

Niwot Elementary
Parent Teacher Advisory Council Minutes
March 18, 2014

OPENING: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President Sondra Leidesdorff with 15 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the February 2014 meeting were approved as posted.

PRINCIPAL REPORT: Presented by Nancy Pitz

Thank you to Ms. Easley and her student teacher Mrs. Brigham for coming tonight.

TCAP/Testing

- Almost done, 2 more days
- We are doing make ups as we go and all next week
- next Tuesday and Wednesday 5th grade will be doing PARCC piloting for math; 2 classes will be in the computer lab and 1 class on chrome books
- After Spring Break 4th and 5th grade will be taking CMASS; 4th grade Social Studies and 5th Grade Science
- Q: Since PARCC is a pilot, can we compare results to the TCAP?
- A: No, they don't give us the results from the pilot.
- Q: Why is that?
- A: The pilot is mainly for them to see "this" problem is too hard or this one is too easy.
- PARCC
 - We were chosen by the state to pilot PARCC. They choose different schools based on types of school, how they do on other state tests.
 - There are about 17 states doing the PARCC
 - It's aligning with the Core Curriculum
- Q: Last year and this year testing has been right after daylight savings. Why?
- A: It's a state thing, they only give us a 2 week window
- Q: Can we give the state feedback?
- A: We do, it's out there that the time is not the best.
- Eventually in High School, PARCC will go on transcripts, CSAP/TCAP never has
- Next year will be a baseline year - there is nothing to compare it to

Riki Frea added: Tori Teague (Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Assessment) spent a great deal of time discussing how PARCC will be replacing TCAPP at the Leadership St. Vrain meeting. She also shared lots of statistics/data. St. Vrain performs as one of the best in the state. With PARCC, we can compare with other states.

Encore Teacher Award

- Deadline to nominate is March 25
- Please nominate someone if you have the time
- It's really an easy process
- You can also nominate specialists
- It's a fun night for teachers and recognition of their hard work

The gym is getting painted over Spring Break

- 2 walls will be white and 1 wall Niwot green
- It is funded by the district; they determined that it was needed when we requested
- If we decide to do anything above and beyond that (stenciling, NIWOT, paws, etc.) that would be something we would come to the PTAC to ask about

Lost and found will be leaving next Friday before Spring Break

TEACHER REPORT: Presented by Jenna Olschlager

March 2014 Teacher PTAC Report

Technology Committee

All 12 minis are in. 2nd grade. Media tech has one and Literacy has one.

They have beautiful deep blue cases purchased by Bob w/ NES funds.

The iPad 2's from 2nd are reallocated to 4th and 5th fully loaded with Bluetooth keyboard.

Third grade iPads have Bluetooth keyboards. Keyboards were purchased by Nancy/ JoAnn.

The iPads from the upper grades are newly labeled and reallocated to kinder.

All devices are in the hands of students.

This was huge guys. Some 5th gr. students helped also.

Thanks all for everything.

Now for next yrs purchase. We'll do about the same process to trickle down iPad 1's.

All info is updated on the spreadsheet.

Thanks PTAC for the funds to purchase the mini's. We achieved GREATNESS because of your help.

Happy Tues.

Tech Committee

4th Grade

We're looking closely at how to differentiate wiggly kids, etc. in the classrooms - that whole idea of shared OT resources at a grade level that we looked at the last vertical plan.

Also, the tech in 4th and 5th is being totally shared and in high daily use both for differentiation and fostering independence and excitement about writing and reading

Finally, kids are taking off on their own interests and using Google environment (and powerpoint) to create presentations - fun stuff!

-Stephanie Horne

Music

Cougar Choir Concert: Wednesday, March 19th, at 6:30 p.m.

Atria Senior Living Center

I have a great crew of singers this year who really want to be there. I can tell by the enthusiasm they put into singing!

National Anthem on Friday, May 2nd, at 6:40 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.rockies.com/choir

\$2 from every ticket goes to Niwot Elementary Music

Music & P.E.

The Sock Hop dance unit will be right after spring break. Get ready for some new dances. Friday, April 11th, from 6:00-8:30 p.m.

P.E.

Cougar Climb was a huge success!

