

## PTO Executive Board Meeting – 12/3/2020

Meeting held via ZOOM 7:30pm – 9:20pm

In attendance - Agnes Pietrzyk, Jayven Rappa, Eric Sprung, Michele Morris, Ginny Richmond, Lauren Myers, Robin Levenson, Krisla Strand, Norah Ferry, Annette Nedeljkovic, Nicky Chapman, Blair Lesser-Sullivan, Flora Edwards, Mary Glendon, Lindsey Fieldman, Anna Claeys, Jacob Groshek, Josina Raisler-Cohn, Richelle Smith.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES – approved

### CO-PRESIDENT UPDATE

Membership:

- New members: Introduction of new SEPAC liaisons, Anna Claeys & Lindsey Fieldman, and new 4th Grade representative, Jacob Groshek.
- Open PTO positions include: Newton Schools Foundation rep, corresponding secretary, co-directory administrator, DLA and Hybrid room parents.

Fundraisers:

- Campaign for Cabot launched December 1 and runs through December 16. Giving Tuesday contributions and Facebook matching – hoping that some funds are matched by Facebook. Grade-level reps please remind classes of CFC timeline.
- Mabel's Labels fundraising update: 20% of purchase goes to school. This is significantly greater than similar partnerships, e.g., Amazon Smile.
- Cabot alum called looking to make a donation to school. AP following up.
- Book Fair update: possible virtual book fair in January and collaboration with Newtonville Books, followed by used book sale outside in the spring.
- Discussion around Spring Fling donations for auction.

Kathy Lopes, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for NPS expected to speak at 2/25/21 PTO General meeting (evening meeting).

### PRINCIPAL UPDATE

Extending the school day for K-2 Hybrid students: fully preparing for longer days - until 2pm – beginning 1/4/21. Trying to be thoughtful about maximizing adult touch points and balancing what this means for remote days as teachers will not be able to support as much while students are at home.

Anti-racism: Cabot anti-racism group is meeting with Kathy Lopes next month. She is impressed with the efforts already underway at Cabot. Professional development with staff – first one to be held in January and facilitated by Eric Sprung and Monika Nixon. Questions for discussion: what resources do we have and what do we need; how do we better ourselves as professionals, educators, and individuals.

All-school assembly recording will be distributed on 12/4/2020 newsletter.

Teacher appreciation: Marie Callahan dropped off tokens of appreciation for teachers and staff – food baskets, coffees – on behalf of the PTO. MN decorated the faculty lounges. Discussion around how to show appreciation for DLA teachers. Agnes reached out to equity committee to see if PTO could distribute appreciation gift cards to teachers and will follow up with Marie.

Meran Ellis, Math coach, and Amy Hartford, Literacy coach, will present on the lessons in Seesaw and Google Classroom at an upcoming Principal coffee. Details TBD.

DLA materials pickup: Friday 12/11/20 @ 3:30pm; 5:30pm. DLA rep Krisla Strand will be available to answer questions.

Question around windows: ES notes that staff is encouraged to keep windows open. With cold and inclement weather coming, opening of windows is at teacher discretion. The air quality study undertaken by the district identified Cabot as a top school.

#### Updates from Grade Level Reps

K – RL: Recently held K meetup, which was fairly well attended. Revisiting Q around free t-shirts for Kindergarteners. MM notes t-shirt cost ranges from \$3.50-4.50\$ per student, depending on quantity of order. Approximately 60 K students.

1 – BLS: Some confusion around class list. Class parents were identified and issue resolved.

2 – FE: Last meetup was around Halloween. May plan another outdoor meetup for December.

3 – LM: Meetup held two weeks ago – extremely well attended and received. May do another outdoor meetup before the new year, depending on weather. Plans to hold more frequent meetups in spring.

4 – JG: First meeting as room parent but hoping to organize a meetup for students, as well as a parent meetup of some kind.

5 – AN: Working on classroom appreciation gifts for the holidays.

#### DLA – KS & GR:

Please remember to include DLA teachers in holiday gifting initiatives.

Focus group to monitor DLA and assess areas for improvement, much like Hybrid.

