



Newington School Supporters
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SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTES

The September meeting was held on September 22, 2005.

Present: Helen Rist, Gail Klanchesser, Sharon Brown, Sue Carroll, Candice Leighton, Rhonda Pepper, Cara Walker, Sara Frizzell, Marile and Paul Downey

Monthly NSS meetings:

There weren't many votes from the parent survey for meetings right after school. We thought we could try some evening meetings to accommodate those who said they could only come in the evening. However, the conclusion was that the regular meetings will be at 8:30 AM on the first Thursday of the month. Anyone who is not able to attend the meeting, but who wishes to participate, is encouraged to e-mail or call us before or after the meeting. Chair, Gail Klanchesser, is at 431-5033. Secretary, Sharon Brown, is at 436-6670. Treasurer, Sue Carroll, is at 431-2814.

Principal's report:

School is still looking for a nurse for 20 hours per week.

Lorie Garand is taking the "Physical Best." Class. Mrs. Rist may use part of the REAP grant to get Lorie here more than her current three hours per week. Mrs. Rist hopes to have a team next fall for the "Run, Pedal, Paddle" event. The team can be school employees, parents, former students, etc. Some money from this program is coming to the school in approximately January 2006 after Ms. Garand finishes the class.

There are plenty of art supplies, so NSS enrichment funds will not be needed for art supplies this year.

Treasurer's Report:

There was a great turnout for the Fox Point Sunset Road Race! Moving it from Sunday to Saturday evening was a good choice. Newington School Supporters bank accounts: \$18,010.79 in checking, of which approximately \$15,648.01 will be going to the town for the playground. Jill Boynton is coordinating that. There is also \$3,548.45 in savings.

At this meeting, there was speculation that the town would not take all of the money NSS has set aside for the playground. Any "extra" money could be used for other playground improvements. Past treasurer Candice strongly suggests NSS meet with Newington Recreation Committee and possibly town Selectmen regarding the playground monies.

Yearbooks!!!

There are a few 2004-2005 yearbooks left for sale for the low price of \$10. If you liked (or didn't see) the slide show at graduation, you'll enjoy the yearbook. Thanks to teachers and parents for your great variety of photos! Great job designing and creating, Gail!!

Volunteering at school: Gail has the fingerprint and background check forms for anyone who wishes to volunteer in the school on a regular or semi-regular basis. Jane Mazeau, Town Clerk, and Roy Greenleaf, Fire Chief, are notaries. Hooray for the volunteers who have already done the paperwork and started at school! Gail Klanchesser is the classroom parent for Kindergarten. Sue Carroll is classroom parent for grades 1 and 2. Sara Frizzell will be volunteering in different classrooms, and can coordinate with the classroom parents. Cara Walker is the classroom parent for grades 3 and 4. Cara is also our "Boxtops for Education" coordinator. The classroom parent for grades 5 and 6 is Jane Kendall. Feel free to ask the classroom parents how you can help, either in or out of school.

Programs:

Helen Rist will get prices for Artist in Residence programs the school would like NSS to consider, and will also tell us about any other projects she and the teachers would like NSS funding for this school year. She will also talk to the art teacher about a possible after school workshop for the students. The NSS-run ornament making workshop last December was popular last year among students. We may repeat that, or give them an opportunity to create something more long-lasting. One suggestion was "Original Works," which is a company that takes a drawing or painting done by your child and prints it on items from mouse pads to aprons. Ceramic plates or mugs that the children could decorate were another suggestion, as was making cute items out of tiny clay pots. An afternoon tie dye session with the kids in January or February was also a popular suggestion.

Fundraising: Sara (mostly) and Candice will be coordinating the wreath sale this year. We discussed the dryness of last year's wreaths, and whether we should call a different company if the usual supplier can't guarantee a fresher product. Another suggestion was ordering wreaths wholesale and gathering school supporters to decorate them. The research will be done before the October meeting.

Gail will research selling a brass ornament depicting the Old Town Hall. The consensus was that, if it goes well, this would be a nice annual fundraiser to go along with the greenery sales. We could offer a different town landmark each year.

There was also a reminder that these fundraisers could be submitted to the community news sections of the local newspapers.

We will probably discontinue ink cartridge recycling, since it is being used for other groups' fundraisers. We'll probably cover this at the October meeting

General: There was a reminder that parents are to supervise their children when they are at the school for events and meetings. This responsibility will be covered in the student handbook the school sends home.