5th graders - get ready for Track & Field Day after spring break

5th Grade

5th grade is working diligently at our testing but in between (hooray!) we have started our grand adventure called, Young AmeriTowne. We have begun the curricular studies in preparation for our big trip on April 16. What 5th grader gets to become an expert (or near expert at least) at keeping a checkbook and creating a budget? Yours do!! It is truly a highlight for our children. Thank you so much for being so generous! Thank you so much for allowing us this privilege. Thank you so much for caring! We look forward to our bake sale when we have the opportunity to pay it forward.

The 5th grade team.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Treasurer Jennifer Wilby

Financials were presented and reviewed. Financials are available on the PTAC website.

Income Highlights

- Spirit wear - \$1043, offset by stock purchases
- Dining for Dollars - \$420 from Smashburger
- Grocery cards - \$320; side note - King Sooper cards will deactivate if you don't use it (if you don't have a balance) and you will have to get a new card
- Niwot Trot - registration and sponsorship is open again
- Silent Auction
 - New this year
 - A parent had the idea of doing a silent auction or raffle and then we had someone volunteer to chair it so we decided to do it and see how it goes
 - We have the opportunity to purchase a salad bar (about \$2000); the district does not have the money to buy it but they will maintain and stock it
 - Each class will provide a basket with a different theme; items are due March 28 and the baskets will be put together and then available to bid at the Sock Hop

Expenditure Highlights

- Differentiation
 - Purchased non-fiction small group book sets
 - \$2889.71 (then another \$1000)
 - goes back to PARCC and Common Core in needed more non-fiction books available
- Library books - \$855.23
- Sales tax for 2013 Calendar year
 - \$172.74
 - Boulder County sales tax - on tangible items we sell like book fair and spirit wear
 - We have to pay because we are in Boulder County but not Longmont (Longmont has an exemption for non-profits)
 - We just found out about this
 - Q: Since we just found out, will we have to pay back taxes?
 - A: I hope not, they haven't said it so far

Upcoming Expenditures

- CU Assemblies on Late Start
 - K-2 doing more science assemblies

- K - Discovering Dinosaurs
 - 1 - Marine Biology
 - 2 - Weather Works
- 3-5 doing Shakespeare Much Ado About Nothing (about bullying and then they come to the classrooms)
- Part-time Kindergartens are able to attend this!
- Thank you Sondra for really spear-heading this program this year
- Para Support and Benefits
- Potentially we are still on track - depending on Trot and Grocery cards

Our Budget

- We've started looking at the budget for next year
- The budget is owned by the membership, not the board
- The process
 - Board works on the budget
 - Present the budget in April
 - Vote on budget in May
 - Executed throughout the year
 - Budget Amendments as required throughout the year
 - Overestimate Costs and Underestimate Revenue
 - Transparency
 - We reconcile Quickbooks versus the bank statement monthly
 - Post on PTAC website
 - Contact the Treasurer with any questions
 - It's about a \$100,000 budget, we are very lucky!

Committee Reports: Presented by Secretary ReAnna Damek

**PTAC STATUS REPORT
MARCH 2014**

STANDING COMMITTEES:
HOSPITALITY

Karen Ragland	203-216-1234	kikirags@gmail.com
Katie Weber	303-862-6690	wendtweber@gmail.com
Lisa Verbeck	303-652-0176	lisabootcamp@gmail.com

No report

IN-SCHOOL SUPPORT

Karen Ragland	303-652-1588	kikirags@hotmail.com
Deana Reid	720-494-1503	deana@reid.cc

No report

OTHER COMMITTEES:

BACK-TO-SCHOOL MOVIE:

Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com
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May 16th, begin around 8:00 (no food trucks this year) A fun family night!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE:

Katie Weber	303-862-6690	wendtweber@gmail.com
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No report

BOOK FAIR

Mary Klingbeil	303-581-0763	mdklingbeil@gmail.com
Patricia Lady	303-834-9529	patricia103@hotmail.com

Usborne Book Fair will be April 18-25

BUDDY FAMILY

Hadley Solomon	720-684-6624	vpniwotptac@gmail.com
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No Report

BOXTOPS

Riki Frea	720-443-8844	freafamily@mac.com
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Should be receiving around \$1200 in April.

Have collected 27,315 so far this year. (2685 from our goal of 30,000!!) Two more collection months.

