

MSAD #51 PTO

Monthly Informational Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2009

7:00pm

North Yarmouth Memorial School Library

Attending: Vickie Bell, Charity Chapin, Shari Elder, Heather Giandrea, Gloria Nicholson, Andrea Peabbles, Becky Sledjeski, Beth Smith, Ellen Smith- Erb, Ericka Winchester

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Heather called meeting to order @ 7:05 PM. She welcomed everyone and facilitated introduction. She then introduced Guest Speakers for the evening.

2. Guest Speakers-

Becky Foley- Principal of NYMS, Maggi Alexander- 5th grade teacher, Laurie Alves- 4th grade teacher

Becky, Maggi, and Laurie shared an informative power point presentation about NYMS. The presentation began with a slide outlining the Mission Statement: NYMS is committed to students discovering and attaining their personal best.

- Maggi spoke about the Everyday Math Program, and shared a few lessons that were being used in the classroom. This is the 7th year the program has been used at this level. The results are evident in the following statistics they shared:

- In '01 29% of 4th graders met or exceeded MEA standards
- In '08 81% of 4th graders met or exceeded MEA standards
- In '08 88% of 5th graders met or exceeded MEA standards

- Laurie went on to speak to about the Units of Study Writing Program. Students have 4 writing workshops weekly. They are being exposed to 6 Units this year. 5 have already been implemented in the past. The 6th will be new for this year. Results here are also positive:

- 75% of 5th graders met or exceeded- this is highest amongst our neighboring schools
- 46 students state wide exceeded- 6 of those were from NYMS.

Unfortunately, there will be no writing element in the MEA this year. This will make it difficult to assess the effectiveness of the program in future years.

- Becky then spoke of the reading program and shared a quote "Reading should be lifework, not just schoolwork." Classes have increased engaged reading time to 25-30 minutes at least 3 times per week. Teachers have focused on their classroom libraries and having leveled text in the classrooms. She also shared the newly developed Book room. This is a wonderful resource, where Kelly Smith, Literacy Leader works with students, as well, as a resource for teachers to choose leveled books for their classroom. This new focus continues to benefit our students.

- Finally, Becky spoke of creating Healthy Individuals. She shared how her students were committed to community through school involvement:

- 52 students in Chorus
- 70 students in Band
- 9 in Color Guard
- 13 on Math Team

Maggi shared the Recycling program through Cartridges for Kids that her classroom has led for several years now. Through the recycling of cell phones, ipods, pda's, etc, NYMS is able to send \$180 per month to Zambia to help fund a teacher's salary and food for the students. Maggi's sister has created and maintained the school and started many humanitarian projects in the village. Funds from this project have also helped with additional funds in the village, as well as locally this year, when extra funds were used to purchase cards for our own "fun"datations program.

Becky also spoke about the 4th Annual Read- A-Thon which raised over \$5000. Alli Waterhouse coordinates this project and the money raised supports families in our district for food, warm clothing, and rec camp scholarships. The students get very excited about this effort and this year were rewarded with a visit from Slugger!

Our guests went on to thank the PTO for their involvement and help funding projects such as the 4th grade National Geographic Subscription, Crescent Beach Trip, and field trip to Maine Maritime Museum last school year. The fifth grade team is thankful for the continuation of the Gordon Corbett guest

speaker funding to kick off the energy unit which concludes with the end of the year trip to Funtown to see the physics they learned in action. They are also grateful for the membership at Ruth's Reusables, and for the ground beautification projects.

The presentation was opened up for question and answers.

- Some resources were shared for helping parents better assist their child with leveled reading. We were reminded that Lexile is only an indicator of word difficulty and not content. The Teachers College Guided levels offer a better snapshot of the level of a book. Visit Scholastic.com or Maggi's and Laurie's websites.
- Becky spoke to the possible change from the MEA to the NECAP for assessments. The change is unfortunate because comparisons of data are lost.
- Discussion continued about the transition from NYMS to Middle School. Becky shared that communications are on going and that writing samples are being shared from the new Units of Study program to the 6th grade teachers to help with the transition.
- One question was in regard to the 4th grade class size of 24 students in several classes. There was a hope that an additional class would be added for 5th grade. Becky Foley said she was advocating for it. Letters in support of this to Bob Hasson would be helpful in the effort.
- It was also asked if the students would have the opportunity to watch the Inauguration. Becky thought it was an important idea, but was faced with some logistical challenges. She offered to see what she could work out.

