

The meeting began at 6:38 pm

Attendees - 47

Board Members in Attendance:

Megan Pugh, Liz Wynn, Cecile Rock, Janie McKelvey, Jamie Church, Jessi Jansen

Members in Attendance: Catherine Tabor, Ashley Adams, Becky El-Assadi, Sarah Camp, Amrita Pritam, Ramya Kommareddi, Uma Jaiganesh, Harpreet Singh, Myra Hufnagel, John Hufnagel, Ragini Vittal, Melissa Lee, Dana Simpson, Mallikarjun Yerrapu, Shailu Gundala, Stacy Sucarski, Julianna Whiteman, Kelly Gubbini, Bethena Wallace, Gopal Kamat, Sue Huck, Stasia Pitcher, Carrie Wolken, Suzanne Gadepalli, Alicia Kinsley, Stephanie Johnson, YaoYao Du, Jennifer Young, Abby Boggs, Neelima Alokam, Rupa Reddy, Angela Means, Sunny Jones, Amanda Lund, Rachel Moot, Javon Jason, Lekshmi Madhusoodhanan

I. Meet & Greet

II. Approval of May's Meeting Minutes

III. Introduction to PTO Board

- a. **President:** Megan Pugh, elected May 2018 2 year term
- b. **Vice President:** Liz Wynn, appointed by Board for 1 year term
- c. **Secretary:** Cecile Rock, elected May 2017 for 2 year term
- d. **Treasurer:** Emily Dunn, elected May 2018 for 2 year term
- e. **Parent Rep:** Jamie Church, elected May 2018 for 1 year term
- f. **Faculty Rep:** Janie McKelvey, appointed for 1 year term
- g. **Faculty Rep:** Jessi Jansen, appointed for 1 year term

IV. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance as of 9/23/18: \$34,000.13
Band Line Item: -\$2,420.43
Outstanding Checks/Payments: -\$914.88
Total Available: \$30,664.82
2018-19 Planned Operating Expenses: -\$39,150
2018-19 Estimated Fundraising Income: \$33,015.40
2018-19 Funding Request Line Item: \$11,547.01
Desired Amount in Reserves: \$10,000

Discussion: The Funding Request Line Item is not the total the PTO has for Funding Requests but money set aside so that there are available funds at the beginning of the year for requests.

V. Funding Requests

- a. **Julie Whiston is requesting \$2,000 for the Accelerated Reader Program**

Discussion: If the AR program doesn't receive sufficient funds it would only be available for the middle school. Currently all of the middle school uses the program and it is a requirement for 5th & 6th grade students. Approximately 570 kids use AR at the school and the total cost of the program is \$5,300 bringing it at \$9.30 per student. Book Fair Funds raised \$3,300 for the program. Teachers like AR as it helps fulfill NHA's weekly reading assessment requirement and it helps pinpoint what students are having trouble with. Independent reading is proven to increase students' reading levels and AR encourages independent reading over a multitude of genres. It's also useful for those in Special Education as the student can read books for their reading level, even if it's below their grade level. Students are allowed to read books that are above their grade level and ARBookfinder.com provides a list of AR books.

- b. **The Special Education Department is requesting \$1,425 for 10 Chromebooks to be used for student accommodations. An additional \$200 will come from the Special Ed Department's PTO Funds.**

Discussion: The number of students that are in Special Ed continues to increase and there are currently 72 kids in the program. The department has had to use a lot of the classrooms' technology to provide state mandated accommodations to students for tests and during writing blocks. Chromebooks has Google Docs which has a lot of useful programs for accommodations such as Text to Speech, Listen to Text, and a method for the General Ed and Special Ed teachers to collaborate with one another as everyone is linked on Google Docs. NHA does not provide funds for technology for Special Ed, as its funding is for evaluation resources and human resources (such as the para professionals). If the Department has its own Chromebooks it will not be necessary for them to use the Classroom's Chromebooks, leaving more available for the remainder of the students, and removing the interruption of a student coming to class simply to retrieve a Chromebook.

- c. **Jennifer Young is requesting \$520 for the purchase of 4 Chromebooks to use for the 5th grade science curriculum. An additional \$100 will come from her PTO Funds.**

Discussion: The 5th Grade is using a new program called Stem Scopes which is all online, and there are no physical textbooks. She would like a total of 18 Chromebooks for her class to make things more manageable, 10 that NHA provided, 4 the PTO funded last year, plus the additional 4. Each class has about 30 kids and each grade level is provided 30 Chromebooks total, however the additional teachers also need to use Chromebooks during their classes.

- d. **The 5th Grade Team is requesting \$247.50 to order Scholastic Storybooks Magazine for the 5th grade classrooms.**

Discussion: Kids love the magazines and use them during their workshop time. Each magazine comes with 60 pages of activities, and they have been able to use 2 magazines for 6 stations over a period of 3 weeks. The magazines cover Common Core standards for English Language Arts. The teachers are downloading all the resources. After this year they plan to be able to use the sets of magazines they have for the next 3 years.

