

Minutes of the Nebinger PTA General Membership Meeting, October 19, 2022

Prepared by Silvia Licciulli, PTA Secretary

The meeting officially started at 5:54 pm (pizza was served and childcare was provided in the library.)

PTA President Alyn Turner welcomed members in attendance and provided an overview of the PTA's activities

Update on the Book Fair (Alyn Turner):

- Between the Fall and Spring Fairs, revenues amounted to \$12,129, of which \$3,703 was the profit for the school. All the money goes to the school event fund.

Recap of Joy @ Nebinger Fundraiser

- Alyn Turner: The event was very successful
- Nicole De Jessa:
 - o This year, for the first time, we hired caterers but we still a great rate of return:
 - Goal was \$20,000, with a net revenue of \$13,500
 - Raised \$26,917, with a net revenue of \$17,031
 - o The auction was run flawlessly (thanks to Clare Barrett)
 - o Next year, we will switch venues because of acoustics issues, but will probably use the same food caterer.
 - o Political visitors: All the mayoral candidates and local representatives (city council up to US senators) were invited. We have built a good relationship with a staff member at Senator Nikil Saval's office, who will have a child at Nebinger next year.
- Kyleesha Braxton said that she expected more volunteer help to run the activities. There was a lack of communications about the needs, also due to the bad acoustics.
- Very positive feedback was provided the members in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the School of Rock band performance.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities (Alyn Turner):

- Field Day on June 6: Mr. Hill is developing the schedule, volunteer shifts for the day-of will be posted to the school's SignUpGenius. Organizational help is needed too.
- Art Show on June 2: Ms. Grace has posted her volunteer needs to SignUpGenius. She needs help mounting and hanging the artworks.
- Garden and school yard clean ups (Carrie Maria): This time of year is quiet because we don't have a lot of weeds coming out, but we will resume monthly clean ups in the summer.
 - o Coach T is organizing a clean-up event on May 13, the PTA is providing support, and he needs volunteers.
- All volunteer opportunities will be posted to ClassDojo, social media, and shared through the PTA newsletter

SAC update (SAC member Jason Sandman):

- Reported on recent student advocacy at School District board meeting, where three middle school students spoke very eloquently about funds and budget in support of different needs:
 - o Jordyn Simmons – Spanish at Nebinger. Alyn Turner announced that, thanks to advocacy, next year Nebinger we will have Spanish classes for 7th and 8th grade and as a special for K-6.
 - o Christin White – Staffing stability: Nebinger loses or gains staff members every year based on enrollment, which is disruptive. When we do well, the District takes resources away.
 - o Rahim Gardner – Access to algebra in 8th grade in addition to general curriculum math: How does the district choose which schools get it and which don't? Alyn Turner: We are watching this matter closely, the district is posting jobs for traveling algebra teachers to share the resource across multiple schools.
 - Discussion followed on the importance of algebra access as shown by research; only one quarter of the students nationally attend schools that offer it; Nebinger needs 17 students proficient in math in order to have an algebra teacher, but most students who would qualify leave the school to transfer to other schools that offer algebra, creating a vicious circle; would it be possible for different schools to contribute to a part of the cost via fundraising?
- SAC is exploring a partnership with the bank that will be built at the intersection of 7th Street/Passyunk Ave/Carpenter Street to offer financial literacy resources to 8th graders. The drive-through project has been abandoned.
- Crossing guard management for the city is currently dealt by the local police precinct. Next year, it will transition under the authority of the Streets Department. The SAC is getting more information on how this will work.
- The SAC is in talks with Jefferson Occupational Therapy to form a partnership with other OTs to offer occupational therapy to Nebinger students.

Annual Giving Campaign update (Carrie Maria):

- This is a low-effort fundraising. The Committee is planning to launch monthly donations for parents at the beginning of next year and to engage the neighborhood businesses to educate them and raise awareness of Nebinger and how they can support the school. Planning to work with the school to identify targets (something we fundraise for) to give donors tangible objectives. Alyn Turner: One example could be improvement of the playground.

Funding priorities for next year (Alyn Turner):

- The PTA funds school events, field trip buses, capital improvements like the auditorium curtains. We also work to get grants to support the library and other specific projects.
- Historically, we have had the budget allocated by the time the school year starts, so we can't fund other requests that come up later. One option would be to split the budget to keep a flexible amount for incoming requests. This solution would help reduce the Donorschoose campaigns by individual teachers and centralize the efforts. Nicole De Jessa: K-3 get the majority

of the action on Donorschoose campaigns because of the nature of parental involvement. A slush fund would remedy the inequities with the higher grades.

- One parent asked whether there is a formal process for teachers and staff to put in an ask. Alyn Turner: Faculty ask the principal if there is money in the supply budget, but we have no clarity on what counts as supplies. Sometimes the teachers are not aware of this fund and put out Donorschoose requests to parents.
- Another parent provided suggestions on how to optimize the use of Donorschoose, for example by taking advantage of the days when Donorschoose doubles funds for focus schools. This parent expressed interest in joining the Fundraising Committee.
- The PTA needs ideas and contributions from parents to make our fundraising more efficient and productive.
- A survey will be sent out to request input from all parents, including those who couldn't make the meeting, to have a more informed budgeting process.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46pm.

Members in attendance:

Silvia Licciulli

Alyn Turner

Carrie Maria

Nicole De Jessa

Kyleesha Montague Stephens

Brendan McCarty

Ben Brandoff

Rachel Lee-Nigsch

Sheraye Dabney

Jason Sandman

Erin Sweeney

Jonathan Martin

Shawn Truppo