nd
	Cookie Dough Pick Up	23 rd
	Nashua Early Release 12:00	23 rd and 24 th
	1 st Grade Field Trip (Theater for Young America)	28 th
	Wendy's Night	28 th
	2 nd Grade Field Trip (Fort Osage)	29 th
	Fall Parade and Party (2:00 and 2:30)	31 st
November	Skating Party 6-8pm	3 rd
	Cici's Pizza Night	6 th
	Pizza Factory Night	10 th
	Math Night 6-7pm	13 th
	PTA Meeting 6:00pm	18th
	2 nd Grade Program 7:00pm	18 th

Discussion Hospitality Committee

Nancy Flynn reminds Members that we have a Hospitality Committee that she has been working (virtually solo) for some time. With the 2nd Grade Program on November 18th, we need for more people to offer to sign up and take part in the Cookie Reception following the programs at school.

Sandi Brown reports that this is an easy evening for anyone who can just stay after a PTA Meeting and assist with the preparation and brief cleanup.

Room Party Information

Nancy Flynn and Lisa Sparks report that Room Parties are a go. All the Coordinators (per grade) are in place and the purchases have been made and orders placed for the PTA's contributions.

Mary Botts Reports...

Our recycle is now through EcoCentive. This will provide us with a bin that will take multiple recycle goods – not just paper.

Mary also reports that we now have extra inventory of Spiritwear available for purchase.

Mary is still waiting for the final go ahead from Mac's regarding online ordering.

Mary reports that the Kindergarten and 1st Grade classes are short several shirts for Field Trip days.

Lisa Sparks motions for 10 extra t-shirts for the Kindergarten and 1st Grade Classes. Second from Jill Hoover, motion passes.

Labels for Education

The Labels for Education Contest is a go beginning November 3rd and ending November 25th.

Jill Hoover motions that the PTA give the winning class a \$1 Gift Certificate to the Student Store at the end of the day.

Lisa Sparks seconds. Motion passes.

President's Position

Kristen Reel reports that the PTA President's Position will be open at the end of the year and we need to keep in mind getting the word out for her successor.

Scripts Program

A brief discussion regarding a fundraising opportunity called Scripts has been brought to someone's attention through Carol Cobb.

Several sources in attendance report that this is a VERY time consuming fundraiser requiring a dedicated organizer.

Kathy D'Anza reports that she can get information on the amount of profit the fundraiser makes etc.

Decision made to get further information and discuss in November.

Red Ribbon Week

For those who do not know, Mrs. Turner reports that this is an anti substance abuse program regarding drug and alcohol awareness.

Jill Hoover reports that there is a line item in the budget for Red Ribbon Week.

Chuck E Cheese

Mary Botts asks when we will schedule another CEC Night since the one on October 16th was well received.

Jill Hoover reports that the school made \$232.66 on the 16th.

Kristen Reel states that her children had a great time.

Mrs. Turner notes that she heard many students talking about it.

Further discussion leads toward a February CEC night.

Lit Fest Update

Courtney Wheeler reports that this year's Lit Fest will be a combination of Paul Mesner Puppets and Reading Reptile on March 27th.

The down side of Reading Reptile is that there is a limit to the number of parents allowed to attend. The ratio is 1 parent to every 10 students.

Jill Hoover motions that Lit Fest be Paul Mesner Puppets and Reading Reptile for the 4th and 5th grade students who meet the requirements. Seconded by Nancy Flynn, motion passes.

Courtney Wheeler will speak with the teachers about the requirements should be as they will have to be completed by December.

INFORMATION: Last years' Lit Fest was a cost of \$234 to cover the students who qualified to go and \$815 for the coach buses to travel to Warrensburg.

Reading Counts Discussion

Courtney Wheeler reports that we are currently using an older version of Reading Counts and the District will be upgrading to a newer version.

With the new Reading Counts (RC) we will receive 40,000 quizzes – which is every quiz they have.

We will also receive a credit for every quiz that we currently have available.

We will need to purchase about 250 licensing fees, which would cover all the students who currently use RC.

