

# SEPTEMBER 2021

## Meeting Minutes of Nitrauer PTO

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**Nitrauer PTO holds meetings in the school library (and via Zoom) on the third Tuesday of each month.** The Zoom meeting link is released on Seesaw and on the [Nitrauer PTO FaceBook group](#) on the day of the meeting prior to the 7:00PM start time.

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### **You do not need to attend PTO meetings to volunteer or be involved in the PTO!**

Volunteer and donation opportunities, event information, and other ways to help are shared in the weekly newsletter, on the PTO FaceBook group, or by contacting a PTO member or SLAC Representative. Visit [NitrauerPTO.org](#) for event descriptions.

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**Date:** Tuesday 09.21.21 First PTO meeting of the school year

**Location:** In-person at Nitrauer School Library and via virtual ZOOM conference.

**Meeting called to order by:** President, Maggie Foley

**Time Commenced:** 7:00 pm (Adjourned 8:15pm)

### **Attendance: (20)**

Wendy Hancock	(Principal) <a href="mailto:Hancocwe@mtwp.net">Hancocwe@mtwp.net</a>	
Ali Grafenstine	(Nitrauer Administrative Assistant, but attending as a parent) <a href="mailto:Grafenal@mtwp.net">Grafenal@mtwp.net</a>	
Missy Weaver	(Teacher Representative) <a href="mailto:Weavermi@mtwp.net">Weavermi@mtwp.net</a>	
Maggie Foley	(President) <a href="mailto:NitrauerPTOPresident@gmail.com">NitrauerPTOPresident@gmail.com</a>	
Angie Salabsky	(Volunteer Coordinator) (President Understudy) <a href="mailto:NitrauerPTOVolunteer@gmail.com">NitrauerPTOVolunteer@gmail.com</a>	
Alex Massie	(Treasurer) (Book Fair) (Spirit Wear) (Laminating) <a href="mailto:NitrauerPTOTreasurer@gmail.com">NitrauerPTOTreasurer@gmail.com</a>	
Jessica Dolphin	(Secretary) (FaceBook&Webmaster)(Spirit Wear Understudy) <a href="mailto:NitrauerPTOSecretary@gmail.com">NitrauerPTOSecretary@gmail.com</a>	
Nancy Izquieta	(SLAC Rep)(Race for Education) (Yearbook Understudy) (Cultural Fest) <a href="mailto:Nancyizquieta@gmail.com">Nancyizquieta@gmail.com</a>	
Jenine Nicholas	(SLAC Rep) (Laminating) <a href="mailto:Jenine.Nicholas98@gmail.com">Jenine.Nicholas98@gmail.com</a>	
Stephanie Ruth	(SLAC Rep) (Fall Fest) (Movie Night) (Book Fair) <a href="mailto:lovelikeahundred531@gmail.com">lovelikeahundred531@gmail.com</a>	
Diana Hanna	(Yearbook) (Race for Education) <a href="mailto:nit.yearbook@gmail.com">nit.yearbook@gmail.com</a>	
Deanna Jones	(Laminating)	
Beth Kennel		Neema Tamang
Alexandria Hardy		Kimberly Snyder
Danielle Schmehl		Chris Walz
Chuck Cobb		Brandi Kaplan

## **President Report: Maggie Foley**

- Opened meeting: Welcome and officer introductions.
- Patient First Urgent Care reached out to donate \$1,000 to Nitrauer PTO.
- *Dr Hancock* – Patient First’s contribution will be used to pay for new library materials that have been specifically selected (by the librarian and counselor) to foster self-regulations and emotional control via the Zones of Regulation curriculum. The new materials will also serve as an additional resource for the individual social/emotional learning goals of teachers this year.
- PTO Bylaws will be reviewed and rewritten to better reflect the new comprehensive planning goals.

