

**PTO Council Meeting
Oct. 3, 2012
MINUTES**

Attendees

David Fleishman, Superintendent
Frieda Dweck, Co-president
Theresa Fitzpatrick, Co-president
Rhanna Kidwell, Co-president
Phyllis Attisano, Equity
May Chiu, Elementary Rep
Sue Flicop, Health and Wellness
Marcia Tabenken, Political Action
Bree Lucas, METCO

Minda Mosha-Hayat
Ted Vahey, Burr
Jason Wong, Burr
Jen Abbott, Cabot
Gena Hooper, Countryside
Carolyn Craven, Franklin
Jennifer Conley, Horace Mann

Sunwoo Kahng, Mason-Rice
Kim Thurmond, Mason-Rice
Doreen Rachal, Memorial Spaulding
Monica Yancey, Memorial Spaulding
Alison Lobron, NECP
Cynthia Willen, Pierce
Erin Lake, Underwood
Karen Manning, Underwood
Christine O'Neill, Ward
Christina Hardway, Williams
Nancy Sweatt Williams
Beth Coomber, Bigelow
Ursula Steele, Day
Jessica Freier, Oak Hill
Sally Brickell, NNHS
Betsy Blagdon, NSHS

Welcome and Intros

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Fleishman thanked members for taking on PTO leadership roles and noted that PTOs are key partners to principals at the building level.

He believes a superintendent's job is to be in the schools and spends 3-4 days in schools.

Facilities and Enrollment—This year we have more kindergarten students than expected. Pro: We want to be in a place where the school population is growing. Con: Space constraints. Later this month the Mayor will present his Capital Improvement Plan update with details about facilities. Angier is on track for completion by 2016. We'll hear more about other schools as well. The Day cafeteria has been expanded and construction of extra classrooms is on track for completion in the spring. Dr. Fleishman recently took MSBA official on tour of Cabot.

Our challenge moving forward: making sure we can have the faculty and staff to handle anticipated enrollment growth. In considering our future building projects, the Massachusetts School Building Authority wants to make sure we have teachers to fill the spaces we add.

Programs and Resources—Programming additions this year: 4th grad chorus reinstated; more art in lower grades; reading help for those not on IEPs; additional SPED programming in middle

schools. Lower than expected health costs enabled the NPS to add more technology. The NPS Central Administration hired a communications person, so we can expect more district news on the NPS website and more communication in other ways.

Teacher Evaluation—The NPS is in the early stages of implementing new a teacher evaluation system, per federal mandate. Stay tuned for more information as the process rolls out.

Q and A

Q: What about short term building capacity, e.g. at Oak Hill?

A: While the school administration and city are spending a lot of time on long-term facilities, we need to make sure we can get through next 3-4 years of growing enrollment. Over the next couple of months the NPS administration is looking at the middle schools to identify solutions.

Q: Is CPA funding a resource that the schools can leverage for certain projects such as playgrounds?

A: Will look into.

Q: Any technology update?

A: There are new labs at middle schools. Every elementary classroom in the district now has an Elmo. Working to identify additional funding sources. *The next PTO Council meeting will focus on technology.*

501 c 3 status

Nov. 1 is filing deadline for PTOs' annual report. Please make sure you treasurer is aware of the requirements. This is crucial for retaining 501c3 status. Please check the PTO Council website for details and additional [regulatory requirements](#).

PTO Council By-laws Changes

The PTOC leadership is proposing the following updates to the PTOC by-laws:

- Change number of required meetings from 9 to 5.
- Specify that email notification constitutes “written notice” of meetings.
- Change the required number of presidents and vice presidents to at require a minimum of one president (rather than 2) and make the filling of the VP position optional.
- Currently PTOC executive board members must have been PTO presidents. The proposed change would allow flexibility to sometimes go beyond the limited pool of past presidents to fill board positions if/when appropriate.

Co-presidents will send proposed changes and vote at next meeting.

Budget Review

PTOC treasurer Deb Rooney has contacted PTOs that haven't yet paid their \$170 PTOC dues—deadline is Nov. 1.

This year we have \$1,600 for education services (speakers, etc.), which can be used to help PTOs get speakers for the community.

Election Day Update

PTOs can't endorse candidates.

Election Day Bake sales—Please refer to [Health Department Guidelines](#).

Charter Commission—The Newton League of Women Voters is collecting signatures at polling sites on Election Day to allow Newton to have a charter commission to review Newton's city charter. If the initiative succeeds, in Nov. 2013, voters will vote on whether they want a charter commission who would serve on it. Newton's last charter review was in 1971. Rhanna will send you more information for distribution to your communities.

Green Update—Sunwoo Kahng

Green Decade has an All School Green Team Committee (see attached handout), with representation so far from about half of Newton's schools, is a vehicle for sharing and supporting green initiatives across the schools. It would be great to have all schools participate on the committee. If you want more information or ideas for green initiatives at your school, contact Sunwoo Kahng at bobergkahng@msn.com.

Other news from the Co-President

Centralizing community news so that each school doesn't have to create it's own community news update. Stay tuned.

Updating newsletter email addresses. Please contact your editor and let Frieda know the best way to submit news to newsletters.