



October 1, 2018 Minutes  
High Mountain School All Purpose Room

Call to Order: 7:18pm

Flag Salute

PTO President Welcome: Heather LaCognata: Welcome back! We have a month of school down and all is going well. This is my third year in the President position. Played a “get to know you” game. Heather asked questions (e.g. tea or coffee, salty or sweet, etc.) and parents moved to certain half of the room. When on that half of room, parents introduced themselves to someone they didn’t know. Thank you for playing. The Executive Board introduced themselves. Corresponding Secretary seat on PTO Board is open if anyone is interested and would like to join. Heather offered phone # if anyone has questions: 973-417-1706.

Administration

Ms. Mazzola – High Mountain School

- Opening Day at High Mountain ran very smoothly and the students have had an amazing first few weeks. Thank you to all the teachers for your hard work and preparations.
- Thank you to the PTO for the welcome back first day breakfast. Much enjoyed and much appreciated!
- School security Drills & Fire Drills– complete and ongoing - All were completed successfully with the assistance of the North Haledon Police Department.
- School Pictures will take place on Thursday, October 4.
- Student Council essays were read in Social Studies classes and the representatives for each grade level were chosen by the classes. Only Grade 5 required a vote, based on the number of students who wished to participate. It was a very difficult decision in many cases, as all of the students put a tremendous amount of time and energy into their essay. Congratulations to all the new members of student council. Elections for officers will be held on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- HMS hosted Rachel’s Challenge on September 26th. The students in grades 5-8 participated in an emotionally engaging presentation about Rachel Scott’s legacy of creating a chain reaction of kindness. HMS will utilize this theme throughout the year and host many student driven challenges to support this. The parent presentation was equally as moving. Our RIPPLES club was trained by the Friends of Rachel Organization, and will serve as the student leaders of this initiative with Ms. Conover, Ms. Minarovich and Ms. George. I look forward to seeing what the students choose to do! Heather LaCognata noted that a small number of parents attended Rachel’s Challenge Presentation. It was a wonderful assembly and fabulous parent presentation. She encouraged parents to come see presentations and encouraged us to have conversations with our children about kindness. Tammy Longo: asked if presentations could begin later than 6:00pm. Heather noted we have done 7:00 in the past and will try to do later when possible.
- High Mountain School is currently observing the Week of Respect the week of October 1st – October 5th. To recognize the importance of character education, school districts are required to observe the week by providing age-appropriate instruction focusing on demonstrating respect for themselves, others and the environment. We had a great Kick Off assembly today from the Camfel group stressing the importance of perspective and our points of view. Students will be participating in other activities and lessons throughout the week that will focus on the Week of Respect as well. Thank you to Ms. Conover for organizing.
- Upcoming event at HMS: Grade 6 field trip to Buehler Science Center on October 5th. Please remember the students will be departing at 7:40 am. We are closed on Monday for Columbus Day and Teacher inservice training. Halloween will be a single session day on the 31st, with the parade scheduled for the morning.
- Thank you to all the parents for their support. Thank you to the PTO in advance for all you do.

Mrs. Tait – Memorial School

- Great Opening Day and week! Thank you to all teachers for your hard work and preparations and to parents for cooperation.
- School security Drills & Fire Drills– complete and ongoing - All were completed successfully with the assistance of the North Haledon Police Department.
- School Pictures will take place on Thursday.
- Back to School Night great success – thank you for support.
- Officer Phil Program took place in September where children learned about safety, stranger danger and making good choices.
- This week Memorial School is observing the Week of Respect. To recognize the importance of character education, school districts are required to observe the week by providing age-appropriate instruction focusing on demonstrating respect for themselves, others and the environment. Students will be participating in various activities and lessons throughout the week that will focus on the Week of Respect. Today we had an assembly focused on character education and anti-bullying. “Eye to Eye.” Thank you to Ms. Minarovich for organizing.
- Implementation of S.M.I.L.E. students in grade 4. Students Making It a Little Easier.
- Birthday lunches are off to a great start!
- Everyday Heroes Project – students created pictures and letters of thanks to our everyday heroes in North Haledon. Delivered to NH Police Department and Fire Department.
- Reminders to please not enter the lot until the designated time of 2:50 and 8:15.
- Reminder no school on October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Thank you to the PTO for the welcome back first day breakfast. Much enjoyed and much appreciated!
- Thank you to all the parents for their support. Thank you to the PTO in advance for all you do.

