

**Wednesday, January 20, 2016 NEPTO MEETING  
AGENDA**

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to attend, your continued support is greatly appreciated!

1. Administration Report: Mr. Rahs and Mr. Sawicki
  - a. Title 1 Update
2. Treasurer Report: Beth Jones (still seeking someone as Treasurer to train under Beth to take over next year)
3. Dance Committee: Sherri Blevins
  - a. Friday, December 11, 2015 – this dance was run by the Athletics Department; the NEPTO only paid for the DJ
  - b. Next NEPTO dance is on Friday, January 22, 2016, White-Out themed.
  - c. February Dance scheduled for February 19 now conflicts with Officer Elias' multi-school Semi-Social dance. Thoughts?
    - i. The only option in February is the 26th. February 5th is the Stomp Show and school is closed February 12th. We had selected the 19th, because it was the closest available date to Valentine's Day. Mr. Rahs says it is up to NEPTO if you want to change your date.
4. Northeast Social Fundraising/Eats Out: Michelle Larsen, Lisa Arechiga, Denise Henry
  - a. Eats Out was held last night at Applebee's - \$
  - b. Dairy Queen is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2016.
5. Fundraiser Committee: Tina Piscitello (Chair)
  - a. Otispunk Cookies and Panera Soup Fundraiser kicks off on Tuesday, February 16. Mr. Rahs has agreed to an assembly kick off in the cafeteria

(over, please)

during the three lunches ... and, he might even “roll in the dough” to help gain enthusiasm!

- b. Lehigh Valley Save Around Books, some still available for sale (\$20 each)
  - c. Chocolate Covered Pretzels for Sale (48 count/\$48 box) buy a box today for your home/office.
6. Teacher Appreciation: Tina Piscitello, Sara Collins and Cassie Pietkiewicz
- a. Holiday Breakfast and Cookie Grab were held on Tuesday, December 22 for the NEMS teachers and staff. Each staff member received a personalized holiday card with a Couture Salon Spa free hair cut/style voucher in it, a bottle of scented seasonal hand soap, two Lehigh University pens, and a decorative container for cookies. The following items were **donated** for this event (pictures on Northeast’s Facebook page):
    - i. 100 free haircuts/styles donated by Couture Salon Spa, located on East Third Street in Bethlehem.
    - ii. 200 Lehigh University Pens, donated by LU Human Resources.
    - iii. 2 large trays of cookies from Subway.
    - iv. 100 donuts and 2 Boxes of Joe from Dunkin Donuts, cups, creamers and sugars.
    - v. Huge fruit arrangement from Edible Arrangements.
    - vi. 1 box of creamers and 100 coffee cups from WaWa – being saved for Teacher Appreciation Week
    - vii. Box of cookies from Connie’s Cakes & Cookies.
    - viii. Large tray of cookies from Village Bake Shoppe.
    - ix. Two large trays of cookies from Lehigh Catering.
    - x. \$126.48 of groceries from ShopRite. Items include assorted juices (orange, cranberry and apple), yogurt cups, muffins, fruit bowl, napkins, paper plates, plastic ware, sugars and Splenda, whipped butter, cream cheese, and bagels.

xi. 100 bagels donated from Rockland Bakery.

Unfortunately, there were only 8-10 parents who baked for this event.

Very sad on the lack of support from parents. Extreme thanks to those who did!! On the upside, 10 families were offered full meals from a local lawyer firm and were able to enjoy the goodies as well during a televised interview of the families. Thank you to Mr. RaHS for putting in the extra plug for the NEPTO!!

**Some responses from the NEMS Staff:**

- I want to say Thank You SO much for the beautiful and delicious spread in the Library. You are so wonderful and we are blessed to have you. Have a fabulous Holiday amongst friends and family.  
Thanks again, Ivana Rincon
- So many thanks to you and the rest of NEPTO for all you do. What a wonderful way to start off a dreary Tuesday! Have a lovely holiday.  
Ronnie Arena
- Thank you SO MUCH for today and every day...your kindness and support are just overwhelming...you are a blessing to us all! YOU ROCK!!! Happy holidays, Denise Parker
- Thank you NEPTO for one of the most beautiful and thoughtful gifts you could ever give a teacher. The entire room was absolutely beautiful and it made us all feel loved and appreciated. You are all amazing! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Lisa Craven
- Thank you so much to NEPTO for all you did for the teachers today, and always! Enjoy the holidays! Linda Shive

b. 15 cases of tissues (sku #112175) and 6 cases of hand sanitizers (sku #121075) have been ordered from the Dollar Tree for the teachers.

Totaling \$504.00. Each teacher to receive 5 boxes of tissues and 2 hand sanitizers, as they did in the Fall. Items delivered to the office today.