- e. **Sarah Camp is requesting \$500 to start a Scholarship to provide money for extracurriculars for Students who are homeless or in foster care.**

Discussion: Per Kim Bondy there are 4 homeless students and 3 foster kids at South Arbor. The scholarship would allow these students one extracurricular activity that they would be able to participate in and the scholarship would provide the funding for. Kim Bondy would be the one in communication with the students directly so that they would remain anonymous. Many extracurriculars are costly, such as \$120 for Girls on the Run, \$60 per sport, etc., and this would make it possible for these students to be able to participate. One PTO member recommended that on Field Trip forms parents would be asked if they would be willing to sponsor other kids and donate money, the donated money would then go towards the Scholarship as well.

- f. **Science Olympiads is requesting \$2,000 for use by both the Elementary & Middle School teams to cover registration fees, kits, & other expenses.**

Discussion: Science Olympiad has grown and now has between 75-80 participants. It is open to kids from 2nd-8th Grade. The Science Olympiads teaches science at advanced levels in an interactive, fun, and competitive way. Washtenaw County has the largest Science Olympiad Elementary program in the country. The funds would go towards buying materials and kits for events. There are many events where materials have to be replenished yearly, and new events every year. There are 18 subjects for elementary students and 23 for middle school. Registration costs \$300 for the Elementary competition and for the Middle School it costs \$100-\$150 per event. Elementary participants are currently paying \$8 to participate, middle school participants are paying \$30-40. The coaches were asked if the fees for students to participate were high enough, and it was suggested that those fees be raised. It was also suggested by a PTO Member that the coaches try to see if they can get local Science companies to sponsor the Science

Olympiad Team. It was suggested that the Science Olympiad Team hold fundraisers to raise their own funds, either separately or in conjunction with the PTO. A PTO Member wanted to know what happens to the materials that are re-usable that the PTO has funded. Per Gopal Kamat, the former coach, they are currently being stored but are available for use by the school or by science teachers. The events change yearly, so even if not used that year the event may come back in following years.

- g. **Sunny Jones is requesting \$450.91 for 12 Sting Free Volleyballs, 4 Quickster Goals, and 3 Sets of Sup-R-Safe soccer balls for Gym. An additional \$65 will come from the remainder of her PTO Funds.**

Discussion: The items Sunny is requesting funding for are for her younger students. Many of the items that the school currently has are meant for the older students. The volleyballs and soccer balls would be safer for the younger students to use and the Quickster Goals fold up nicely and are easy to store.

- h. **Alicia Kinsley is requesting \$213.17 for Science World Magazine for the 6th Grade Science Class. An additional \$100 will come from her PTO Funds.**

Discussion: These magazines will be used by all the 6th grade and will be shared with the ALP Program and other science students. They are enjoyed by the students.

- i. **The 6th Grade Team is requesting \$299.95 for Scope and Junior Scholastic Magazines for the ELA workshop and Social Studies. An additional \$200 will come from Carrie Wolken's & Pam Miller's PTO Funds.**

Discussion: The magazines would be used for the 6th Grade ELA & Social Studies classes. They are made for students in grades 6-8th. The magazines will be used during workshop and can be re-used.

- j. **Julianna Whiteman is requesting \$182 for an audio system she will be able to use in her classroom to help project her voice to students. An additional \$100 will come from her PTO Funds.**

Discussion: Ms. Whiteman is soft spoken, especially as the day goes on. The audio system would make a world of difference in helping her project her voice to the classroom. Students would be able to use it as well when speaking, and since she teaches first grade the students are also usually soft spoken. Mrs. McKelvey purchased the same system through PTO Funds previously and it has been extremely useful.

VI. Voting for the Funding Requests was completed after the discussions were completed

- a. **\$2,000 for Accelerated Reader: 30 Yes 15 No PASSED**
- b. **\$1,425 for Special Education Department Chromebooks: 42 Yes 2 No PASSED**
- c. **\$520 for 4 Chromebooks for Jennifer Young's 5th Grade Science Class: 36 Yes 8 No PASSED**
- d. **\$247.5 for Scholastic Storybooks Magazine for 5th Grade: 31 Yes 12 No PASSED**
- e. **\$500 for Scholarship for Extracurriculars: 34 Yes 7 No PASSED**
- f. **\$2,000 for Science Olympiads: 22 Yes 23 No REJECTED**
- g. **\$450.91 for Gym Equipment: 34 Yes 8 No PASSED**
- h. **\$213.17 for Science World Magazine for 6th Grade Science: 28 Yes 13 No PASSED**
- i. **\$299.95 for Scope & Junior Scholastic Magazines for the 6th Grade: 26 Yes 13 No PASSED**
- j. **\$182 for an audio system for Julianna Whiteman's class: 30 Yes 10 No PASSED**
- k. **\$1,600 for Science Olympiads: 25 Yes 13 No PASSED**
 - i. A motion was introduced by John Hufnagel to amend the Science Olympiad funding request to \$1,600 bringing the total Science Olympiad Budget for the year to \$2,100.

VII. Meeting was Adjourned at 8:39pm