

Abate Parent Group Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2018, 3:00pm

Present:

Jennifer O'Connor (Cornell Creating Healthy Schools)

Cassandra Empson

Becky Hedgepeth

Loretta Smith

Anmarie Melloni (Abate Art Teacher)

Alex Padilla

Stephanie Booze

Mrs. Tompkins

Mrs. Bianco

1. Mrs. Tompkins welcomed the group and gave a brief synopsis of her career and background. She was happy to be in Elementary School after many years of secondary education and felt her background would be useful in bringing more STEM technology to our students and for preparing them for secondary education.

2. Becky Hedgepeth distributed and read through the Abate Parent Group charter.

3. Treasurer's Report - In the absence of Paul Hedgepeth, Co-Treasurer, Becky reported that there was approximately \$1,000 (\$846.73 in checking and \$273.59 in cash). The Abate Parent Group bank account was being used as the vessel funneling funds for the upcoming Harlem Wizards event. Thus both checking and cash accounts were constantly fluctuating. A clear statement would be given at the November meeting, once the Harlem Wizards event was over and all expenses were paid. The Abate Parent Group expected some profit earnings from the Harlem Wizards event, although the focus of the event was on creating a wonderful community event for the students and families in our city. The \$700 used in May as a deposit for the Harlem Wizards had been paid back over the summer through donations from community partners.

4. Everyone interested in being involved in the school was asked to fill out volunteer form and turn them in to the school as soon as possible.

5. The following events and projects were announced for the upcoming school year:

a. Harlem Wizards event - Thurs., October 25, 2018, 6:30pm at NFHS Main Gym, and assemblies at all 10 elementary/middle schools that morning.

b. School Beautification - Mrs. Melloni (Art teacher) and Mrs. O'Connor (Cornell Cooperative Extension) presented their collaborative efforts by the name of "Eat A Rainbow", to engage students in healthier eating and lifestyle choices as well as in efforts to make our

school more attractive. Fruit and vegetable-themed artwork to be displayed in the Cafeteria would be unveiled at a special family STEM night on November 15, 2018. All Abate families were invited to join for the cardboard challenge and unveiling.

The group discussed other possibilities for school beautification including a more welcoming school entry way, a facelift for the staff lounge and murals for the hallways. Discussion would continue throughout the year.

c. Spelling Bee in February or March

d. Teacher communication and appreciation - Becky presented the idea of having not only a May Teacher Appreciation celebration, but smaller communications and treats for teachers throughout the year. She presented a survey that she had given to Abate staff during the summer with ideas and wish list items, that could be discussed at future meetings.

6. Meeting Times and Days - the group decided to discuss changing the meeting times and dates based on those who plan to attend regularly, at our November meeting.

7. Administrative - Mrs. Tompkins shared about the new fresh fruit and vegetable cart making its rounds daily in the school. She explained how parents can reach their child's teacher or other staff members by calling the school and leaving voicemails or using email (staff first initial + last name @nfschools.net).

Mrs. Tompkins offered flyers on upcoming Fall community events, including PAL Soccer Spooktacular on Oct. 28 and Circles of Compassion on Oct. 18, as well as "Home and School Connection" articles and an explanation of after school clubs and programs being offered at Abate.

8. District Parent Committee (DPC) update - Becky gave a brief update of the Superintendent's goals for the year, which included more PreK-3 classes and Trade School on the NFHS premises.

9. Voting - there were no items to vote for. Several people paid \$1 membership dues.

10. Stephanie Booze announced that the Abate Parent Group Facebook page was up and running and would post the minutes from our meetings.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 3:00pm in the Cafeteria.

Minutes submitted by Becky Hedgepeth/Bh