Minutes of June 4, 2017 Meeting: Please review for approval.

Approved: Maria Marano

Second: Michele Manning

PTO Treasurer’s Report: Angela Bua: The June 1 operating starting balance was \$53,094.47. The end balance from June 30, 2018 was \$13,605.06. The games of chance account had an end balance of \$95,952.69. The total amount available without savings was \$109,557.75 and with savings was \$120,039.68. From July 1 to September 30, 2018 the beginning operating balance was \$13,605.06. The end operating balance was \$11,377.52. The games of chance account had an end balance of \$95,952.69. The total amount available without savings was \$107,330.21 and with savings was \$117,812.14.

Approved: Tonilyn Perragallo

Second: Jessica Matos

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Treasurer’s Report: Randi Venema: The end balance from June through September was \$2,594.94

Correspondence Report: Giselle Micchio: Thank you for the Welcome Back Breakfast from the NH Education Association.

Web Coordinator: Heather Davidson

- NHPTO website: There have been some changes made to the website to make it more streamlined. Please go to the website and update your information. If you are new to the district, please create your account. We ask that you input your cell provider. This will enable you to receive emails and text blasts from NHPTO.
  - Shopping through the website: The PTO earns money back when you shop through our website on Amazon Smile. It still allows you to shop through your account, just click on the link on our website first. This is a quick and easy way for money to come back to the PTO.
  - Paperless PTO App: The paperless PTO app can be purchased for \$3.00 on the website.
  - Shoparoo: Link is up on website. You simply snap pictures of store receipts through the app to earn points that translate to money back for the PTO. This is a great free app that is underutilized so please look into it.
- NHEF Report: Heather Davidson: Casino Night is scheduled for Friday, November 30 at the Tides. \$100 ticket includes open bar and a lavish buffet. Early bird specials and sponsorship forms will be

going out soon. Please continue to send in Box Tops. Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 15. This event does sell out so sign up when form comes home. Our team meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm here at High Mountain School. We are always looking for new members to join us!

- Board of Education: Heather LaCognata: Next meeting October 17 at Memorial School. Jess Matos asked if they would ever broadcast it on Facebook or record it for those that cannot attend. Lucy DeNova said they are getting equipment to video tape meetings and put on website.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Wrap Ups

- PTO Audit: Angela Bua: The annual PTO budget audit was held on June 26. All balanced out.
  - Class of 2018 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade audit: Jessica Tomasi: Lisa Antropow turned over binder and everything balanced out. The accounting was transferred over to the new 8<sup>th</sup> grade treasurer.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Ice Cream Social: Kim Checinski, Maria Marano, Lisa Lombardo. Maria spoke – Event went well. Kids had ice cream and signed banner. The children really enjoyed it.
- North Haledon Day: Heather LaCognata: Thank you to all those who came out to support the PTO at our Dunk Tank. Thank you to our parent volunteers and to Mr. A who volunteered to get dunked.