3. Mission Moment

Gloria shared very positive feedback from teachers for Ruth's! In February we will have a better picture of how it has been used when reports are in.

4. Approval of November Minutes

No quorum present.

5. Old & New Business

- **Treasurer position- Vickie Bell**

No quorum to vote, however the By-laws state "if a candidate is unopposed, the Board may, at its discretion, dispense with a formal vote." Welcome and thank you, Vickie! Kelley will be responsible for Quickbooks, Vickie will take care of the check writing. Please continue to show respect for their time by getting your forms to them in time. Requests can be left for Vickie in the PTO box at MIW.

- **No Name Calling**

Katie Campbell and Vickie Bell are working to coordinate this week long event throughout all the grades K-8. Students have the chance to participate in a Poster Competition, as well as a variety of activities depending on grade level.

- Volunteers are needed at recess for that week to provide additional support for positive role- modeling and playground refereeing. Contacts are as follows:

MIW- Lila Caruthers and Vickie Bell

DRS- none needed

NYMS- Aileen Zambarnardi and Sue Pynchon

GMS- (lunch room) Deb Regan

Please contact of these people if you are able to help January 26-30.

- Beth shared that she is aware of a program through SARS (Sexual Assaults Response Services of Southern Maine) that may be a good resource for the future. They offer a "No name calling/ No bullying" program. Beth will contact Katie Campbell with the information.

6. Committee Reports

a) Treasurer

Vickie passed out an Account Quick Report on behalf of Kelley. It indicated a \$401.09 profit from the Holiday Workshop.

b) Events

No report.

c) Fundraising

- Beth is continuing to organize the "Sally Foster How- To's" for the "Knowledge Transfer Binder". The last of Sally Foster was delivered before break and the last of the money was turned in.
- Beth asked for a better idea of what the Spring Fundraising goal is, in order to come up with ideas. Gloria said the \$5000 was our historical benchmark.
- It was reported that we were working with Katie Gray from Verrill Dana on establishing our 501c3 status and incorporating. This will assist us in grant writing proposals and open up new avenues for fundraising. There is a \$40 yearly fee involved. Katie gave us a Conflict of Interest policy needed to be incorporated. Melissa Skahan will continue to be available as a resource for us in grant writing.

d) Publicity

The newsletter is on the website, but did not get sent out as of the meeting. It was expected to be sent the next day (which it was).

e) Enrichment

- Becky informed everyone that since NYMS does not have a Field Day, she was talking with teachers about re-establishing the Allied Arts day from the past. Maggi Alexander and Laurie Alves both were interested in seeing some type of winter all school activity. March was a proposed time frame. Becky has been trying to make contact with Winter Kids. Other ideas for resources were shared such as Cabellas, LL Bean, Pineland, and Healthy Hometowns. Andrea Peabbles from Arts Alliance shared that the Celebration for the Arts would also be happening in March. The 5th graders will have a juggling program and the 4th graders a Contra Dance. Becky will work with Sue Pynchon and Aileen Zamberardi. Gloria will forward contact information she has from Winter Kids to Becky.
- No other enrichment reports were available.

f) Secretary

In the November minutes, Shari included a line asking people who were reading the minutes to send her an e-mail for a chance to win a prize. Deb Regan and Gloria Nicholson were the only two people who responded to the challenge. They both received prizes (Deb, I have yours...).

g) Co-Chair

- Gloria passed out a copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy. It should be reviewed before the next meeting, so we can vote on it. Beth added that it should be reviewed and signed by the board each year, assuming it is accepted.
- Gloria also reported that she would be meeting with Karen Bubar to discuss the "Let's GO!" program through the United Way. The Middle School is signed on and has already been awarded a grant to purchase a Geomotion (aerobic dance equipment) for the 7th and 8th grade.
- Heather reported that work continues to create a "Knowledge Transfer Binder" to be kept in the Superintendent's Office that will offer detailed "How To's" for future PTO volunteers. It was also reported that for the Management Review, the Internal Controls have been turned over to Talbot Associates for review. There is hope this work will be done pro bono.

7. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2009, GMS RM 125
Respectfully submitted: Shari Elder, Co- Secretary
January 22, 2009