Seeing some additional staff in the DLA classrooms.

Organizing working groups for special education, racial justice, and scheduling.

Determined social-emotional connections component has to happen with home school liaisons working in conjunction with the PTO.

Next DLA Principal coffee will focus on special education: 12/8/2020 @ 7pm

Class lists: Discussion around whether MTK reflective of updates/changes in student learning format (hybrid to DLA). ES notes this is approximately 5 students and to confirm names with Monika.

Discussion around gift giving guidelines and consistency across district.

### Cabot Connecting

Hosted a conversation and raffle on 11/22/20. Approximately 20 people attended - a nice mix of Newton and Boston families – and feedback was positive. Beyond events, concerted effort to welcome families from their first day at Cabot and continue with touch points throughout the year. Hoping to do another event in the spring.

### FORJ

FORJ Book Club met last night – 12/2/20. Around 7 people attended. Next meeting will be in January, and the book is *New Kid*, a young adult graphic novel. The plan is to discuss as parents first, then hold another meeting in which we discuss the book with our kids.

RM is organizing parents to meet with Mr. Wong and Ms. Leibowitz to encourage more crossover with staff anti-racism committee. Looking to encourage parents to discuss race. A citywide initiative to discuss race is underway, and Cabot parents are planning to participate.

In January – date TBD -- families of color affinity group to hold an event.

### Review of recent School & PTO events

- Goosechase Scavenger Hunt – likely to be extended to Saturday.
- DLA Spirit Day
- Cabot Connecting Conversation & Raffle
- Principal Coffee
- Grade Level Meet-ups

- Social Action Fundraiser for Greater Boston Food Bank update – well exceeded our goal. Also working with the Newton Food Pantry and Lisa Lacava and Second Step.

### Creatives Arts and Sciences - GR

Women in World Jazz performances: Wednesday 12/16/20 (grades 3-5) and Wednesday 1/13/21 (Grades K-2), both at 9:15am.

Attended city-wide CAS meeting.

One additional CAS program for this school year. Discussion around how to dovetail with events(s) in memory of Molly Williams.

### Treasurer report – MG

- Campaign for Cabot donations are beginning to come in.
- Teacher reimbursements – distributed to Hybrid and DLA.
- Not a lot of transactions due to current environment.

### BREAKOUT GROUPS

At this point, members were organized into two separate breakout groups. Updates from each group below.

(1) Room parent gifting and grade-level events:

- 5 classrooms still don't have room parents. JR to send a note asking parents to volunteer.
- Discussion around how to ensure all staff's efforts are acknowledged, particularly those classrooms where there may not be a room parent. Other staff to consider: building specialists, special education professionals, STRIDE staff, paraprofessionals. AP, JR, & ES to discuss how to thank all staff.
- Aligning gifts with NPS gifting policies. Can set a contribution limit with PayPal Pool.
- Discussion around a Kudo Board – much like Flip Grid - to thank staff.

(2) Country spotlight, TOTW cookbook and community event:

- Planning a virtual initiative building on the Around the World displays at Cabot and annual Taste of the World event.
- Families sign up and present the country in a pre-recorded lesson that is accessible to all students. Discussion around extension activities – e.g., provide a recipe for families to make or

suggest restaurants that serve that particular cuisine as a takeout option. JRC to be first presentation in January.

- Discussion around when is best – weekends versus weekday. Momentum around Wednesday daytime instruction. And then presenters can extend it, if they wish, with a presentation over the weekend.
- Discussion around how the presentation will be shown – grade level, buddy classes - and coordinating with ES and staff, as well as logistics.
- TOTW Cookbook – ideas to come. AP to consult with other schools on how they have done this. KS proposed compiling student art and writing work, folding that into the cookbook or offering as a separate book.
- Equity discussion around what enriches the curriculum versus what is consumable.

#### IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

- DLA Principal coffee will focus on special education: 12/8/20 @ 7pm
- Campaign for Cabot (CFC) Ends 12/16/20.
- December Recess: 12/24/20 -1/3/21, school to resume 1/4/21

**Next Exec. Meeting: Thursday January 14, 2021.**