

North Grafton Elementary School Parent-Teacher Group
Minutes of Meeting – January 11, 2012
WWW.NGES-PTG.ORG

Opening: Lynne Everling called the regular meeting of the Parent-Teacher Group to order at 7:03 and began with welcoming everyone to the meeting. **Present:** 5 board members; Lynne Everling, Marci Palmer, Kerrie Clarke, Nancy Paulauskas and Laura Often and 8 parents.

1-2. Approval of Agenda/Minutes/Treasurer's Reports

Approval of the Secretary's Minutes from November/December 2011 was motioned, seconded and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report from November was motioned, seconded and unanimously approved

Approval of the Treasurer's Report from December 2011 was motioned, seconded and unanimously approved.

3. New Business:

Volunteers/Fundraisers

Go Green Fundraiser – Lynne Everling gave an update on the Go Green fundraiser and made a recommendation to do a fundraising initiative to doing a litterless lunch. The board discussed scaling back the Go Green initiative that has been done in the past due to lack of volunteers. The fundraiser is High quality fundraiser and 50% goes back to school. In addition there is a local woman who does a cleaning cookbook that Lynne will reach out to. We will try to target the beginning of February. There was a parent suggestion to try and bring recycling to the cafeteria. There will be an initiative to walk around and monitor potential recycling in the cafeteria and perhaps have students from GHS to build recycling bins.

Nancy Paulauskas gave a fundraising report of year to date. We have currently raised \$14,600, and should be on track to raise 40,000 dollars assuming 500/1500 on Go Green Fundraiser.

Fun Fair

PTG is looking for four chair people to run the Fun Fair. Parents can partner with friends and will receive support from the board. Fun fair can be coordinated from home – it does not need to happen during the day. It is a lot of fun, but a lot of work. If you know anyone who would be good at it please let the PTG know. The fun fair will be May 12th. The PTG board will post the list of committees on the NGPTG Web site.

Budget Requests:

Mini Grants: A request was made by Mrs. Perch for a Smart Pal classroom kit. These sleeves act as a dry-erase boards, but you may put any activity sheet or graphic organizer in the sleeve. The classroom kit comes with the sleeve, markers, and erasers for 25 students. They are also asking for the activity books that compliment the sleeves. The amount requested is \$819.49.

The sleeves would present numerous opportunities to use in the classroom either whole group or small group setting. Certain activities can be used independently as well.

A vote was made to purchase Smart Pal Classroom kit, seconded and all were in favor. The motion passed.

4. Committee Updates:

After school enrichment program: Marci Palmer provided an update. After school sign up programs went out. There will be 4 classes offered on Tuesday and Thursday. On Tuesdays: Teamworks, Fun with Science, Ready set Sew, Colorful foods. On Thursday: Games galore (still looking for an assistant) fun with Legos, Apple Tree Arts and an, Art Class. Math Workshop run by the teachers starts on the following Wednesday (1/18). Confirmations will go out on Friday, January 13.

Santa's Breakfast Re-cap and Feedback: Nancy and Kerrie put together a cash update. The Santa Event raised about the same amount as 2010 about \$2400. There was some feedback about not being aware of additional charges once in the event and a suggestion was made for there to be three adult volunteers in the craft room. A parent said that she was often not away of sign up opportunities and there was a discussion about having a section of the Web site devoted to volunteer sign ups. There is currently not a Preschool parent list, and Mrs. Plainte will work on creating it.

Holiday Gift Shop: There was a mention that some of the gifts went home broken, so to make sure that next year we have boxes for gifts or wrap them in newspapers. There was also a discussion about adding a future opt out on the flyer and reworking flyer for parents to better understand that it is more of a classroom activity and not a fund raiser.

Stop& Shop Update

Currently we have 75 families signed up and have raised \$737.75 As of now, we have less people signed up than last year, but have raised more money) We will remind people to sign up. Mrs. Plainte will put the link up again.

Box Tops:

Currently we have raised \$297.00 for box tops (411.00 last year at this time.) Remind people to snip and send in Web sites. Next deadline is end of February for money to be received in April. PTG will send out reminder.

Yearbook:

Martina provided the update. Cover has been approved. Jamie Wexler is going to design a flyer. Yearbook art is in for the runners up. Currently a 100 yearbooks have been ordered. The History of the school project is going well. There was a brainstorm to post photos of NGES alumni and their current children enrolled in NGES. Room parents need to provide yearbook photos via flashdrive or CD. Yearbooks need to be submitted March 5.

5. Principal's Report:

Thanks to parent volunteers who have supported our school community:

- All of the parents who have supported our NGES Santa's Breakfast and Holiday Fair and classroom holiday celebrations
- Marci Palmer and Amy Firlings for their support of our ASEP program as well as all of the parents providing wonderful enrichment opportunities for our students
- NGES PTG for their AMAZING support of our work!
 - AVID
 - School Bank
 - Dinosaurs for first grade
 - Terry Golson for preschool and kindergarten

Congratulations to our NGES students for outstanding performances at our Holiday Concerts!

Instructionally, teachers are implementing the Daily 5, CAFÉ, and math workshop – this supports students to be independent learners and accountable to participate in authentic learning activities daily.

A group of teachers Pre-k through grade 5 are working to align the mathematics curriculum to the new Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks which incorporates the Common Core Standards.

We have implemented time for first grade classrooms to visit the computer lab each week for students to use Lexia which supports differentiated instruction.

Our GES School Advisory Council met on Wednesday, January 11.

- Each member reported progress on goals
- Kindergarten teachers visited two full day kindergarten programs
- SAC parent members have made the RtIKits to make them more “teacher friendly.”
- We have begun to plan for classroom technology configuration based on classroom assignments for next year.
- We began a review of our NGES Parent Opinion Questionnaire.
- The SAC is working with the PTG to make sure there is an updated Kindergarten simulation program including a possible summer playground social, and proper orientation.

Mrs. Plante also read a request from a GHS National Honor society member who was interested in building a project for the school. Parents suggested a recycle bin to support our go green initiative.

Upcoming events include:

- Go Green Fundraiser
- Fun Fair May 12

7. Teacher Input: There was no Teacher input

8. Parent Input: There was a lot of concern raised about transitions for the children next year especially the students moving up to the 2-6 building. Parents want to make sure that there is an advocate for the children especially because there is no current leader at the North Street School. (Principal to be hired.) Mrs. Plante explained that the current leadership team is working together. We also discussed the reorgs of the PTG. The current North and South board PTGs will meet on 1/26 and will continue to communicate the changes to the PTG. The PTGs will make sure that the children still receive the same level of enrichment programs.

Lynne Everling adjourned the meeting at 8:37 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Laura Often, PTG CO-Secretary