Remember – online shopping through the Box Tops marketplace also earns money for our school. There are hundreds of retailers to choose from. If you're shopping online anyway, it's FREE money for NES! Visit www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace to get started. Keep it in mind as you're booking upcoming travel. You can even earn eBoxTops by going through the marketplace before making a Groupon or Living Social purchase!!

CORPORATE FUNDRAISING

Katy Boyd	303-241-6042	jkatyboyd@yahoo.com
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No report

DINING FOR DOLLARS

Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com
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April 8th, 4-8 pm - Dining for Dollars at Chipotle...they give back 50%!!! We will have a contest with the rooms to see who can bring in the most people.

May 6th, Basil Flats

DIRECTORY DATA CONTENT

Dana Dodge	720-212-0804	ddodge@virsage.com
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No report

DIRECTORY SPONSORSHIP

Jenn Bair	720-272-4949	jriggsbair@hotmail.com
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No Report

EARTH DAY

Lisa Verbeck	303-652-0176	lisabootcamp@gmail.com
Marci Lary	303-931-5454	marcilary@gmail.com

F.A.N (FATHER'S ASSOCIATION OF NIWOT)

Dan Nicholson	720-771-7100	daniel.r.nicholson@gmail.com
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GREENSTAR PROGRAM

Marci Lary	303-931-5454	marcilary@gmail.com
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The Greenstar Committee has raised close to \$200 so far this school year by recycling all juice pouches and GO GO squeeze pouches in the cafeteria. We've saved thousands of pouches from the landfill and sent them to Terracycle to be up cycled into other various products. Brenda has been such an amazing help with collecting these pouches each day in the cafeteria.

KISS-N-CATCH/SAFETY

Kelli Walden	720-890-6045	kelliinc@hotmail.com
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For my report I would just like to remind the families that drive at Niwot that the traffic and safety rules are in place to protect our children. Please do not park in the staff parking spaces (could back into cars passing or pedestrians). Do not drop off children in the yellow striped areas or in the middle of traffic. There is also an increase in cars parking up on Marathon where it is clearly marked NO PARKING. There was a fender bender upon exiting the parking lot because of this and because of the use of a cell phone. The Boulder County Sheriff will be ticketing cars for parking in NO PARKING AREAS on side streets.

I am also looking for someone to take over the Kiss and Catch/Traffic Safety job for next year.

LEADERSHIP ST. VRAIN/SCHOOL DISTRICT ISSUES

Riki Frea	720-443-8844	freafamily@mac.com
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- Board of Education member Joie Siegrist presented research regarding the importance of language and vocabulary development in young children. The best predictor for students who are more likely to be high school drop-outs, have teenage pregnancy, or go to jail by the age of 18 is the number of words in the child's vocabulary when they enter Kindergarten. The school district & B.O.E. believe that all children 0-5 need to be nurtured. They are starting a new program called the **"Zero to Three Read Initiative"**. They will be partnering with others in the community to achieve their goal of having all kids "pre-school ready" by age 3. For additional information, contact Connie Syferd, Asst. Superintendent of Student Achievement at syferd_connie@svvdsd.org.

- **Special Education** - Jackie Whittington, Executive Director of Student Services
 - Currently there are 3260 students identified with Special Needs. 300 of those have autism. This is a higher percentage than the rest of the state. (There are over 30,000 students in SVVSD.
 - Special Education costs are funded at 34% by the state; the district covers the remaining cost. Current legislation would increase state funding to 80% of total education costs.
 - Discussion regarding para-professional support: 1) hours are assigned to students based on their individual needs, as outlined in their IEP's, 2) students in FT Kindergarten are only covered for para hours part-time, given that FT attendance is optional. Additional time in Kindergarten is considered to be enrichment time and is not covered by their IEP's. If additional support were needed, the child would need to have a 504 plan in place for those services.

