

PTSA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Neelsville Middle School

September 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance

1. Mrs. Barbara Escobar, Principal*
2. Sarah Belonia, PTSA President*
3. Anomi Kodithuwakku, PTSA PTSA Vice-President*
4. Rebekah Harris, PTSA Treasurer*
5. Sofya Orlosky, PTSA Secretary*
6. Raj Srinath*
7. Ghatsinne Ann Salcedo
8. Keyatta Dandridge
9. Karina Peterson
10. Wilmore Gregorio
11. Rob Badstibner
12. Nathan Stewart
13. Sarah Chung*
14. Bryony Toney
15. Shilah Marks*
16. Vibha Bhatia*
17. Julius Mabilia
18. Peyton Belonia*
19. Olivia Harris*
20. Wayman Ka*
21. Melissa Sigley*
22. Kristen Sullivan*

*denotes current member

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Construction update
3. Vote for PTSA Budget 2023-2024
4. Membership and fundraising update
5. PTSA preferences survey results
6. Upcoming school events
7. Committees updates
8. Principal's update

Proceedings

Meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m. in person in the Media Center and online via Zoom.

1. **Introductions:** The PTSA executive board, school principal and assistant principals introduced themselves to the attendees.

2. **Construction:** Two representatives from Henley construction provided an update on the new school building construction and answered questions from attendees. The building is on track to be open in August 2024. The old building will stay through the opening of the new building and will be demolished after the start of the school year. There are possibilities to feature student art or otherwise engage students in some interior decoration.
3. **Budget:** PTSA Treasurer Rebekah Harris provided an overview of the PTSA budget for 2023-2024. Overall, the budget projections are close to the actuals for revenue and spending from 2022-2023. Revenue projections reflect the excellent progress in PTSA membership recruitment, currently at 115 members, and the slightly better revenue results from last year.

MOTION: To approve the Neelsville Middle School PTSA Budget for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Moved by: Sarah Belonia, Seconded by: Sofya Orlosky.

Votes in favor: 11 (8 in person, 3 online), opposed: 0, abstentions: 0.

MOTION PASSED.

4. **Membership and Fundraising:** PTSA President Sarah Belonia provided an update on fundraising progress.
 - a. PTSA is working on a number of ideas and with a community events group called CB events
 - b. We have already surpassed our membership goal and increased the number of PTSA members since last year. Currently standing at 115 members! We are excited to see great staff participation and several student members.
 - c. Please encourage other parents, teachers, students to join the PTSA and vote on PTSA business!
 - d. There are plenty of ways to fundraise in support of the PTSA and school needs at little to no cost to you: Givebacks, KrispyKreme on our Givebacks page, Clothes donation bin in the school parking lot, HarrisTeeter VIC card etc.
5. **Preferences Survey:** PTSA Secretary Sofya Orlosky provided an overview of PTSA members who filled out the survey. Preferred ways of receiving information are the weekly Principal's Newsletter, the PTSA Facebook group, and the WhatsApp Announcements channel. Lots of ideas for school events to be supported through PTSA fundraising. We will share the full survey results with Mrs. E and school staff.
6. **School events:** Events schedule is posted in the community calendar. PTSA and staff are working on a fall event in October and there will be a School Dance this year!
7. **Committees:** Thank you to all members who volunteered to chair or serve on the various committees! PTSA President will be in touch with you. We still need a Staff Appreciation Committee chair, please come forward if you're interested!
8. **Principal's update:**
 - Introductions for Associate Principals for 6th Grade Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Sigley.
 - New bell schedule has been implemented based on a school community vote last year.
 - Agenda books have been distributed to help students to learn self-organizing skills, students are using them well. If the agenda book is lost, replacements are \$5 each.
 - Neelsville has a 50% co-taught schedule - 50% classes have an additional teacher or paraeducator in the classroom, to meet all the needs of students and keep classes engaged.
 - Walmart donation directly to the school - \$1000 to meet various needs, including field trips! We're hearing from many businesses and community groups around Germantown and MoCo expressing willingness to support Neelsville and are following up with them to leverage their interest.
 - After school activities - Excel Beyond the Bell, Identity, intramurals, interscholastic programs, guitar classes! Check our website and the weekly newsletter. Please make sure to examine bus routes for after-school activities. We'll update the link to bus schedules on the website.
 - Ms. Marks is running a STEM club in consultation with IBM - please sign up! Artificial intelligence, cyber security etc. Students get badges along the way that count in High School and beyond.

- MAP Testing - fall, winter and spring. Please talk to your children about the importance of preparing for and taking the tests.
- Newsletter and communication - redesigned to have Top 5 most critical points to zero in on but please examine the entire newsletter to see which information is relevant to you. Newsletter is in email, ConnectEd, Twitter, Insta.
- *Remind* will be rolled out by MCPS by December, we had a head start in training, you may already see some communication from teachers through *Remind*. Important: pick a preferred communication method (text or email)

Restorative Justice, presentation by Mrs. Escobar: Neelsville is a Restorative Justice program school. RJ involves working together to foster the physical, social, psychological and academic well-being of students, staff, and families through 1) building community, 2) self-care, and 3) resolving conflict. Look for a link to Mrs. E's presentation with examples of Circles in her next weekly Newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.