Nishuane PTA Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2021, 6:00 PM

Via Zoom

Agenda

1) Call to Order
2) Intro/Welcome
    a) Next meeting will be April 22, 2021, time TBD.
    b) Approval of previous meeting's minutes. Website link: https://montclairpta.org/nishuane/pta-meeting-minutes/
3) President's Update – Reggie Valentine
    a) Getting ready for school – April
    b) Committees
        i) Nominating Committee – Varsha, Ms. Allen, Mendi volunteered (thank you!)
        ii) Explorers
        iii) Nishuane Cares
        iv) Virtual Learning Support
    c) Financial
        i) Fundraising/Trivia Nights
        ii) School Spirit – masks & sweatshirts
        iii) Memberships
    d) How can we help?
        i) Teachers, parents, students
        ii) Feedback survey
4) Principal's Welcome – Dr. Jill McLaughlin
    a) Museum field trip to Cape May
    b) Will communicate details on April 12 re-opening
    c) Virtual Wellness Fair - Sunday March 28

d) Spring Explorers
e) Student portraits 4/27, 4/30 outdoors under tent

5) Committees – Explorers
   a) Rachel Rajaram: planning outdoor and in-person Explorers for Spring
   b) There will be some virtual options, but the interest has been overwhelmingly toward in-person
   c) In-person classes will take place on school property. No transportation is available.
6) Nishuane Cares Committee
   a) A PTA supported organization formed to support families in need within our Nishuane Community
   b) Will provide an additional two rounds of grocery store gift cards and work to support families with emergent needs
   c) Nishuane Cares is working with our principals and school counselor to assess current needs to best support our families
   d) Nishuane Cares co-chair: Nicole Chalfoun, nchalfoun@gmail.com
   e) https://nishuane-cares-fund.cheddarup.com
7) Nominating Committee
   a) Open Board position: VP, Strategy & Planning
   b) Coming up: VP, Communications; Treasurer
8) Virtual Support Committee
   a) Top Ideas / Current approaches:
      i) Partnering with the Nishuane Cares Support Committee for support for virtual learning
      ii) Weekly support: Parent/guardian volunteers offer assistance to families, teachers, and caregivers
      iii) Asynchronous independent work support where parent/guardian volunteers offer times to support/oversee independent (“home”) work
      iv) Partnering with Explorers to find other “Explorer” pilots to help support virtual learning and helping kids and families

b) Next steps:
    i) Assemble committee
    ii) Consolidate feedback and ideas into a central log
    iii) Kickoff recurring support sessions

9) Trivia Nights
    a) Our four Trivia Nights have raised over $2,100 for Nishuane, Hillside, and Glenfield! Funds go toward graduation/moving up ceremonies
    b) Interest in a Bingo Night?

10) Reminders & Upcoming Events
    a) March:
        i) Pennies for Pages
        ii) Literacy Night
        iii) Trivia Night (TBD)
        iv) Virtual School Tours
    b) April:
        i) Bingo Night (TBD)
    c) Request for photos for the Nishuane Yearbook

11) Membership Update
    a) Currently 137 members in MemberHub
    b) Go to PTA website to join: nishuanepta.org

12) Financial Update – Diane Tehranian

Financial Update – Diane T.

Overall Balance is around $90k.

Expenses:

- **$3,000 Gym equipment** for Students - **hope everyone is enjoying their hula hoop!**
- **Teacher Stipends**, which *includes the gym equipment*, is at **$5,400 for the year**. **Budget is $13,000** so this is definitely an area we are ***under budget*** but given the lack of fundraising this year, it's probably a good thing. We are still saying yes to all requests Dr. McLaughlin approves as we aren't close to our budget.
- Only **one Class partner has taken advantage of our $75 stipend**. Don't forget it's there!
- **Paid $485 for PTA insurance**

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Financial Update – Diane T.

Revenue

- **Explorers continued to do well** in the **Winter,** and we've made roughly **$15k this year**. Down from last year but still incredibly impressive given the obstacles.
- **Trivia nights** have been a **success**! We have **brought in $2,800 in our last 4 events** but we are *splitting these with Hillside and Glenfield.*

Nishuane Cares

- As you may have seen, we have created a new committee this year called **Nishuane Cares** to help meet the needs of our families throughout the year and *not just at the holidays*. A campaign is **currently active** with the intent to provide a **second round of grocery cards** and the committee, **chaired by Nicole Chalfoun**, is working with **Ms. Williamson** to determine other needs.

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13) Adjourn