**Northeast Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes**

**September 4, 2018**

**Meeting was called to order** in the school library at 6:30 p.m. by Danielle Dixon.

**Welcome/Introductions**: Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. Board members were introduced:

President- Danielle Dixon

Vice President- Stacy Reeves

Secretary- Allison Gill

Treasurer- Julie McCollum

**Secretary’s Report**: Allison Gill

No minutes to approve.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Julie McCollum- the Treasurer’s report was passed out for review.

* One unbudgeted purchase was made to Citizens for the Parkway Community.
* Purple envelope online purchase has been successful and comparable to last year.
* Tax return was filed.
* If making purchases for PTO please use the tax-exempt letter.
* Amazon smiles- check into donations made from Amazon will donate part. Dr. Knight will check with Cindy and check into requirements.
* EScripts donations- NEMS already participating but there is concern that the new rewards program offered at Schnucks might interfere with this.

**Principal’s Report:** Dr. Kevin Martin

* Dr. Martin introduced as the new building principal.
* A weekly email from Dr. Martin will be sent out every Sunday afternoon with important NEMS information.
* One of Dr. Martin’s goals for NEMS is to build relationships and make the school a positive atmosphere for learning.
* Dr. Martin discussed the possibility of new carpeting for the building.
* He wants kids excited to learn and wants scholars to come to school for a positive middle school experience.
* Introductions were made: Jason Cox- new 6th grade principal (not present), Tracy Nomensen –new Assistant Principal (present)

**New News:**

Open positions:

Volunteers needed for the following positions-

* Website Coordinator- need someone to create website and keep updated; Dr. Martin will lend a teacher, Brian Prince, to help if someone will volunteer to chair the position. Time commitment is flexible. *Sara Fuehne volunteered for this position.*
* EScripts- a volunteer is needed to handle sign-up*. Brian Peck volunteered for this position*
* Purple envelope- a volunteer is needed to handle donations. Send notification, collecting envelopes, and getting to collected money to the PTO treasurer. *Brian Peck volunteered for this position. \**
* Spirit Wear: A volunteer is needed to chair this position. Responsibilities include ordering new merchandise, handling sales, and ordering supplies

\*Purple envelope: Parents and families can make a donation directly to NEMS. This donation eliminates fundraisers so all money raised goes directly back to the school. If you have not made your donation yet, please consider doing so. If you work for a corporation, check and see if they will match your donation. Please contact the PTO (northeastmiddlepto@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**Questions for PTO:**

-Are there any items school is requesting PTO to purchase? 6th grade camp is requesting $500 for zip line for camp. Discussed last year purchases. Requests for money are approved by the PTO board members. In the past, there has not been much PTO money to grant requests. Dr. Martin discussed school budget and possible future requests. At this time, Dr. Martin cannot think of any immediate requests. Supporting kids who cannot afford certain opportunities might be an option including camps and field trips. Students could be asked to provide written requests for an opportunity to receive these funds.

-Who are checks made out to? Checks may be made out to Parkway Schools or Parkway Northeast Middle. Can be paid to the school store- hours 7:30-1:00. If paying through My School Bucks (online payment option), please bring a proof of payment to school.

-Can students carry backpacks? yes

-Are hoods allowed? Dr. Martin shared that at this time hoods are allowed at school. He shared that there is not any research showing that the wearing of hoods affects academics or security.

**NEMS 101:**

Genius Hour project- Chris Marino, 6th grade teacher, presented information on the Genius Hour project for 6th graders. Students develop idea in Dec/Jan. and research and develop the project until presentation in mid-April. Expectations are to develop the project and write a research paper. Andy Cochran, 6th grade teacher- discussed possible ideas and changes for Genius Hour. There will be more information to come.

Day of Service- This event will be the first or second week of Jan. All grades will work on character education field trips, service projects, etc. which allow students to give back to community. More information will come during the school year.

Day of Culture- This is an opportunity for 7th grade students to take pride in their culture and teach other students and teachers about their culture. There will be a 7th grade assembly with a variety of activities, students will do research and share about their culture. More information will be provided during the school year.

Social Media- Please visit NEMS social media sites. There will be a daily post on Twitter with news from NEMS, regular posts on Facebook, also. Join social media for NEMS updates.

Delayed start days- Family groups were established to build a ‘team’ feeling at NEMS. A variety of groups and activities are available for students to get involved. Family groups will meet at the end of the day on delayed start days.

Character groups- meet every morning in assigned classrooms

Parkway App vs. Parkway portal- question to discuss at a future meeting; App is used for checking email; Parent portal is used for checking grades, assignments, etc.

PROP S- Bond Issue- Stacy Reeves- discussed the bond issue which will be on Nov. ballot. North area benefitted greatly from the last bond issue. Stacy stressed the importance for everyone to get out and vote and encourage others who live in the district to vote, as well. Improvements are needed for all buildings in the North area.

Voting will be Tuesday Nov 6th. There will be upcoming opportunities to volunteer to help support the bond issue.

Parents of NEMS- Facebook page is a good place for information.

PTO email- northeastmiddlepto@gmail.com

Conference night dinner- PTO funds go to dinner during parent teacher conferences. Please help by donating food and or serving dinner if you can. There is a volunteer link under PTO on the NEMS website.

**Upcoming Events:**

September 6th School Picture Day

September 12th Hearing and Vision Screening

September 25th-28th 6 Purple to Camp

September 26th Late Start

October 8th No School

October 9th and 11th Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 13th Tailgating for North High’s Homecoming

October 18th Picture Retake Day

October 23rd-26th 6 Red to Camp

November 5th & 6th No School

November 8th & 10th Fall Musical

November 13th-16th 6 Silver to Camp

November 21st-23rd No School

Additional comments:

* Dr. Martin is looking to add a Spirit week the week of Homecoming.
* Information on tailgating with NEMS after the parade and before the Homecoming game will be provided soon.

Door prizes for attendees were awarded

Meeting adjourned 7:31 p.m.

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gill, Secretary