

September 17, 2013 Nashua PTA Meeting

In Attendance

Christy Boyer	Kristin Rice	Jennifer Robert
Sandi Brown	Rhianna Elkins	Jennifer Walters
Mark Dieckman	Donna Shepard	Melissa Dieker
Kelly Cowan	Edie Buchanan	Andi Gigliotti
Jessica Martin	Sharon Watts	Jill Smith
Linda Burtis	Eva Payne	Liana Shelley
Heidi Hiebert	Paula Shaw	Jeanene Morris
Meridith Lamb	Melissa Leath	Christopher Micelli
Stephanie O'Connell	Erin Cullen	

Opening

Meeting called to order by Jennifer Robert. After introductions, Jill Smith, Library/Media Specialist is introduced and give an overview of the availability of different opportunities to students through the NKCS D portal.

Principal's Report

Dr. Martin distributes a formal Principal's Report and gives a summary of the information and calendar.

Membership Overview

Sharon Watts goes over our current membership status. 109 PTA Memberships have been purchased by Nashua families. Three business memberships have been purchased.

Sharon stated that she would like to know how many families have several students in the school, to accurately determine what our percentage of families who have joined.

Open discussion...we will try to list our business members on the back of the monthly newsletter.

School Board Update

Jeanene Morris gives a summary of the last School Board Meeting.

Key points...school taxes have remained the same and the NKCS D populations continues to grow every year.

Trash Bag Update

Donna Shepard reports that we have switch vendors for our trash bag supplier. With the new vendor there are 5 extra bags per roll on the yellow and white bags.

Donna reports she has already sold over a case of yellow.

Also, PTA has decided to clearance out all of the black trash bags at \$5 per roll. This size bag rarely sells.

PTA Goals

Jennifer Robert discusses what she is doing to continue toward the goal of communication to all parents.

In addition to a Facebook Page, the PTA now has a thorough website. The website and the Facebook page virtually mirror each other with information. However, the Facebook page will have “in the moment” updates from inside the walls of school.

The website has many links to in depth information. Parents can look at the calendar with daily and future information at their fingertips. The website also has links to all of the PTA volunteer signups. On the website parents can also access information about individual class parties and what areas are covered or still need volunteers.

The ultimate goal of all communication is to have parents know about what is happening at Nashua as long as they take the time to look online.

PTA Mailbox, Staples Rewards

Sandi Brown summarizes the PTA Mailbox in the front office showing parents where they can find reimbursement forms, tax exempt forms, copy request, etc. Sandi also points out that there are blank envelopes in the PTA Mailbox for parents to put money in and turn in for various PTA items. Money should always be sent in enclosed in an envelope; loose cash and checks can get lost or have no identifying information for PTA to know where it is to be linked.

Sandi also gives a summary of Staples Rewards explaining that we need more parents to purchase ink at Staples with one of our rewards numbers, in order for PTA to continue to be able to make purchases for their office supplies. Members must be willing to make ink personal purchases with our numbers so that PTA continues to get those rewards because PTA does not budget money for needed supplies.

New Business

Sandi Brown informs members that last year she put a request out to Nashua Parents for someone to rebuild out limbo poles that are used for water limbo on Field Day. The current poles fall over easily and they have nails that can hurt a student or staff member.

Nashua parent Ryan Orth donated two limbo poles that he had made. The poles are grounded in five gallon buckets with concrete and the poles are made with decking wood, so they will not deteriorate in the elements.

Sandi requests that PTA approve \$30 for two gallons of paint to paint the new poles in yellow and blue, as the other poles are painted. Currently, Sandi has a request in to Wal-Mart for paint to be donated that should be fulfilled in October, if Wal-Mart will approve the request.

Donna Shepard motions that PTA pay for two gallons of paint, not to exceed \$30, if the Wal-Mart request is not approved. From Big Ticket.

Linda Burtis seconds the motion, motion passes.

Mark Dieckman would like to paint games on the black top and is requesting that PTA put forth \$150 for quality latex house paint to complete the project.

Sandi Brown asks Mr. Dieckman if he requested a donation or discount from the retailer. Mr. Dieckman did not, and suggests that Sandi call the retailer. Sandi states that she is already working on her own paint request and she does not want to make a call.

Christopher Miceli asks how much PTA has in Big Ticket. Jennifer Robert explains that we do not have an exact number and there will be a follow up meeting, after the one we are having, to discuss Big Ticket and PTA finances.

Sandi Brown states that regardless of the amount, every PTA Member who is spending PTA funds should be checking for discounts and donations before paying full retail. Simply because the more money we have, the more good things we can do.

Sharon Watts asks how long the paint is expected to last. Mr. D. states about 3-5 years.

Rhianna Elkins has some paint contacts and is willing to check and see if she can get paint donated.

Donna Shepard motions that PTA purchase paint, not to exceed \$150, if Rhianna does not secure a paint donation. Money to come from Big Ticket.

Second Christopher Miceli, motion passes

Lastly, Jennifer explains to the members that Rita Benskin's husband, Kevin, passed away suddenly the week prior and PTA would like to vote to do something for her. Suggestions include donations of stationary, gift cards for JoAnn's and QT as well as books of stamps. In addition to donations, Donna Shepard motions that PTA spend \$100 from Big Ticket for gift cards. Motion passes. Sandi Brown will pick up donated items and cash from the school office on Friday and put everything together to give to Rita when she returns to work on Monday.



Kids Search is an online database of information from a wide variety of resources, including encyclopedias, magazines, books, primary source documents, and image files. Citation information is provided and Kids Search provides links to other related information in a “kid-friendly” manner.



Searchasaurus is an additional online database through Ebsco that provides students information from a wide variety of resources. One highlight of Searchasaurus is that it provides lexile information for the user on the reading level of each article. The larger the lexile number, the more difficult the reading level.



Culture Grams is an online resource that provides information about the world in which we live. Students may explore information on the countries of the world in the Kids edition



Links to information on the individual states of the United States and on the provinces of Canada are also provided through Culture Grams.



The North Kansas City School District provides access to a variety of online databases for student use. These databases can be accessed through the district portal using a student login.

Databases include:

CultureGrams

KidsSearch

Searchasaurus

World Book

Online access to Destiny, the district library catalog, is available through the portal as well.

If you have questions, please contact Jill Smith, Nashua library media specialist at 413-6966.

Library Links

School libraries in the North Kansas City School district utilize a card catalog system known as Destiny. Students may access Destiny from home as well through the district portal to look for books with their families. The link to Destiny can be found under the Quick Links tab in the portal.

Mid Continent Public Library has a large variety of online databases that are linked through the district portal as well. Use of these databases does require a Mid Continent library card. Once a library card is obtained, you can save that library card number, as well as your PIN number, in the password manager on the account tab in the portal so that it doesn't have to be entered each time access is requested.

Student access of the portal is simple:

Go to the district website:

www.nkcschools.org

Click on the portal link

(a green button with a white door)

The student should enter their webID

(first four letters of last name plus four numbers)

Then enter their password (same as their lunch number)

Once logged into the portal, the links found in this brochure can be located by clicking on the workspace tab at the top of the portal screen. Destiny is available through the Quick Links link and the remaining databases are available through the research databases link.



World Book is an online encyclopedia tool that provides students with multimedia information for research. In addition to the encyclopedia information, an online dictionary and online atlas are available through this site as well. I recommend at the elementary level for the students to either utilize the World Book Kids version

(lower elementary)



or the World Book Student version (upper elementary)