### Current

- Membership: Angela Bua: Currently, our membership is at 197. That does not include what we collected tonight. Thank you to all those who have joined PTO. We are still accepting memberships.
- School Coordinators:
  - HMS: Jackie Roscio: Reminder that PTO Committee Chair and Class Captain/Parent Kick Off Meeting will be tomorrow (10/2) at 7:00.
  - Memorial: Giselle Micchio: Reminder that you must be a paid PTO member to be class parent. Babysitting will be available at tomorrow's meeting.
- Fall Fundraiser: Janessa DeJesus & Jessica Tomasi: Jessica spoke - Kicked off fall sale - due back October 9. Delivery scheduled for November 15.
- Halloween Trunk or Treat: Jen Mendillo. Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Saturday, October 27. Forms went home today. This year you are not required to decorate a trunk. You can just stand at your trunk and hand out candy. If you do decorate a trunk you will be entered into a raffle to win free tricky tray ticket. Thank you for the candy donations. Raffle winner was selected.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities: Jessica Tomasi, Randi Venema, Maureen Kurzynski: Mandatory meeting 10/4 at 7:00pm at American Legion. Will go over budget and committees for the year. Will be selling 50/50's throughout the year. \$1/each - 10 in book.
- School Pictures: October 4
  - HMS: Maree Padula - All set.
  - Memorial: Elisabeth House & Gini Panzera. Elisabeth spoke: All set. Gini and I will make sure kids look great.
- Sunshine:
  - HMS & Memorial: Janessa DeJesus: Nothing to report.
- Book Fair: Jen Percelli & Michele Dockray: Jen Spoke - Book Fair Family Night at Memorial is scheduled for Monday, October 15. Set-up is Friday, October 12. The theme for this year is the Enchanted Forest. Coloring contest will be going out. If you would like to volunteer and have not received email from me, please contact me. If you are not on volunteer list given to main office, you will not be allowed entry into building.
- Tricky Tray: Chair TBD: Jessica Tomasi spoke - The tricky tray is booked for Tuesday, April 2, at the Tides. If anyone is interested in chairing, please contact us.
- Dining Out: Carly Saal: We were denied for Chipotle because it hasn't been 6 months since our last fundraiser there. If anyone has an suggestions, please reach out carly.saal@gmail.com.

- Spirit Wear: Tammy Longo: We have talked about doing shirts for each grade. Started in Kindergarten and went very well. Approximately 57 students wore for spirit day. Plan is to offer to entire school so they can use on field trips or when they have spirit days such as color wars. Forms will go home soon.
  - Lisa Lombardo asked aren't we paperless? Heather Davidson explained that we are working towards that, but only 130 people are signed up on website as a PTO member. Not reaching all 650 in district.
- TREP\$: Jessica Tomasi: Marketplace is scheduled for December 7. We will blast out the paperwork. Usually one of the parents of participating students offers to chair. Please let Jessica know if you are interested.
- Family Fun Day: Chair TBD: Would like to rent out Hawthorne Theater for a viewing of Dumbo. If anyone is interested in chairing, please let us know.
- Kindergarten Screening: Chair TBD: Chair would need to meet with teachers and make pencil boxes over summer. Dina O' Donnell offered to chair.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 2017-2018 PTO Budget: Angela Bua & Heather LaCognata: Elisabeth requested monies to purchase 2 new coffee pots for each school (4 total). Her request was approved.
- Kid Stuff: Maria Marano: 9 books away from selling \$10K. Waiting to get approximately 40 back. There is an online app this year that also works out of county and state. If you haven't purchased one and would like one, please contact Maria.
- PTO Board Corresponding Secretary Vacancy: Heather LaCognata: Explained position and asked if anyone was interested. Trisha Febbo formally nominated Tonilyn Peragallo. Tonilynn accepted nomination. She will be sworn at next meeting.

### **VOTE**

- 2017-2018 Budget
  - a. All in favor: All
  - b. All opposed: None
- Tonilyn Peragallo nomination for PTO Board Corresponding Secretary
  - a. All in favor: All
  - b. All opposed: None

### **COMMENTS, QUESTIONS & ANSWER PERIOD**

- Art Volunteers – Mrs. Tait announced that Mrs. Lally is looking for art volunteers. There is no required commitment, they will take any time you are willing to give. Volunteers would help in classroom and with decorating for holiday shows. Will also take library volunteers.
  - Jen Percelli said she tried to volunteer in library last year and was given old fingerprinting form. Would still like to volunteer in library. Heather and Mrs. Tait said they would check with business office to get right fingerprinting form.
  - Mona Cacciola offered help if they ever need it in the music department.

### **NEXT PTO MEETING**

Thank you for attending this PTO meeting.

Monday, November 5, 2018 at HMS in the All Purpose Room

Meeting adjourned: 8:18pm

Respectfully submitted,

Giselle Micchio

Recording Secretary