

## **SMS PTO Meeting**

**April 27, 2017**

**8:30am**

**11 Attendees – next meeting 5/16**

### **Ms. Catie Porter – STEM Initiative:**

2 new courses being added to the 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade specials

Teachers - Tom Butler, Natalie Payne and another teacher

5th-8th should be more cohesive, tie together with classroom work

### **Proposal**

STEM 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Tech Eng/Computers/Robotics and Digital Design (NEW)

More coding, scratch, making models (**all based on science standards**)

STEM 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Tech Eng/Computers/Robotics and Digital Design (NEW)

Review with Mbot, intro to sketch up, 3d printing

### **What do they need to make this new Special happen?**

COMPUTERS (\$750 a piece times X) – currently requesting \$7000 (this is sharing per student) Perfect world is \$20,000!

Current computers are outdated and cannot be refreshed!

New STEM lab on lowest level

Some \$\$ from the Gelfand Fund (must be spent by 6/2016)

*How much will the district cover? PTO would like to know how much before we commit! Ms. Porter believes ½ of computers by the district*

SEF Grants? – deadline has past; they don't like to buy computers or curriculum items

### **To Dos:**

Catie Porter – check Curr. Director about what we will get

Gargi Cooper– check with General Electric (GE) about funding

Casey R – check with Google contact?

Jason Calichman– check with Natalie regarding other computer request

### **Principal Report:**

**MCAS Schedule** – it's all encompassing and disruptive to the daily life of the students.

Only a MA certified teacher can proctor a test – high cost!!

Test is flawed, teachers complain about the questions...

Mr. Andrade – made a speech to school committee to start to process to evaluate our MCAS participation

Plumber backed out of water fillers....

Phones are a huge problem!! As always...parent letter being drafted

### **Big Blue Bargains:**

Diane reported that we received a check for \$500 from BBB. Less than half of what some other schools received because we did not provide as many volunteer hours.

Someone needs to organize the volunteers and possibly tap into Junior Honors society kids.

**Dues:**

Diane reported was a huge success last year. We need to start planning for next fall by finding raffle items and deciding if our add-ons will be for technology and classroom libraries again or should we do something else.

**BoxTops:**

Nahant parents asked if we collect BoxTops. It was mentioned that there is a place to drop them at the office but it is not promoted. Sandy mentioned she would like to have a collection in the library where the funds support the library. Parents nodded in agreement since this is not a program we are currently maximizing.

**Auction:**

Gargi Cooper asked about large event fundraisers such as an auction. She offered to help organize one for the fall. There was a concern about volunteers raised. Gargi reassured that she was confident that she could find the volunteers. There was further discussion about having a message. What are we fundraising for? Would it be technology? These questions were not answered.

**Discussion on what PTO/SEF/District pays for:**

Nahant parents mentioned that the Nahant Education Foundation pays for technology when the district cannot but that their PTO does not typically cover large hard cost like computers. It was explained that SEF would not fund anything that is part of the curriculum and has rejected technology requests in the past. Questions about enrichment, field trips and what other things the PTO has funded in the past were brought up. The new parents were invited to look at the web site for past projects and enrichment funded by the PTO.

**Morning vs. evening meetings:**

Roxanne asked about the meeting schedule for next year. Nahant meets only in the evening. Casey mentioned that she would like to have it set with evening meetings and day meetings at the beginning of the year. Everyone agreed and the members who will be on the board next year agreed to meet over the summer and create a schedule for the year.

**Teacher Appreciation:**

Diane reported would be June 1st and she will send out a signup email as this was successful last year.

**8th Grade graduation Plan:**

There was no one at the meeting who knew where this planning stood but Diane noted on

the financial statement that we have \$300 allocated to help fund the event.

**School Supply Kits:**

Diane reported that teachers have approved the lists and the marketing material will go out soon. Nahant parents requested that the material be sent to Nahant 6th grade student and all agreed.

**Library:**

Sandy mentioned that she has some new fundraising ideas for the library next year that will have to go through the PTO but like this year she will do the legwork. One was through Crosby's Market.