- **Gifted and Talented Coordinators**- Glenna Alexander & Jennifer Mayer

- Currently have 2,461 students identified as GT. Work with “thousands more” through differentiation.
- Spent time dispelling myths regarding GT Education. One common myth: eligibility for GT is not based on just one test. Rather, there are several measures used to determine eligibility (e.g., teacher report, parent report, cognitive measures, CO growth model, report cards).
- Although most schools don’t start pullout services until 3rd grade, identification begins in Kindergarten.
- Across the school district, there are only 10 schools that have their own GT teacher (Niwot is one of them!). There are 15 GT liaisons that provide services to the remaining elementary, middle, and high schools. Currently working to get consistent programming across the district. Each school has autonomy over their programs.
- Professional Development programs are available for teachers, however participation is optional.
- Universal Middle School Program is housed at Sunset. It is an individualized program designed to meet the needs of gifted students who are seeking greater challenge, faster pacing, and other course options. Typically, these are students who are autonomous in their learning while feeling disenfranchised by the traditional school system. As Sunset moves into being an IB school, the goal is for the UMS program to be integrated into the IB pathway.
- Tori Teague, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment & Curriculum – presented information on State Assessments
 - CDE Proposed Implementation Timetable available at www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/newassess
 - New assessments: PARCC and CMASS. PARCC will be replacing the TCAP. TCAP is a CO specific assmt. PARCC will allow for comparison of performance across the state, as well as to other states.
 - PARCC will be computer based, with approved technology being desktop computers, laptops, and chromebooks.
 - Concern was raised regarding the necessity to have keyboarding skills in order to take these tests electronically. Response: kids are being taught keyboarding as part of the common core. There may be a need to teach basic skills sooner so that they will be in place by third grade when testing starts. A national study found that keyboarding skills does not influence a student’s ability to be proficient on the assessment.
 - PARCC will have cut points. Certain scores can be used for college admittance. Performance in specific areas will also dictate a student’s need to take future classes in that subject area. For example, if a student passes the Algebra II PARCC assessment in 10th grade, they will not need to take the class in 11th grade.
 - Additional information can be found at www.parcconline.org
- *If you are interested in participating on the Leadership St. Vrain committee for the 2014-15 school year, contact Riki Frea at (720)443-8844 or freafamily@mac.com.*

MWEBAZA/NES PARTNERSHIP

Ginger Douillard	720-841-5406	brahmaloka@aol.com
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"We want to sincerely thank each and every one who made the 6th Annual Book Sale such a huge success! Between book sorters, setter-uppers, cashiers, book and bead table supervisors, sign wavers, and packer-uppers, we covered every base and put together a smooth sale. It was so inspiring to see the kids taking their roles so seriously and truly wanting to make a difference to improve the lives of others. That's a big part of what the Mwebaza Foundation is all about!

It was great to have Mrs. Freeman selling her newly-published book, Ms. Easley with her inspiring magnets and horseshoes, and the Girl Up! club from Nivot High selling their handiwork. They all added a lot to the event, and we appreciate their participation and generosity!

All profits from the Nivot Elementary sale go directly to our partner school in Uganda to continue the construction of the middle school for Mwebaza students. And they will be dancing for joy to learn that we raised a record-setting \$3,595! This is \$1100 more than we raised last year! That amount of money will go a long way towards making this middle school a reality for the children of Mwebaza! Look for the photos of the construction progress in the months ahead, and smile, knowing you are helping make this dream come true for students in need!

Also, please mark your calendars for the upcoming Mwebaza Jog-a-thon on Wednesday, May 7th!"

NEWSPAPER LIAISON

Mea French	303-378-9580	jaymea@comcast.net
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No report

NiSci

Denise Thomas	303-485-1380	gregganddenise@msn.com
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NIWOT CARES

Karen Ragland	203-216-1234	kikirags@gmail.com
Stacey Bahr	303-594-6684	scnib@me.com

NIWOT TROT

Laura Sroka	303-439-8992	sdlaura2@msn.com
Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com

The Trot is on April 13th. I could still use some volunteers the day of. Participants that already signed up back in Sept before the flood do not need to sign up again. Walking to the Niwot Trot or biking if at all possible is highly recommended. Parking is extremely limited. new this year at Trot....food trucks!!!! Bring cash both trucks will give % of sales to school!!!!!! Yay! Spread the word.

