

Navesink PTA
General Membership Meeting Monday, June 6, 2016 MINUTES
Attendance via Signin sheet:

- Call to order by Liz/pledge

I. Principal/Teacher Report (Mr. Altobello goes first due to his father going to the hospital.)

A. Mr. Altobello goes first.

- Thanks everyone for work with Field Day
- Says it's a busy time of year and asks that we refer to school calendar. Reminder, no school 6/7 (Tuesday)
- Confirms (To Alyson's questions) that the AC is fixed. Says they were waiting on a part from Germany but it is now working.
- Question from the floor about the Gym Teacher 'situation' and what was posted on Facebook recently about his reported texted during his gym classes. Mr. Altobello addresses this by saying if there is a personal concern about any faculty member, a parent should come and talk to the Principal. The PTA Facebook page and meeting is not the place to discuss personnel issues. Opening discussion in these formats about staff members is NOT appropriate. In this case, the gym teacher deserved the opportunity to hear and address the concern. Posting something like that on Facebook about someone specifically is unfair and inappropriate. If the 'issue' isn't something you are willing to speak with the teacher personally, then you shouldn't feel comfortable posting in on Facebook. Communicating is different than accusing.
- Angela suggests amending rules regarding Facebook in the bylaws so this doesn't happen again.

He says if a parent would like more information, they need to come to him. He is responsible for observing his teachers and if he has a concern, it would have been reflected in his observation report and secured with the personnel member... and that is not something parents would be privy to. He feels Mr. Catania is doing a fine job. He does NOT think there is any issue with his cell phone. He also reminds everyone that the gym teacher goes outside of the building, so his cell phone is his way to stay in touch should an emergency occur, etc. A gym teacher can also use things like his stop watch on this cell phone, which is totally useful and appropriate. (Mrs. Moyer agrees that they do have some apps on their phones that they are encouraged to use.)

- Parent (Heather) notes that without the FB page, she wouldn't have been aware there was an issue, so without FB, how would she know? A discussion about having a parent FB page (which Margie Rafferty Criscione has created) may be the way to go, which Mr. Altobello says is fine. Some other schools have them.

- Reviews what to do if you have an issue with a teacher: (Mrs. Moyer hands out a chain of command flyer. "How to effectively communicate within schools." First, contact the teacher. If not satisfied, then contact the principal. If still not satisfied, go to the next level.

- Mr. Altobello assures everyone one that any issue with the gym teacher has been addressed.

B. Mrs. Moyer gives Teacher Report.

- Class trip season is well under way. Thanks PTA for the funds to support the transportation to the field trips, etc. Next week, the 5th grade goes to Middletown Swim Club.

C. Budget Review (Kirstin)

- Reviews each line item one by one, both income and expenses.
- Confirms that proposed budget is about even - we have surplus of money in the bank.

- Board of Directors already discussed and agreed to give \$1000 to library and \$11,000 toward a Chrome Book Cart, which would primarily be used for the 2nd grade. (Currently provided by the district for 3rd + up, but not for 2nd and they could use it.)

- Shelley wants to bring back Spirit Wear (Krista confirms that's fine, and we have that included.)

- Joanna says Kathleen Silva spent 'quite a bit more money' than the \$100 noted in the budget for the welcoming committee. She says she spent \$250. We up the amount in that line item to \$250. (To let Nikki know to change this in the budget.)

- * Kirstin makes motion to approve budget. Denise Moyer seconds motion on budget. 15 yes, 3 no vote.

D. Other Business

- Carrie Ercolino says that yearbooks should be in by this Wednesday.

- Angela gives an update on the Barnes & Noble event coming up this Friday. Asks that we do May for next year. Approved by Board.

- Denise Jacinto shares some complaints regarding field day. Said the teachers asked that more room parents help out (apparently lunch was difficult with only a few teachers handling it). Liz notes that there were many parents standing around outside, not knowing what to do, and that we need to make sure they are alerted so they can help. Some people chimed in that we should have used SignUP Genius. Noted to make sure the chairs use this next year for volunteer sign ups. Kirstin also suggested we put field day as a requirement in the room parent description.

- Heather asks about acoustics in the gym? Kirstin says she will alert Mr. Altobello and he can address it.

- Heather asks about technology in classroom... what is being used? Is school monitoring? Is this info available for parent review? Mrs. Moyer addresses that in certain subjects it is used as needed. She doesn't know the time amount. Kirstin suggests that Heather speak to her teacher for more information about this.

- Denise Jacinto mentioned that Katie Doyle could offer her services if anyone wants to contact her.

- Liz thanks current board for all of their hard work, as it is our last general PTA meeting of the year.

- Call to Adjourn by Liz. Kirstin seconds. 8:41 p.m.