

NETTELHORST PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

President	Treasurers	Co-Secretaries
Anne Dodge Seema Radhakrishnan - <i>VP</i>	Wayne Miller Tim Whitney - <i>Assistant</i>	Gayle deDie Danielle Tullier
Fundraising Chairs	Community Events Chairs	Communications Chairs
Shannon Fitzgerald Marc Frost	Jessie Beebe Patricia Mansilla	Laurie Cunningham Stephanie Vasconcellos
School Representatives		
Rebecca Mancione - <i>Teacher</i> Aurora Proudfoot - <i>Teacher</i> Yasmeen Muhammad - <i>Principal</i> Dr. Joshua Marburger - <i>Assistant Principal</i> Rotating Representative - <i>Local School Council Member</i>		

Minutes for NPTO Board Public Meeting on January 10, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting took place in the Community Kitchen at Nettelhorst Elementary and via Google Meet. It was called to order at 6:36pm. Present were: Anne Dodge, Seema Radhakrishnan, Wayne Miller, Tim Whitney, Gayle deDie, Danielle Tullier, Shannon Fitzgerald, Marc Frost, Patricia Mansilla, Laurie Cunningham, Stephanie Vasconcellos, Rebecca Mancione, Amy Sulkin, Aurora Proudfoot, Cathy Dimou, Bennett Lawson, Katherine Kenny, Anna Weiss, Lisa von Drehle, Lucy Tuck, Ben Haley, Jennie Pinkwater, Vanda Berman, Matty Eyler, Colleen Carroll, Dr. Josh Marburger, and Shira Cohen-Zimmerman.

Approval of prior meeting minutes and agenda

The prior meeting minutes were APPROVED. The current meeting agenda noted one change from Stallion Stampede to Helping Hands under the Overview of the NPTO, and were APPROVED.

Overview of the NPTO

Anne Dodge shared an [overview of the NPTO](#), including its mission and fundraising campaigns. The presentation also covered NPTO board roles and ongoing annual events. She noted that opportunities to engage with the NPTO include the reading the biweekly newsletter, volunteering for events and serving on the board (nominations are sought every spring).

Shannon Fitzgerald provided an update on the fall fundraiser, Helping Hands. The 5-week campaign brought in 202 donations totaling \$128k to date. The fundraiser's costs are very low (approximately \$450) so the total is generally net.

Seema Radhakrishnan and Katherine Kenny shared an update on the Stallion statue, noting that the artist's repairs are underway at a cost of \$4,000. Half of the donations came from the community; the other half is funded by the NPTO. The hope is to have it done and ready to reveal at or before the Stallion Stampede in May. Katherine noted that the new Stallion will be in the spirit of the old stallion, and it will be placed in the same spot in front of the school.

Laurie and Stephanie provided overview on communications, including regular features in the bi-monthly

newsletter. The email distribution list is provided by the administration, and it also links to Classy (the fundraising software) so if someone donates they are automatically subscribed to the newsletter. There's also a link to subscribe on the school's website. There are currently 2500 subscribers. Student population is 625. Subscribers may opt-out at any time.

Patricia Mansilla provided an overview on community events, such as music lesson for pre-k families and ice skating at Gallagher Way and appreciation events for teachers and staff. She noted that the team is always looking for volunteers.

President's Report

Anne Dodge noted that there's a volunteer opportunity to spearhead the School Supply Kits for back-to-school supplies. In order to bring the program back, a point person is needed to coordinate classroom lists with all the teachers, calculate costs and then be available to carry the boxes in.

There was discussion about how to attract volunteers and the frequency of open meetings. Volunteers are recruited through the newsletter primarily, with the suggestion that separate notices also be distributed with direct asks for volunteers. The NPTO board is mandated to have two open general meetings per year; the next one will be in the spring to recruit new board members.

Treasurer's Report

Wayne provided update on expenditures and noted recurring monthly donations; financial summary included within these minutes. He provided an update on the opening of a high-yield savings account in order to shift over reserves and earn interest; Tim and Anne are also authorized users.

Fundraising Update

Nettelhorst '90s Night is an in-person parent party on February 25 at the Chicago Yacht Club – the first in-person fundraising-social event since Covid. Capacity is 200 people. There will be a silent auction to raise funds, such as a milkshake party at Eggsperience and cookie decorating party at Sugar Daddy. The event will also debut a Parent Volunteer of the Year Award. Anne will email the board to nominate someone and vote.

Parent volunteer Jillian Smith will head up the Stallion Stampede, which is a student-engaged campaign. This year, the event will involve fitness and bring back fitness stations. A lot of volunteers are needed. An ice cream party will take place at the end of the day. There are sub-committees: Event planning committee, corporate sponsorship committee, and student fundraising committee. It will take place on May 12.

Community Events Update

The ice-skating event over winter break was a success with a good turnout. The team is working on organizing a psychologist talk, focusing on middle school. The larger neighborhood community is also involved by using QR codes, such as for the Chicken Coop. An idea was expressed to use QR codes as a method for people to sign up for volunteering.

Communications Update

No update at this time.

Next Board Meeting

The next NPTO board meeting will be held February 7 (location tbd).

Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm

