

Nishuane PTA Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021, 6:30 PM

Via Zoom

Link to meeting recording:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pj3w4htdkjp721m/AAD8kNENGaYFg5CWtqZm2yAZa?dl=0>

Agenda

- 1) Intro/Welcome
- 2) President's Update – Reggie Valentine

President's Welcome



- Best Year Ever
- Volunteers Volunteering to Recruit Volunteers to Volunteer (Join!)
- Teachers, Parents and Students (of course!)
- Fundraising and Community Outreach
 - Sprit Wear
 - Explorers
 - Events
- Nishuane Committees (Volunteer...please)
- **Communication and Collaboration**



Nishuane School
@Nishuane - Elementary School

#BEST YEAR EVER

Coming Year



Outdoor

- Tents, Tables, Equipment

Support

- Air Conditioners, Explorers

Fundraising

- Memberships, Spirit Wear, 1st Day School Supplies



Nishuane School
Sofishuane - Elementary School

#BEST YEAR EVER

- 3) Principal's Welcome – Frank Sedita
 - a) Thank you to PTA for your partnership
 - b) Successful start to the year: Playdates, ice cream social, first day of school
 - c) Students are eating outside as much as possible. We have enough tents.
 - d) Back to School Night 9/29
 - e) SATp Meeting 10/7
- 4) Teacher Liaison – Marissa May
- 5) Explorers – Rachel Rajaram
 - a) Many classes sold out quickly
 - b) We are trying to increase capacity
 - c) Looking to add sports-related classes and morning classes
- 6) Class Partners – Daniel Garcia-Pedrosa
 - a) Website overview: Homepage with News Feed, Calendar, Class Partner page
 - b) Link to sign up to be a Class Partner
 - c) We have over 20 Class Partners so far but not every class has one yet

7) Committees and Events – Susan Gardner Zartman



PTA Membership Update

We asked and you answered!

Currently have **125 PTA members! Amazing job!**

We need 75 more members to reach our goal of 200 members!

Reach Goal - to have every family and every teacher represented!

PTA Membership (\$10 per person) via [MemberHub](#)

PTA MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS FUNDRAISING NEWS CALENDAR SHOP FAQs

PTA Membership

Becoming a member of the Nishuane PTA is probably one of the easiest and fastest activities you can do. Not only does it help *your student*, but it helps *our entire school community*.

The best thing about your membership? No time is required! Becoming a PTA member every year shows you support the work the PTA does for students, teachers, staff, school and community. We all want the best for our kids and the PTA helps to make that happen.

A portion of your membership fee goes toward the NJPTA. The remainder comes to the Nishuane PTA so we can provide:

- Teacher stipends for classroom activities
- Class Partner stipends for classroom activities
- Student Assemblies
- Field Trips
- Scholarships for after school enrichment and field trips
- Classroom supplies
- Grow Lab
- After-School Explorers Programs

Our membership goal for 2021-22 school year is to reach 200 PTA members. Help us achieve our goal by becoming a member today!

- **Individual membership** (1 caregiver) is \$10/year
- **Family membership** (2 caregivers) is \$20/year (please select the individual member type for each parent/caregiver)





PTA Committees

HUGE turnout for committee volunteers!

Committee Chairs will be reaching out to volunteers in the next week or two to start coordinating on activities.

Still have open committees - community events, GrowLab, etc. - if interested, please email info@nishuanepta.org

8) Communication – Anita Fee Willis



Ways to Stay Informed

- Nishuane News
- Facebook Groups
 - Nishuane PTA
 - Parents & Caregivers at Nishuane Elementary School
- PTA Website: www.nishuanepta.org
- School Website: <https://nishuane.montclair.k12.nj.us/>
- Class Partner Emails

9) Strategy / Fundraising – Mallory Coleman

- a) Mum Sale
- b) Virtual silent auction
- c) 5K
- d) Other ideas around the holidays include selling wreaths and cookies



2020-2021 Highlights

- Explorers was able to run both virtual and some in-person
 - Teachers were able to provide packets, supplies and books to students through stipends
 - Provided hula hoops, balls, and jump ropes to all students who needed for PE
 - Provided over \$8K to families in need through Nishuane Cares
-



Overview of 2021-2022 Budget

- Since students are back in-person but we are still dealing with Covid, we are trying to keep activities (and budget) as close to prior (normal) years as possible.
 - As of 9/22/21 the PTA has \$77K in the bank account (thanks to fireball and increased fundraising earmarked for A/Cs when approved).
 - Proposed budget would result in using \$15K from bank account (the majority would be for Covid related expenses and A/Cs).
 - Working with administration to move forward with a phased approach to upgrading A/C in the building.
-

Presented and proposed the 2021-2022 Budget. Budget was approved with all in favor, none opposed.

11) Q&A (Chat log)

- a) Have you considered getting outdoor heaters as well? The heaters would need to be approved by Central Office based on ensuring that it meets proper safety measures.
- b) In addition to the 5 additional tents, there are two additional long tables and benches on the way.

- c) Are there any plans to improve the grounds and playground? Likewise, any plans to treat the grounds for mosquitoes? Treating the grounds is something that is done by the buildings and grounds department. Any treatments need to be approved by the district
- d) Can you discuss temperature limits to going out for lunch and snacks and any ability to opt in to going out in lower temps even if supervised by parent volunteers? Kids will be eating outside in 40 degrees or over.
- e) Explorers is before and after regular school hours? Yes, that's correct. There are a few classes that will be in the morning, most are after school.
- f) Explorers sounds awesome. Is there any possibility for classes for parent and child? Yes
- g) Question: after the 8 weeks of explorer classes, when will they be offered again? We usually start in the new year in January
- h) If you do the 5K - you should ask Mr. Eder for assistance - I'm sure he would love to help
- i) Another way of keeping in touch is the WhatsApp chat for each grade. I know there's one for 1st & 2nd grade. Is there a kindergarten one? There is not a Kindergarten one
- j) Will AC's not be addressed with ventilation upgrades?
- k) Is Fireball happening? If so, we will close the gap with that.
- l) What is fireball? :) Fireball is a fundraising event that happens every other year.
- m) Since heaters are complicated and will probably move slow, what about making sure all kids have good, warm clothes. Maybe something ahead of Holiday Giving — coordinated with Ms. Williamson? We still have Nish Cares dollars too that can purchase clothes if needed.
- n) Can we ensure every child has access to explorers class?? No taking 2-3 classes per child

12) Adjourn

- a) Katelyn Delano won the T-shirt raffle
- b) Next meeting is October 28.