- c. **A “Soup Bowl” day has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 16** (same day as kick-off fundraiser for soup/cookies) for the NE Staff. We will be looking for crockpots of soup from parents for the teachers to enjoy!!
- 7. Boxtops: Meg Fogerty
- 8. Snack Stand Open for Home Games: Jodie Johnson – special thank you to Tina Piscitello and Cassie Pietkiewicz for their continued help and support keeping the stand open for business. Seeking additional helpers to keep this going!
- 9. PAC Report: Tina Rehrig, Beth Jones, Kelly Johnston
- 10. Newsletter – Hornet News
  - a. Second edition will come out on February 5 with the Second Quarter Report Cards. It also can be viewed online, in color, on the school’s website.
- 11. Family Fun Night: Leon Clarke
  - a. Game Night planned for January

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Good morning Ms. Johnson, **Team Stars** would love to take our students on a fun field trip, however we are afraid that the majority of our students would not be able to participate due to the high cost. The trip itself is reasonably priced (about \$10 a kid). Our concerns are with the cost of busing. I’m not sure if you are aware of this, but the teams are now responsible for paying for the school district buses that are used for field trips. A typical round trip for one bus costs about \$200 (absurd, I know). We would need two buses, and they charge us for mileage and to pay the bus driver. We would only be going to the trampoline park, FreeFall, which is about 5 miles away. However, approx. \$350/\$400 in busing is way too much for us. We typically include some of the busing cost in with the trip amount for the kids, however the price would then skyrocket making it unaffordable for many. We are asking for help!

Recently, the school district has established the Excellence through Equity plan. The purpose of this plan is, “to eliminate race and family income as predictors of school success by guaranteeing equitable access to opportunities to learn and grow.” Since this activity would be considered team building, we would hate to discourage those who can’t afford it from attending. This year, we have made an

effort to have real conversations with our students about their financial situations at home, and we encourage them to communicate hardship with us. I'm sure you can imagine the amount of students that have spoken to us about not being able to afford trip or special events that cost money (even the Proud-a-thon!)

I don't want to ask for a specific monetary amount, but simply was hoping that the PTO could help out our team with what you see fair. Please share this with our other PTO parents tonight, and let me know if you can help TEAM STARS in any way! Thank you for taking time to consider this, and for your continuing support of NEMS!

2. **STEM Night** at Northeast in the Spring, March 16, 2016 in conjunction with the NEPO Meeting (Mary Roehrenbeck, Content Leader for Reading, Reading Specialist)
3. **BASD Mini-Thon 2016:** Kelly Johnston  
**POSTING FROM JANUARY 2015:** This dance will be a "Mini-Thon" Dance to help celebrate Northeast's "Week of Peace." We will be doing activities based on the BASD High School "THON" and donating proceeds from the door to the Four Diamond Foundation which benefits Pediatric Cancer just like the PENN State and BASD Mini-Thon!
4. Liberty High School Administrators will attend the April 20<sup>th</sup> NEPTO meeting at 6:00 p.m. to give our parents a chance to gain some information about Liberty and the transition to high school.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Book Fair** was held on November 16-23 from 8:30-3:00. Thank you to the NEPTO volunteers that helped out Mary Roehrenbeck.
  - Hi Jodie,  
Thank you soooooo much to the parents who volunteered for the book fair! They were a HUGE help!! We appreciate your constant support. I know the kids were excited to see their parents in the building, too.  
Mary and Megan
  - **NEPTO Basket Raffle Winners (held during the book fair):**
    - #1 Pet Basket - Steven Basic, HR A101
    - #2 School Supplies Basket - Sarah Weaver, HR A211
    - #3 Gourmet Basket - Madison Barnes, HR A113
    - #4 Toy Basket - Isabella Carmenatty, HR A200
    - #5 Healing Hands Bag - Cadence Poveromo, HR A200

- #6 Wear Pink Basket - Ayana Bomani, HR A202
- #7 Stationary Basket - Kyla Korpics, HR A211
- #8 Itunes Basket - Kaitlin Borda, HR A313

**Thank you to those who so graciously donated baskets/items and to Beth Jones for putting the baskets together!!**

2. New Commercial 30 Hot Dog Roller Grill Cooker Machine 2200 Watts Vending Business - \$209 plus free shipping was asked to be purchased. A motion was made to purchase two (one for inside, one for outside).
  - UPDATE: Two new hotdog rollers were ordered from Amazon and are in and in use, total costing \$299.90.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria**

Remember that we are on Facebook!!  
"Like" our page to stay informed on  
upcoming events ... Northeast Middle  
School PTA (northeastmspta)

