

## Pizza & QA With the Principal: September General Meeting

September 17th, 2018 from 6:00 pm- 6:45 pm

Present: 31 PTA members attended, along with this year's PTA *President* Katie Henderson, *Vice President* Kim Tilsen, *Secretary* Sarah Seroussi, and *Northeast Principal* Liddy Coyle

- Executive Committee introduced by Katie
- Overview of PTA, its programs, and explanation of membership and costs by Katie
- Open positions update shared by Katie on behalf of Laura Dolch (*Nominating Committee Chair*)
  - A skate coordinator was found and saved the skate program for this year
  - An International Night Program Leader is still needed. But, since Northeast will hiring for a Family Liaison position, that person might be a good fit
  - A Carnival Program Leader or 2 will be needed for the spring
  - We'll need a person to put together our PTA Newsletter
  - We found a potential 2018-2019 *Treasurer* and will vote later in the meeting
- Katie shared the 2018-2019 PTA Budget along with some proposed changes
- PTA members voted and passed the proposed budget changes.
  - 20 members voted yes to a one-time \$1400 budget increase in "Admin Expenses". A bulk of this money will be used to purchase a *PTA Treasurer* laptop, Quicken bookkeeping software, and a multiple-user license for our new online payment system, CheddarUp
  - 22 members voted yes to add back in a \$500 "president's line". The "President's Line" allows us to send our *PTA President* to conferences and leadership trainings.
  - 18 members voted to change the budget line name from "Back to School Potluck" to "Welcome Back Week" and to increase the budget from \$200 to \$700. New costs include a 1st day of school "Boo Hoo/Woohoo Morning Greeting Breakfast", stocking the staff lounge with welcome back snacks and drinks, and increasing our budget to ensure enough food for the Friday night potluck picnic.
  - 21 members voted to create a \$700 budget line for a community building "Family Night", to help get families together outside of the regular school time. Examples of family nights might be pumpkin decorating, science night, game night, etc...
  - 24 members voted to increase "Staff Appreciation" from the typical \$500 budget line to offer a one-time increase of \$2000. This one-time expense increase would allow the PTA to complete a much-needed renovation to the tired staff lounge as a main "staff appreciation gift".
- 26 PTA members voted yes to having Aylssa Mack as our 2018-2019 *PTA Treasurer*
- Q/A with Liddy Coyle (*Northeast School Principal*)
  - Discussion around Safety & Security at Northeast
    - Some areas Northeast will be focused on improving

- Improving the front door area. The school would like to make it more welcoming but also secure
- Adding some changes to improve flow in traffic loop
- Loose tiles and old rugs to be replaced
- What about the safety outside?
  - Some areas Northeast will be focused on improving
    - Eradicating poison ivy reported around school
    - Looking into which trees might be posing safety risks
    - Looking into property boundaries to make sure no one is trespassing
- Liddy Briefly talked about the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) Capital Campaign
  - Campaign will start in a couple years by improving elementary schools first
    - Some areas of focus
      - Looking into creating a larger gym area
      - Using the courtyard for some kind of indoor/outdoor learning space
      - Adding flexible soft learning spaces
      - Upgrading the Cafeteria
      - Adding a Lactation area for nursing staff
      - Getting cooling air into the building
    - Has the mold problem had been handled in storage area?
      - Liddy had a walk through with *Director of Facilities and Operations*, Paul Alexander, who said it was fine. But, she was going to double check
- Question about whether a locked school door really keeps kids secure
  - Liddy mentioned the locked door may not be ideal but it is a deterrent
  - It also allows staff to know who is in the school
  - She went on to mention the transition district-wide to using swipeable ID passes rather than physical keys as one way to limit access
- Question about why parents coming into the school in the mornings
  - Staff is working with parents, especially those of new and younger kids, to make sure kids get to classrooms safely
  - If there are too many parents in building in mornings it hard for teachers start on time.
- Question about the status of the water fountains
  - The new and improved Northeast water fountains are ready to get hooked up but the school is waiting for them to be tested
- Request made for a couple volunteers to help with Friday's School Picture Day. This PTA event relies on volunteers to help corral students waiting for their photographs and needs day-time volunteers.
- Question on how to stay in touch with stuff happening at Northeast?
  - You can follow Northeast Elementary School on Twitter  
<https://twitter.com/northeastes?lang=en>

- You can follow Northeast Elementary School on Instagram  
<https://www.instagram.com/northeastwolves/?hl=en>
- Sign up for the PTA listserv. Send an email to [northeastpta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:northeastpta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). In the subject line, type *"Please add me to the PTA listserv."* mention your child's name and grade in the body, and the administrator will add your email address to our list.
  
- When do we return the "Chromebook Use Permission Form"?
  - As soon as possible
  
- Discussion around which grades need to submit the forms.
  - 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th
  
- Some folks didn't receive the form
  - Carol Barry to add form to PTA site for families  
<http://www.northeastpta.com/forms.html?r=20180917201421>