Courtney calculates this to be a cost of about \$3.50 per student.

This will be a one time fee because as the 5th grade students graduate to middle school, it will free up the licenses that they were using for the incoming new 4th and 5th grade.

Courtney also reports that Nashua is the only school in the District that uses RC.

Other members ask why we are the only one that uses it and how we got to using RC.

Courtney can't answer these questions because RC was already in place when she arrived.

Sandi Brown asked if Courtney thought that the upgrade was a good thing for our school and students.

Courtney answers that she believes it is a good because they are willing to upgrade our SRI System to do it at no cost. SRI has to be updated to get RC current.

Clarification... The vote from the end of last year for the PTA to pay the \$125 for a new Collection Analysis was NOT done. When Courtney learned of the "upgrade" she did not elect to purchase this.

This money was coming from profit from Wendy's and Cici's of April 2008.

Sandi Brown asks Courtney Wheeler via e-mail if she could get some information/answers regarding the following questions and report back at the November PTA Meeting.

The following questions were asked via e-mail...

Do we know why they (other schools) don't (use Reading Counts)?

Do you know other librarians, in the District, that you could chat with and find out more about this?

Do they not use Reading Counts because it is a budget issue and they can't afford it?

Do they use another program that they feel works better than Reading Counts?
I wonder, as a parent, are our kids (students) really learning how to do proper books reports?
Are they understanding how to pull information out of a book and interpret that information in their own words?
Will they be ready to perform this task in Middle School having not done it at Nashua?

Staff Appreciation

Pam Knapp is the Chair for the PTA Staff Appreciation Committee and had to leave before the meeting ended. Pam sent the following information via e-mail,

October 2 National Custodial Workers' Day

We did gift cards to Tim Zehr and Lis Arndt from the Green Lantern Car Wash in Liberty. I also did a gift bag of chocolate to Vicki, who is the part-time custodial worker. I also did a flyer/thank you card to all of them.

October 13-17 National School Lunch Week

We did \$10.00 gift cards to blockbuster and thank you cards to Ann Hellums; Sharon Drake and Katherine Mansur.
I did thank you cards and candy to Jerilee Hendrich; Tim Zehr and Karen (filling in for Tracy), who are lunch room helpers.

October 21 and 23 Parent Teacher Conferences

Tuesday the staff committee brought in snacks for the teachers. For Thurs, I talked w/Ms. D'Anza and Kristen and we decided on catering in pizza for the staff. I ordered pizzas from CiCi's and will pick them up today and deliver around 3:30, per Ms. D'Anza's request. The Committee also provided plates, utensils, napkins, etc. for both days.

I've also continued to recognize staff on their birthdays with a birthday card and treat. I also bring in random treats and leave in the media room.

Snow Blower/Mower Update

Kristen Reel reports that both Home Depot and Lowes are willing to work deals with the PTA to get these items for Tim

Tim prefers the choices available at Home Depot. This would be a total cost of \$890.

Kristen Reel will call Menard's to see what kind of pricing they will offer us.

Mary Botts will also check on the cost via the military.

Lisa Sparks contacted the District to ask how other schools get these amenities for their staff and how Nashua can go about getting them too.

She was told that the Principal can request these items from the District.

No idea on when the District might comply with the request. Apparently, this is what the other schools have done to get their items.

Motion by Jill Hoover for the PTA to cap the amount spent of the snow blower and mower to be not more than \$1,000. Seconded by Courtney Wheeler, motion passes.

Kristen will continue to gather information on the best prices and work with Tim on getting these items.

Digital Camera Update

Nancy Flynn has been shopping digital cameras for the best price as well as

memory.

Currently, Sam's Club has (1 gig) SD cards for \$6 each.

Nancy has received information that each teacher would like their own SD Card to use.

Nancy plans to have cameras and memory purchased by the time the Fall parties take place.

Business Partners

Jill Hoover thinks it would be a good idea for the PTA to have the Business Partners listed on the back of the monthly newsletter with the Business Members.

Kathy D'Anza will get a list of the Business Partners to Sandi Brown.