



Newington School Supporters
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DECEMBER MEETING NOTES

The December meeting was held on December 1, 2005.

Present: Helen Rist, Gail Klanchesser, Sharon Brown, Sue Carroll, Cara Walker, Sara Frizzell, Paul Downey

Principal's report:

Mrs. Rist will make up a list of people she has tried to contact for Artist in Residence. Since finding an artist is not one of her primary responsibilities, we're looking for a volunteer to continue this contact process in January. Any person interested in making a few phone calls or writing emails to help line up an artist, preferably for a February project, should email NSS or leave a message at the school.

Mrs. Rist spoke about other funding sources for great programs at school. This year, the school has used money left from last year's REAP grant for technology. The school was fortunate to receive another REAP grant this year. The grant is funding Mrs. Garand, the physical education teacher, to come to the school one full day per week, instead of just half a day. She will add or has added gym class for kindergarten, and will work with the new nurse on health and fitness. The grant will also fund some fitness and p.e. equipment. Mrs. Rist has included funding for a full day for Mrs. Garand in the 2006-2007 school budget request. Other possibilities for fitness include getting involved with "Project Adventure" and maybe putting a climbing wall in the gym.

Why does the town of Newington send its 7th and 8th graders to Portsmouth Middle School instead of Greenland Central School? This topic was briefly revisited at today's meeting. There was no new information, and a couple of parents suggested it would be a great topic for "Coffee with the Principal." Cara Walker received zero emails in response to the inclusion of her email address in the notes about this topic from the November Newington School Supporters meeting NORMANWALKER42@msn.com. The School Board has been asked for a quick summary, which has not been received. Parents reading these meeting notes should not assume that everyone else knows what makes Portsmouth a better choice than Greenland. (While we're mentioning assumptions, readers should also not assume that everyone else knows what the programs mentioned in these notes are all about.)

There was discussion of easing the transition from Newington Public School to Portsmouth Middle School. Part of the difficulty of the transition is curriculum differences between the two schools. The NPS budget request for next school year funds inclusion of the Newington sixth graders with the Portsmouth sixth grade students for one part of the curriculum (Exchange City). Currently, the middle school Teacher Team Leaders and Guidance Counselor(s)

come to Newington to meet the incoming students in the spring. Another suggested change is having the middle school Principal come as well.

Treasurer's Report:

We have \$8,344 in checking. Of this, \$5,450 is earmarked for future playground improvements or equipment. This leaves \$2,894 available for other expenses. We have \$3,554 in savings.

Fundraising:

The Old Town Hall ornament order form will be in the Newington Neighbor Christmas edition, and is already on the Town website. Get yours now, and add some town history to your holiday decorations!

Profit on wreaths was \$304. Some wreaths had to be re-ordered due to their condition. We can still look locally in the spring for a supplier who would perhaps be able to provide less brittle greenery. There was a suggestion again that the School Supporters could buy plain wreaths and decorate them ourselves for sale.

Newington Public School Sign

NSS has gotten two quotes for a new, two-sided sign to be installed in front of the school by the road. We don't know if the School Board will make the design decision or how this project will be handled. The NSS chair is writing to the School Board about this. At this meeting, we decided that NSS funding for the sign will be up to \$2000. The idea of NSS providing pavers, soil, and plants for around the sign, and installing them with the help of students was also popular, and will be suggested to the School Board.

Race Marketing Volunteers

We are looking for people to make phone calls to business and/or suggest businesses to contact to sponsor the 2006 Fox Point Road Race. As of this meeting, nobody had called Candice Leighton (427-0762) to volunteer. Since many companies budget their upcoming year's donations in December, time is of the essence.

School Themed Clothing

We have gotten cost ranges from 2 suppliers, and are in the process of contacting another. There was much discussion about what the T-shirts and sweatshirts should have on them. One suggestion is to print the T-shirts on only one side, and have sweatshirts with "Newington Public School" on the front and a big wolf on the back. Past tees simply say "Newington School" with a wolf's head. (Did you know we're the Newington Wolves?) We won't be placing any sort of order at least until after the next meeting, so please contact us with your ideas. We want to have great shirts that students and families are proud to wear!

NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, AT 8:30AM!