



Iroquois PTO Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 17, 2018
7:00 pm, Media Center

Posted agenda & reports available here: <http://iroquois.niskypto.org/dashboard/pto-meetings/scheduled-meetings>

- **Welcome & Introductions (Maria Farina & Sarah Pechar, Co-Presidents):** Called to order 7:02 PM. Quorum of 5 achieved. Meeting attended by: Sarah Pechar, Jenn Sargent, Vicki Wyld, Jessica Moore, Maria Farina, Amanda Romero, Dennis Romero, Michelle Haney, Jennifer Eckman, Kim Tully, Anne Burger, Howard Schlossberg, Zi-Fen Kary, Yi Lei, Ruth Basantes, Neeti Pathare, Dr. Tangorra
- **Approval of the Minutes:** Draft minutes for the *September 2018* meeting were presented. **Motion by Maria Farina and seconded by Amanda Romero, all in favor.**
- **Presentation of District's Program Vision (Dr. Tangorra):** Dr. Tangorra presented the District's Program Vision via slideshow and discussion. This may be found online at <https://www.niskayunaschools.org/our-schools-our-future/program-vision/#ProgramVision>
- **Principal's report (Vicki Wyld):**
 - **Recent Threats** – 2 recent threats to Iroquois have raised 2 concerns by multiple parents. 1 – Why hasn't the 1st case been solved before the 2nd event occurred? Answer: Nisky PD detectives are investigating. The event is considered a crime. The police department has daily work to do and this is not priority #1, however they are still investigating. There isn't follow-up to parents because there is none to give at this time. 2 – Why are students not being evacuated in these events? Answer: The school safety plan is updated every year, referencing BOCES and Law Enforcement Agency recourses. In a bomb threat, the Principal is the incident commander and makes decisions based on available options. Ms. Wyld assures us that there is no doubt in her mind that this is the act of students "in the moment" and if she is ever certain that there is an unsafe situation, an evacuation will happen. Evacuation requires obtaining busses and moving all students and staff to the temple on Route 7. Dr. Tangorra stated that these events are "sign of the times" and that 20 years ago these types of notes would be thrown away and the student dealt with if found. But because of events in recent past, we cannot react that way anymore. A question was raised, "Did the school take action?" Ms. Wyld answered that because the police are involved, they are the lead and the school will not do anything that down the line could hinder the police investigation. Dr. Tangorra added that when the action is a crime, the school district always waits until the police investigation is complete, then the school can impose discipline. Ms. Wyld stated that after these incidents she addressed the entire student body. Students are scared and anxious. She shared with them what she could and explained why these actions are unsafe, how they waste resources. Students did help with the timeline of events. Ms. Wyld is mad that students are scared because of the actions of others. They are reviewing video and asking questions. There are clues but the person responsible is not talking at this time. Another question was raised, "Some kids are scared, is help being offered?" Ms. Wyld responded that yes, students have come in to talk to staff – they reinforce what is done to help keep them safe at all times. Another question, "Are precautionary measures taken to avoid these incidents?" Ms. Wyld responded that staff is walking in areas where these events have taken place and there a sweeps of less attended to areas. Dr. Tangorra added that these events cannot be prevented, that safety is not a guarantee.
- **Treasurer's report (Jenn Sargent):** Bank Account – there will be change over to new bank. There has been confusion about filing a 990 tax return – need to have a re-determination of the status of the 501c3 status. There was a question about the PTO accepting check for the Yearbook sales, and it can be done, as well as for the

Author visit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Spirit Wear & School Store (Jennifer Eckman)** – Orders are down because parents are buying at back to school nights. This is more of a service than a fundraiser for the PTO. Fall and Spring have been bigger in sales in past. Talk of one-time order in spring to stock up and to sell to incoming 5th grade students. Selling at the beginning of the year is hard because parents are spending so much money. The 6th grade will always be the biggest buyers. School Store has good foot traffic from 6th graders especially. Volunteer slots are all full except 4!
- **Yankee Candle Fundraiser (Jennifer Eckman)**– This is complete - \$1766 in sales split between online and catalogue. Total raised is less than last year, and that was less than year prior. Jennifer asked if we should consider doing it every other year or continue every year? It would be best to get the catalogues to every student, possibly in ACCESS. Ms. Wyld agreed and we can try that.
- **Facebook (Jennifer Eckman)** – Keep sending ideas on what to post on the page. Put info on Spirit days on FB.
- **Membership/Directory (Michelle Haney)** – Directory is being formatted. Dues took in less this year.
- **Book Fair (Kris Lowney)** – Sarah reporting for Kris: The fair is next week. All volunteer slots full. Reminder email/FB post to go out. Cash box needed.
- **New Fundraising Possibilities:** Maria Farina suggests Open Door Book Store – Shop one night from 6-7:30 – PTO gets 15% of profit from sales. Also a possibility of having an in-store book fair on a weekend where the money would go directly to the library in the form of store credit – the Scholastic BOGO sales funds go to the library so we may consider the “shop one night” option. Sarah Pechar reported on the possibility of having a fundraiser at Orange Theory. Ms. Wyld had done one for the school – they do a VIP workout – 1 ½ hours on a Sunday which raised \$700. Participants pay to do the workout – if students are over 14 they can participate, 16 yo without a parent. Possibly hold at the beginning of the year.

BOE REPORT

- Howard had nothing to report

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

- Will the 7th grade social be rescheduled? The school will wait until the issues surrounding the recent threats to the school have been resolved before rescheduling. Ms. Wyld indicated that there needs to be some sort of consequence for students to understand the severity of the actions. The event was cancelled that night because of the threat that day. It will be rescheduled once the investigation of the threat is complete.
- Have these type of events [threats] happened in the past? Ms. Wyld reports that not in the last 12 years have things happened like the recent events. Minor things have occurred but nothing on this level.

Adjournment: Maria Farina adjourned the meeting at 8:31PM.

******Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Kimberly Tully******