Newton PTO Council Minutes
4/23/2013

# Attendees:

## Executive Board

* Co-President - Frieda Dweck
* Co-President - Rhanna Kidwell
* Secretary - Alicia Bowman
* Political Action/Education - Marcia Tabenken
* Website Manager - Caroline Wilson

## PTO Presidents by School

* Burr - Ted Vahey
* Burr - Jason Wong
* Cabot - Jen Abbott
* Countryside - Gena Hooper
* Memorial Spaulding - Doreen Rachal
* Peirce - Heather Maffie
* Williams – Christina Hardaway
* Bigelow – Julie Bourgoin
* Oak Hill – Matt Wilson
* Newton South - Betsey Blagdon

## Other Attendees:

* Thomas Shoemaker, Commander of Newton Post 440

# Next Meeting:

### Wednesday, May 7th, 2013 7:30 pm State Representatives

Wednesday June 12th, 2013 9:00 am (celebration + vote on next year’s budget)

# Admin

PTOC website: The website is now live with all community notes. Zervas and Oak Hill have hourly updates for new events.

Override:  Marcia Tabanken is looking for information on how schools handled override so that it can be passed along as information for future campaigns. Did you discuss it with the board? Did the board vote on endorsing it? Did it pass? What type of communication did you have with parents?

Online Directory:  Betsey Blagdon is researching online school directories. Please contact her if you are interested in more information or being part of a collective agreement.

Alumni Dinner:  The Newton Schools Foundation is holding a new fundraiser and event on Saturday evening April 28th. The PTOC bought a table with space for 10. Please contact Frieda Dweck if you are interested in taking a seat.

Open Positions on Board:  Secretary and Treasurer and other positions are open. Contact Frieda Dweck for more information.

# Memorial Day Parade

The Post 440 supports local veterans and their families. It also runs a series of programs for Newton youth including scholarships for college and a baseball program. They also help sponsor a statewide civics program for boys and girls. More information on the Post 440 can be found at <http://www.americanlegionpost440.org/index.php?id=1>

The Post 440 also hosts the annual Memorial Day Parade. This parade takes place on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day. This year it will take place on Sunday, May 19th at 2:00 with participants lining up at around 1:30 pm. The route starts at Washington & Adams, proceeding along Washington St. turning right onto Walnut St., right onto Waltham St. and ending in the heart of Nonantum. Spectators can line up anywhere along the route.

The parade organizers would like to see more spectators. They would also like to see more involvement from the schools.

Contact Tom Shoemaker at 617-244-5182 if you are interested in being involved.

# Technology

The PTOC Executive Board established a task force to look at technology funding (Rhanna Kidwell, Lori Knowles, Josh Weiss, Marcia Tabenken, and Caroline Wilson)

**Please refer to the attached presentation given at the meeting: NPS Technology PTOC 42313 rev 2.0.pptx for more detail.**

The current technology funding provided in the school budget is very limited. Even with significant fundraising efforts of the individual PTOs it is not sufficient to fund the access devises (PCs, iPads…) required to support the standards established by the NPS. This standard has been set for each grade by Leo Brehm, Director of Information Technology and Library Media for NPS. This includes not only a set number of access devises but also document cameras (elmos) and sound field systems. Because funding for technology is mostly up to individual PTOs there are significant inequities

Looking at just the elementary schools no school is at the standard. The rough gap for elementary schools is approximately $1.57 million with individual schools gap ranging from $68k (Zervas) to $220k (Memorial Spalding).

These devices are used to deliver core curriculum (math, social studies…) and inequities school to school is problematic.

Next steps: compare to how other cities fund, quantify the technology gaps this year and beyond.

Resolution

The PTOC Executive Board proposed the following resolution:

Whereas funding for technology in the Newton Public Schools is inadequate and inequitable to uniformly deliver core curriculum

Whereas PTO fundraising is not an adequate and sustainable funding source for technology in the classroom,

Therefore be it resolved that the PTO Council will advocate that the City of Newton provide sustainable funding for classroom technology as determined by the NPS technology plan, such as is necessary to deliver core curriculum

Votes: Unanimous. 12 yes 0 no 0 abstain
*Note: Marcia Tabenken voted for Horace Mann & Caroline Wilson voted for Zervas.*

## Questions:

If it is $1.5 million to fix gap, what is the number for years going forward?  Computers age out in 5+years. The estimated annual funding for the elementary schools ongoing assuming a 5 year replacement, is $769,000. This includes the gap funding + ongoing replacement.

Is there a way to make is equitable in the meantime? Until this is resolved PTO’s still need to raise money. Inequities will remain.