ORIGINAL WORKS

Donna Blondeau	303-652-6463	micro_d@q.com
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No Report

READING RESOURCE ROOM

Cindy Shepherd	303-652-8320	cmshepherd@comcast.net
Tina Helms	303-652-8679	tootinytoo@comcast.net

No report

ROUND-UP

Susan Rona	917-693-4315	susandrone@gmail.com
Julie Rich	303-588-6436	jtoorock@gmail.com
Stacey Bahr	303-594-6684	scrib@att.net

No report

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Janet Lopez	303-652-0201	janet@ajslopez.com
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No report

SCIENCE GARDEN

Leah Hanley	303-652-9977	l_hanley@earthlink.net
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We are still in the planning stages for spring Science Garden programs. We need Volunteers for our science programs as well as Green Team (4th and 5th). If you are interested in helping and/or need more information, please contact Leah Hanley at l_hanley@earthlink.net

SOCK HOP

Alyson Bell	303-652-1123	alyson@toolstudios.com
Holly Saia	303-819-1573	hollysaia@yahoo.com
Sue Cahill	781-879-9368	sue22cahill@gmail.com
Kelly Ferrero	303-652-0669	kbferrero@aol.com

Amy Baxter	303-324-0863	amy@jones-net.com
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We are hosting the Silent Auction that night. We are hoping to have it outside due to all the activities and volume of people, but will have a back up plan if the weather does not cooperate.

We are also really encouraging families to buy their tickets ahead of time at presales. It really helps keep the entrance to the event flowing smoothly. We had 100+ at presales last year and almost 600 at the door...crazy!

SPIRIT SALES

Stacee McGovern	303-641-2258	jeffandstacee@comcast.net
Anne Oberg	303-442-4146	goannio2000@yahoo.com
Liz Napp	303-474-4116	e_bressler@hotmail.com

SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

ReAnna Damek	303-652-0324	secretaryniwotptac@gmail.com
Verushka Burris	303-652-4199	verushkita@hotmail.com

No report

TALENT SHOW

Liz Shakesheff	303-885-7444	elizabethshakesheff@gmail.com
Stacee McGovern	303-641-2258	jeffandstacee@comcast.net
Cori Batson	303-527-2808	cbgb0627@yahoo.com
Lisa Verbeck	303-652-0176	lisabootcamp@gmail.com

TEACHER APPRECIATION

Julia Franklin	720-771-1837	juliakf@comcast.net
Megan Rebich	303-809-2399	megan@emrc1.com

VOLUNTEER BADGES

Cindy Shepherd	303-652-8320	cmshepherd@comcast.net
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No report

WELCOMING

Hadley Solomon	720-684-6624	vpniwotptac@gmail.com
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No report

YEARBOOK

Julie Jensen	720-340-4589	juliehjensen@comcast.net
Mea French	303-378-9580	jaymea@comcast.net
Becca Hult	303-619-7749	beccahult@gmail.com
Jen Porter	303-652-0515	jenjenporter@gmail.com

YB price: \$23

Sales to date: 243

YB deadline to submit for publication: April 14th

OLD BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee Report: Presented by Chair Heather Staples

- Thank you to the committee for their work, we spent a lot of hours on this process.
- The Nominating Committee submits the following nominees:
 - President - Hadley Solomon
 - Vice President - Donna Blondeau
 - Vice President of Fundraising - Riki Frea
 - Treasurer - Jennifer Wilby
 - Recording Secretary - Julie Jensen
 - Communications Secretary - Anne Jentz
- Anyone is still able to submit their name to be on the ballot
- Motion was made to approve the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee. Motion passed
- The Nominating Committee Process:
 - The following served on the Nominating Committee: Heather Staples, ReAnna Damek, Leah Hanley, Jennifer Haratsaris and Kareny Hostelley.
 - Our job was to decide who should be slated for the 2014-2015 school year.
 - Names were given to the committee to consider and some people stepped forward for positions
 - We interviewed everyone who put their name forward
 - We are lucky with our budget numbers as Jennifer said earlier but we are also lucky with the parents we have who volunteer - everyone we interviewed would be a wonderful potential board member.
- Sondra Leidesdorff - on behalf of the board and the parent body, thank you for all of your work and time on the Nominating Committee. You went above and beyond what we would have expected.

NEW BUSINESS:

Volunteers of the Month: Stacey McGovern and the Spirit Wear Committee!

Nancy Pitz - this Friday, K-3 will get to enjoy a production of Jack and the Beanstalk at 9:30.

CLOSING:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

ReAnna Damek
PTAC Secretary