

# NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

## The Parent Teacher Association of The Neighborhood School General Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, November 15, 2018

**Type:** Monthly General Meeting

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Notice Provided in Advance:** Yes

**Location:** TNS PTA Room

Meeting called to order at 8:30.

### Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes (8:30-8:35)
  - a. Minutes approved
2. Principal updates (8:35-8:40)
  - School nurse
    - Christopher Young has agreed to stay on as TNS nurse until June, although without a contractual obligation. Please make him feel welcome.
  - Mice and roach problem
    - Dyanthe provided a recap of progress made, including holes sealed and compost and trash disposal reviewed in classrooms.
    - A small group of parents have been meeting and getting updates and applying pressure to officials to get the job done.
    - This is a health concern. More information will be shared with the community soon.
3. Treasurer's report (8:40-8:50)
  - [Summary](#)
  - [Detailed Budget vs. Actuals](#)
  - President thanked Havilah for spending many hours completing TNS tax forms, this year and for previous years. Asked the community to thank Havilah for her dedication to the school and the countless volunteer hours she spent organizing the finances.
4. Events Report (8:50-9:00)
  - Recap of recent events:
    - Restaurant nights
      - Recent event at Charrua (Rocio & Rene) was a success. Many families attended. Around \$400 was earned for TNS (20% of restaurant's profits).
      - Next event is at Spiegel, on 12/6. More info to come.
    - Comedy night (Joree & Rene)
      - This event raised ~\$400 for TNS, much less than anticipated. Mostly due to an unexpected fee toward the night's comedians.
      - Given all of the work that went in, we're not likely to repeat this event.

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- Picture Day (Ali)
  - This event was well organized, with lots of parent volunteers.
  - Families should place orders by 11/27.
  - Sign up online for any retakes or sibling photos:  
[www.coolforschoolphoto.com/TNS](http://www.coolforschoolphoto.com/TNS).
- Halloween - great event. (Marc and Jess)
- Planning for the following:
  - Holiday Fair (Jenny Ulloa: [bastbk@gmail.com](mailto:bastbk@gmail.com))
    - Volunteer signup: Each class is responsible for staffing a specific station. Shifts are typically 2 hours. Class parents will communicate further details.
    - Payment details: When families enter, they will buy bracelets for \$5, \$10, or \$20. When child attends a station, the person staffing the station will mark the appropriate payment off the bracelet. Food will also use bracelets for payment. The swag station and book fair will accept cards, however.
    - Promotion: TNS families should note that this event is open to everyone. Please reach out to friends and family who might like to attend. PTA will put up fliers and post to the listserve, and the school will invite alumni and prospective families.
    - Artisan Fest: This will take place in the area by the schoolyard exit. Elinor Tatum is leading and has reached out to vendors. If you know arts/crafts vendors who might like to participate, contact Elinor at [elinor.tatum@gmail.com](mailto:elinor.tatum@gmail.com). Vendors will accept cash payment, not Holiday Fair bracelets.
    - Book Fair: This will start the Thursday before the Holiday fair and continue through the weekend (except Saturday). Douglas is leading. To help out (especially with repacking books after the event), reach out to Douglas at [doug@mcnallyjackson.com](mailto:doug@mcnallyjackson.com).
  - Spring Auction
    - Auction committee has secured a location (Manny Cantor Center) and date (April 4) and are reaching out to people who donated in past years. Food is still being finalized.
    - An email will be sent to the listserve soon. If you'd like to donate or help in other ways, reach out to Zoe at [zoe.venezio@gmail.com](mailto:zoe.venezio@gmail.com).
  - Pie day will be in March.
- 5. Committee updates (9:00-9:10)
  - Diversity (Nikki Miller)
    - The first evening potluck happened on Nov 8. In advance of the holidays, the theme was, "When family and politics don't mix".

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Attendees shared experiences and tips and discussed what conflicts on these occasions mean for kids.

- The next evening potluck is scheduled for January 24, with the theme of “Identity”. This will be a workshop to help parents think through issues and how to discuss with kids, who may be discussing and even grouping themselves by identity groups.
- In addition to this workshop for parents, some parents in the community are interested in understanding how race and gender are being discussed in classrooms. Principal mentioned that TNS staff has worked with Border Crossers and that a lot of identity-based discussions happen in the upper grades. Principal also suggested that she might schedule a morning session for teachers to share their experiences and thoughts on this topic.
- The next morning meeting is Tues, Nov 20.
- Garden (Karen Oh)
  - Recently, the Garden Committee organized a giant activity with TNS and STAR classes to plant hundreds of bulbs in tree beds. Also, Emily has been using the garden for science, with lower grades pulling plants and doing soil amendment, and older classes troubleshooting why the watermelons grew small.
  - The committee is starting to plan for classroom activities in Jan/Feb. More flowers and herbs are also in the planning.
- Grants (Steffie Kinglake)
  - The Grants Committee has been centralizing info and creating systems to make the grant process easier.
  - The top priorities for grants are the upcoming farm trip, computers for the library, and some capital grant topics. The committee is currently looking into opportunities for the farm trip and will start applying soon.
  - The committee is also thinking about ways to get more proactive in identifying the funding needs and interests of staff. Sending a questionnaire to grade groups and specialists soon.
- Advocacy (Peter Liem)
  - The Advocacy Committee has been educating themselves on state English language and Math exams. The committee will plan 4 or 5 sessions for discussing exams and how TNS assesses student learning more broadly.
  - If you have a child in third or fourth grade, and you’d like to share your thinking and plans for the examples, reach out to Peter Liem at [pcl6510@gmail.com](mailto:pcl6510@gmail.com).

6. SLT updates (9:10-9:15)

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- In service or understanding the TNS curriculum, so as to be able to help produce a “comprehensive education plan”, the SLT has been focusing on the results of the school survey. 67% of parents and 95% of teachers participated.
  - The SLT will be focused on 3 areas going forward:
    - Differentiation in the classroom. Using different materials depending on student skill and interest level.
    - Professional development for teachers.
    - Leadership in the school.
  - Gender neutral bathrooms: Students who are gender fluid, identify as they, or otherwise don't feel comfortable using bathrooms designated for boys/girls may use the all gender bathroom located by the nurse's office.
7. Indoor recess screen time
- Emily is taking donations of DVDs appropriate for pre-K and first grade students.
8. New business (9:20-9:30)
- Farm trip: There will be an informational meeting in January to help families prepare.
  - Prospective family tours: A big tour (60 people) is scheduled for Monday, Nov 19, from 9-10am. More tour guides are needed. If you're available, reach out to Elinor at [elinor.tatum@gmail.com](mailto:elinor.tatum@gmail.com). The next tour will be on Dec. 10.
9. Student teachers
- Two student teachers introduced themselves to all present.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34.