

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

The Parent Teacher Association of The Neighborhood School General Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 18, 2018

Type: Monthly General Meeting

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Notice Provided in Advance: Yes

Location: TNS PTA Room

Meeting called to order at **8:40**.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes
 - a. Minutes approved
2. Donation of blocks
 - a. Thank you to the many many parents who volunteered to transport.
3. School nurse update
 - a. Our nurse, Sarah Whitney, is on maternity leave. Because Sarah is on leave and will return, the Department of Ed and Department of Health won't provide a replacement. Instead, they go through one or more agencies to provide a nurse to our school.
 - b. Although Dyanthe has asked for nurses who fit well to return, these agencies have not been able to make that happen. The DOE/DOH does not supervise these nurses, and so they can't help ensure that a specific nurse returns consistently. On top of not having a single nurse who can get to know TNS and STAR and our children, there have been days with no nurse on site.
 - c. Because TNS and STAR have children with severe health conditions such as Type I diabetes, asthma, and severe allergies, this is dangerous and unacceptable.
 - d. The PTA believes that parents need to get involved and demand that our schools have a qualified nurse consistently on site through Sarah's maternity leave. The PTA passed a motion to draft a letter to local officials demanding this. This and more actions that the community and individuals can take will be communicated soon.
4. Violent ad for video game above the subway stairs at 1st and 1st.
 - a. PTA President, Jenny Ulloa, spoke to Harvey Epstein asking for help getting this ad taken down. Epstein said that, if he receives a letter for the PTA, he'll have the MTA remove the ad.
 - b. A motion was passed to send such a letter to Harvey Epstein, ideally signed by the PTAs of both TNS and STAR.
5. Upcoming events
 - a. Movie Night: Friday, Oct. 19.
 - i. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Kids are free to wear Halloween costumes.
 - ii. Volunteers still needed for setup and decoration.

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- b. Garden to Cafe Tasting: Tuesday, 10/23, 10 - 1:30
 - i. Tasting during lunch, both schools to participate. Program comes with locally source food and uses produces from our garden.
 - ii. Volunteers are still needed to help various classrooms. Contact Jenny Ulloa.
 - c. Halloween Party: Wednesday, 10/31, 5:00 - 6:30.
 - i. Application for permit to use the playground has been submitted.
 - ii. Organizers are planning interactive stations for different grades.
 - iii. There won't be a parade around the neighborhood this year. Instead, there will be other ways for kids to show off their costumes, including a photo booth.
 - iv. Families can decide to go trick or treating in the neighborhood after the event.
 - v. More volunteers are needed. Contact Marc at marcsm99@gmail.com.
 - d. Charrua Dining Out: Wed, 11/7, 5-11
 - i. This is the first of several monthly or bi-monthly collaborations planned with local restaurant, where restaurant donates part of profit to TNS.
 - ii. Charrua is owned by TNS family.
 - iii. Families can make reservations ahead of time. More info will be distributed.
6. Original Works
- a. This PTA fundraiser, where kids artwork can get transferred to mugs and other objects, is starting soon. Letters will go home in backpacks.
 - b. An community event for kids to create artwork for this fundraiser may be scheduled. Contact Blanka Wolfe at blankal@gmail.com, if you would like to help.
7. Committee updates
- a. Garden
 - i. Current focus is on fall cleanup and maintenance.
 - ii. Planting will continue until it freezes. We're receiving 550 daffodil bulbs and will plant those, as well as leftover bulbs from last year, in tree beds soon.
 - iii. Committee is working on getting parent garden helpers, and garden kits, for every class.
 - iv. In Spring, we may switch the platform seating and vegetable planters to increase the amount of sun for the planters.
 - b. Wellness
 - i. In addition to the garden to cafe event, this committee is working on the wellness policy for this year.
 - c. Diversity
 - i. First meeting held last tuesday.
 - ii. Committee is planning to host evening potlucks every other month. The aim is to make sure families that can't attend regular committee meetings can nonetheless participate
 - iii. The first diversity potluck is planned for Nov 8, from 5:00 - 7:30. The topic will be: When families and politics collide. The committee will assemble resources.

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- iv. The committee is planning to offer workshops on how to talk to children about race. Parents are also interested in gender diversity workshops. Border Crossers was used last year, but the committee is exploring other options as well. If you have ideas, contact Nikki Miller at nikki@maebfilms.com.
- d. Advocacy
 - i. In last meeting, this committee discussed how to talk to parents about what state testing means. More communication to come on this topic.
- 8. SLT updates
 - a. In the last meeting, the SLT looked at DOE survey results from last year, in an effort to identify what needs to be discussed at our school.
 - b. Teachers also shared positive feedback on this year's classroom configurations.
 - c. Families are encouraged to reach out parents on the SLT with topics that they feel need to be looked at or discussed.
- 9. [Treasurer's report](#)
- 10. Parent feedback on movies during rainy day recess
 - a. Some families expressed concern that kids are seeing the same movies repeatedly during rainy day recess.
 - b. It was discussed that the PTA and families can help the school build out our library of movies.
- 11. Mouse problem:
 - a. Teachers have talked to parents about the mouse problem in our school
 - b. It was discussed that a group of families could organize, look into the problem further, and identify actions that can be taken. Dyanthe suggested that families volunteering time to fill holes has been helpful in the past.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38.