

NMMS PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2011

7PM

MINUTES

1. Welcome: Lana Pauls (PTSA President) welcomed everyone and announced that there would be a raffle for a gift card at the end of the meeting. Spanish translation was provided by Ms. Garcia.
2. Principal's Update: Ms. Tsonis announced that the Open House held on October 10th was a success with approximately 60 parents in attendance. Ms. Tsonis also spoke about a future field trip where 20 8th graders have been invited to attend an educational program which includes a country musical performance at the White House. Ms. Shevitz, NMMS content specialist for social studies, received this invitation.
3. Student Update: Presented by 5 students from the SGA and Ms. Tebcherany, NMMS SGA sponsor. The students explained what the SGA has planned for the year. There are three committees: fundraising, political, and social. They will be working as a team with the school such as helping the Green School club and well as working with guidance on an anti-bullying program. Some of the organizations they have discussed helping are Manna Food Bank, Pennies for Patients, H2O for life, PETA, Susan Komen for the cure, as well as collecting coats and pajamas for our local community members in need. The SGA would like to have bake sales, a car wash, and hold candy grams to help raise money.
4. Presentation on How to Prepare for a Parent/Teacher Conference: Presented by Ms. Tsonis in English and Ms. Garcia in Spanish.
 - a. Two-Way Home-School Communication: Opportunities include Open House, Back to School Night, web sites, written documents, informal calls (emails), newsletters, handbooks, ed-line, report cards, surveys, focus groups, talking with other parents, parent-teacher conferences.
 - b. Before the conference: Arrange for a babysitter if possible, ask for an interpreter if needed, review child's work, talk with child about school, prepare notes/questions.
 - c. What you might tell the teacher: Child's special interests, dreams for child, concerns, any special health problems or family issues.

- d. Questions to ask teacher: ask to see samples of work, what books are used, if child is performing at grade level, to see standardized test scores, if behavior is okay, if child is getting along with classmates, rules for homework/ being prepared.
 - e. During the conference: should be factual/ non-judgmental, the outcome should be positive, work together to form solutions, ask how best to contact teacher, ask for another meeting if run out of time, and take notes.
 - f. After the conference: talk with child about what was said making sure to start with the positive, follow through on supporting child's learning at home, keep the teacher informed.
5. Budget Presentation: Presented by Blaine Parrish, NMMS PTSA treasurer. Blaine presented the operating budget for the 2011-2012 school year and moved that the membership approve. The motion was seconded and passed.
 6. Minutes approval: The minutes from the September general membership meeting were made available. Ms. Pauls moved that they be approved. The motion was seconded and upon vote, passed.
 7. 7th Grade VP position filled: Ms. Pauls announced that Scott Harper has been appointed 7th Grade PTSA Vice-President by the executive board in accordance with the NMMS PTSA bylaws.
 8. Motion presented by Dr. Stevenson-Perez: Motion to improve performance by PTSA by requiring leadership to embrace Baldrige. The meetings should be inclusive of all stake-holders. Content of meetings should be appropriate for our students. The motion was not seconded.
 9. Motion presented by Dr. Parrish: Motion presented that the PTSA officers would engage with other PTA/PTSA's to see how to bolster involvement of parents at all school events, and to evaluate ways to encourage participation. Motion was seconded and passed.
 10. Raffle drawing and Adjournment of Meeting: The raffle winner was announced and Ms. Pauls thanked everyone for coming.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hillman

NMMS PTSA Secretary