

Newfield PFO Minutes General Board Meeting

Date: November 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Jen Salvatore at 7:10 P.M. The minutes from the last Executive Board meeting on October 12, 2011 were approved.

Present: Beth Goodman, Betsy Allyn, Miriam Arango, Maria Cosentino, Jeanette Christian, Kendell Daly, Sharon DeLuca, Terri Lipscomb, Lesley Levenson, Jennifer Salvatore, Cindy Schwartz.

Administrative Report – Mrs. Miriam Arango/Mrs. Sharon Longo

Mrs. Arango announced that Newfield is the recipient of an USDA Bronze award. The plaque is in the office. A \$500 check was received as part of the award and will be used by the PE department to purchase items for indoor recess and for other activities to promote health and nutrition in the student body. All principals from the district attended the meeting to receive the awards. Stamford was one of seven school districts nationally to receive the honor.

Tour Your Schools Day is Thursday, November 11th. Sessions will take place at 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM for prospective families to tour the school and ask questions about the school and the curriculum.

Mrs. Arango reported the Halloween parade was a success even after the surprising October 30th snowstorm. A suggestion was made to reverse the order of the parade and have the oldest kids march first. Since the younger kids are first, the A wing becomes very congested with parents and the older kids have problems making it through the hallways back to the other side of the building.

Report Cards will be distributed in December (Dec 2nd) and there will be 3 half days for report card conferences (Dec 6-8). Mrs. Arango encouraged all to attend conferences.

Mrs. Arango reported that a Lockdown Drill is scheduled on Friday November 18th. This is a publicized drill meaning all parents and all students are made aware of the drill beforehand. In the spring there will be an unannounced drill. She believes all the students are ready for this type of test.

Mrs. Arango also reported that the school has begun to use sign-in sheets for all classroom, PFO, and school events. These reports will be used to monitor events and track trends in family engagement.

Mrs. Arango reported that a Title I evening event is scheduled on December 1st. Approximately 200 parents of Title 1 students will be invited to attend. There will be a dinner and different groups presenting information. Babysitting will be available. Mrs. Arango would like the PFO to have a table and some representatives at the meeting to present some more information about the PFO and PFO sponsored events to this community. She also believes it will be a good way to reach a new community of Newfield families.

Mrs. Arango shared that today was recycling “green” day at Newfield. Students wore green to recognize the day. New bins were distributed to all the classrooms for recycling of water bottles. Newfield and Dolan were the two schools that participated in the kickoff of the recycling program for the Stamford School System today. Mrs. Arango will send photos of the day to the district.

Teacher’s Report- Mrs. Levenson /Ms. Lipscomb

Lesley Levenson (K-2) reported some news from the various grade levels:

- Kindergarten- Kindergarten will be celebrating Mickey Mouse’s birthday on Nov 18th. Thanksgiving celebrations will be taking place in all classrooms.
- Grade 1- Phonological and site word testing is taking place. End of marking period assessments taking place. It is the third week of the “all hands on deck” program and the kids are enjoying getting to know their new teachers. Thanksgiving events being planned in the classrooms.
- Grade 2- Unit 2 assessments are coming up in math and the Foundations unit is completed in R/W Workshop with the Narrative unit about to begin. Thanksgiving also being coordinated in the classrooms.
- Mrs. Arango stated that the worms and night crawlers for the Kindergarten science experiments have arrived.

Terri Lipscomb (3-5) reported some news from the various grade levels:

- Grade 3- Unit 2 in Math is completed. Author Study is the next unit in R/W Workshop with Foundations unit completed. Rocks and Minerals unit completed in science and Chemicals unit about to begin.
- Grade 4- Unit 3 Math assessments coming up. Eco Systems unit started in science. The 4th grade thanks all who contributed 2 liter bottles for this science unit. Author Study has begun in R/W Workshop. Band started on Thursdays and Fridays for students who signed up to participate. 4th grade will be purchasing Garden Catering for its Thanksgiving feasts.
- Grade 5- Unit 3 (Geometry) in Math has started. Grade 5 is beginning the Non-Fiction unit in R/W Workshop. Solar System unit in science has begun.

Treasurer's Report- Sharon DeLuca

Sharon DeLuca distributed an updated budget to all in attendance. She commented that Mixed Bags raised \$2,224 this year. This was a nice improvement from last year (\$1,749). She reported that overall fundraising efforts so far this year have been very profitable.

Fundraising Report – Kendell Daly

Kendell Daly reported that the Innisbrook items were delivered to the classrooms today. She also stated that during November from Mon-Fri (6:30-9:30 PM) Stamford Toy will provide 20% off discount on all items purchased. 10% will be given back to Newfield. Both Mixed Bags and Yankee Candle were successful fundraisers and delivery will take place on December 6th and 16th, respectively.

Turkey Bingo will be on Friday November 18th and is completely sold out!

Movie Nights have been very well received this year. The first one had about 100 kids. We were able to pay for the movie license and still made a profit. The second movie night was only 3 weeks later and still had a great showing. Movie Night already has a profit of \$794 for the year!

VP Volunteers Report-

No report given at this meeting.

PT Council/BOE Report- Betsy Allyn/Kathy Pia

No report given

New Business-

Jen Salvatore stated that the next General PFO meeting will be January 18, 2012 at 8:10 A.M. The last morning meeting was well attended. After this next morning meeting we will review attendance and make some decisions about the timing of future PFO meetings.

Evening Speaker: Janet Woo, O.D., M.S. Nutritionist
Ms. Woo, presented a nutrition discussion titled "Refrigerator Purge". The topic encompassed making informed decisions about fruits, vegetables, dairy and meats and fish. All copies of the slides can be downloaded on the Newfield website at <http://www.newfieldschool.org/ParentFacOrg.htm>.

Calendar Review:

Important Dates

- November 8th, No School Election Day
- November 11th, No School Veteran's Day
- November 14th Benny's Fast Break day/night
- November 15th, General PFO Meeting at 7:00 p.m./ Bobby V's day/night
- November 17th, Tour Your School Day/CPK day/night
- November 18th, Student Council Food Drive Ends/PFO Turkey Bingo 6:30
- November 21st, RANIF K-2
- November 22nd, RANIF 3-5
- November 23rd, Early Dismissal 12:30
- November 24th-25th No School Thanksgiving Recess
- November 30th, All School Program
- December 2nd, School Store
- December 5th, Photo Retake Day
- December 6th- 8th Early Release Report Card Conferences
- December 7th Michelina's Day
- December 12th Benny's day/night
- December 14th Winter Concert K-2 9:15 am Early Release day
- December 15th Winter Concert 3-5 9:15 am/ parent Concert 7:00 pm CPK day/night
- December 20th Bobby V's day/night
- December 23rd Early Release
- December 24th-January 2nd No School

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

**Beth Goodman
Secretary, Newfield PFO Board**