

NHA PTO Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2017



Meeting called to order 6:20pm.

Prayer by Principal Morrow.

Quorum verified by Marwin Glenn.

Minutes from the May 9, 2017 meeting approved as written.

State of the School Address by Principal:

1. Gym mats are up on the wall and pillars.
2. 70 new families here for New Parent orientation!
3. New teachers in 2/3, 4/5, and music (ukuleles are making a comeback); and an aide in 1st grade – all settling in well.
4. Sneak A Peak and B2S Nights well attended.
5. School Board has voted to move forward on looking into the requirements to build a new facility/gym; Principal Joy has spoken with a developer about finding grants to support the effort; the board has determined that the first step should be to raise money to conduct feasibility study on building a new gym. The teachers are excited about the possibilities. Principal Joy is seeking parents with expertise in corporate fundraising, grant writing, project management, etc.

Parent Education Spotlight: Video: Dr. Carol Dweck – A Study on Praise and Mindsets

1. YouTube video was shown that discussed study regarding the powerful impact of praising effort over intelligence.
2. Parents were invited to recommend ideas for upcoming PTO spotlights.

Financial Report by Aneesa Summerville:

1. Mrs. Summerville reviewed the financial report for July through September. The treasurer's report was approved as written.

Old Business:

1. School Sign –Principal Joy stated that Mr. Otis informed her that the permit for installation has been approved. Sign is still pending installation.
2. Sneak A Peek Night – well attended.
3. Back to School Night – well attended.
 - a. Parent commented that B2S hard to attend for some since children cannot attend. Parent asked if PTO could provide childcare support for future B2S night events like during the PTO meetings. This is something that the PTO can look into accommodating for next year.



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- b. Parent commented that it was challenging to visit each of her children's teachers since she had more than one child in the upper school. She asked about scheduling change to accommodate family with more than one child in the upper school.

New Business:

1. Coach Sam Caldwell, NHA Girls Basketball
 - a. Spoke about the girls' basketball program and their national level schedule and introduced the two assistant coaches. He mentioned that the New Hope Basketball team has two players that rank amongst the top high school players in the country - Rochelle Norris (senior) and Jennifer Ezeh (junior). Rochelle has committed to attending the West Virginia University while Jennifer desires to attend Duke University.
 - i. Parent commented that this is great marketing opportunity for the team and New Hope Academy
 - b. Upcoming events: 1) The team will be starting the Tiger 6th Man Club online. The link will be distributed once the site goes live. Team plays a national level schedule. 2) Team officially being sponsored by Nike – includes shoes, sweats. 3) The team has a Redskins stadium fundraiser in which the team sells Nachos, snacks and beverages during the Redskins home games. Those interested in volunteering to assist with this fundraiser should contact Coach Caldwell @ scaldwell@newhopeacademy.org; and 4) Midnight Madness where Rochelle Norris will sign her letter of intent to West Virginia University.
2. Room parents: Grades K-5 have room parents. Volunteers for room parents are still needed for the upper school, grades 7-11. Room parents assist teachers, serve as a liaison for the PTO, and assists Principal Joy to take connect with classroom issues/concerns.
3. Career Day, 24 Oct– Marwin Glenn provided an overview of Career Day. Mayor of Landover Hills will kick off the event. Fire Department, police department, and a nurse. (PreK-5) (9-11am); Upper School will be a round robin format (1-3:30pm).
 - a. Teacher/Staff recommended that a STEM professional be added to the agenda for the lower school.
 - b. Still room on the agenda for the afternoon round robin session
4. Harvest Festival, 28 Oct – Marwin Glenn provided an overview of the Harvest Festival games, bon fire and a costume contest.
5. Walkathon, 11 Nov – Nwadimma Omoike and Michelle Anderson gave an overview of the walkathon. Students and parents may participate. Donations are tax deductible.
6. Teacher requests. Two-week lead time to the board. Ms. Muhammad announced that she would be submitting some teacher request for PTO consideration. They will be addressed during the November meeting.
7. PTO Super Bowl Party Interest Survey (Carol Crenshaw): The PTO members in attendance were polled regarding their interest in a Super Bowl Party by a show of hands – zero (0) hands were raised.
 - a. Questions: Does it have to be on a Sunday? Will there be childcare?



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b. Suggestions for another event in lieu of the Super Bowl party included a networking event; movie night at school; a dance/ dinner; casino/game night; or a potluck. Based on the suggestions, another survey and vote will be conducted at the November PTO meeting.

Open Floor

1. Parent comment about a bias toward Christianity at the end of the prayer given at the beginning of the PTO as well as concerns regarding prayer in the classroom. Principal Joy stated that New Hope promotes an open faith-based environment, and she understands that everyone may not be comfortable. Principal Morrow also discussed that a private meeting between her and the parents would be a more appropriate forum than the PTO meeting.
2. Parent suggested that different parent/teacher pray during the PTO meeting on a rotating basis.
3. Motion that PTO prayer be conducted by parent or teacher on a rotating basis passed, seconded and approved.
4. Motion to table the discussion on prayer in the classroom for a more appropriate forum with Principal Joy directly, passed, seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.