## **Treasurer Report: Alex Massie**

**Please see attachment for details:**

1. *September 21, 2021 : Treasurer’s Report*

## **PTO Discussion Re: September 2021: Performance to Budget Report:**

- First upcoming field trip is paid for; however, it is uncertain if the trip will occur due to a shortage of bus drivers and nurses (both required).
- The money budgeted for the field trip is not paid out to the vendor until the day of the trip, therefore any cancellations will not result in lost funds.
- Nitrauer’s PTO previously had a large sum of money, which was not spent for several years due to the District paying for playground and technology equipment (and the PTO not paying for those big-ticket items). The PTO Savings account used to hold a higher balance, but has since been spent down.
- Starting this year, the PTO budget will have a deficit. We are anticipating Race for Education to raise enough funds to cover most of the PTO programs for this current year.
- The goal going forward is that the money be spent on the families who helped to raise it.

## **Principal Report: Dr. Wendy Hancock:**

- The year is off to a good start. Kids are happy and learning. They do not wear masks on the playground and have mask breaks during the day. We are back to eating in the cafeteria, but with more space between seats than two years ago.
- Back to School Night was impressive in turnout and positive in tone.
- The Weekly Newsletter’s readership increased +200 people following Back to School Night and due to an additional release on Sunday evening.
- Parent Conference information will be announced. **Update Mon, Oct 4: Parent conferences will be zoom and in person; parents will have a choice. Sign up information is forthcoming.**

## **Teacher Representative Report: Missy Weaver**

- We will continue to learn and grow with Social Emotional Learning. Connections will continue to be built between home and school to support these discussions.
- The Health Room has requested donations of socks for both boys and girls and for girls (size 6) pants and bike shorts.

## **SLAC Committee Reports: Jenine Nicholas, Nancy Izquieta, and Stephanie Ruth**

### **Q: What is SLAC (Superintendent's Lay Advisory Council)?**

**A:** SLAC is a district-level organization. Its goal is to facilitate communication directly between the superintendent and the parents and guardians of the student body. SLAC members are appointed by school principals to represent the school's PTO/Parent Organization. SLAC members share information presented at meetings with their PTO/Parent Organizations, as well as provide the Superintendent with PTO/Parent Organization feedback, concerns, and observations. For more information on SLAC, please contact your student's principal or one of your school's SLAC representatives.

**More information** about Superintendent's Lay Advisory Council can be found by searching 'SLAC' into the search box at MTWP.net

**SLAC discussions and parents:** SLAC representatives are looking at ways to increase parent involvement in the SLAC discussions. If it is important to one parent, it is important to all.

### **Please see attachment for details:**

2. *SLAC Meeting September 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)*

### **Representatives Discussion Re: SLAC Meeting September 20, 2021**

- SLAC Volunteers serve a 3 year term and meet every other month with District Representatives and Superintendent, Dr. Felty to present concerns from school buildings and parents.
- At the end of the 2020-21 school year, the committee voted to release their drafted meeting minutes (prior to the official approval to be received at the consecutive meeting), if the minutes contained a 'draft' watermark.
- SLAC representatives are looking at ways to increase parent involvement in the SLAC discussions. If it is important to one parent, it is important to all.

### **Health and Safety**

- MTSD Health and Safety plans have been additionally detailed on the website to include specific chemical names of regularly used cleaning supplies.
- MTSD Staff have been encouraged to place their vaccination cards on file with the district.
- A flow-chart is being created to assist parents in determining their course of actions when their child becomes sick: Understanding who to contact first and when.

- MTSD is discussing differentiating absences from school: sick vs. quarantined.
- A school would need to close for cleaning if 5% or more positive cases were identified. For Nitrauer, this would mean 23 positive cases.

### Contact Tracing

- Parents are reporting they are dissatisfied with the generic email they receive if their child was in contact with a positive COVID case at school. The emails were described as 'too generic' with 'not enough specific information to make informed decisions.'
- For example, if you have multiple children in multiple MTSD school buildings, the emails did not clarify which child.
- Some district representatives maintain the stance that a positive COVID exposure should be treated like a household exposure, not as an individual exposure.
- Q: Who is notified for contact tracing? A: If there is a close contact of a positive case in a school or on a bus, just those families of that child will be individually notified.
- Many parents are upset if they have not been notified of a positive case in their class, but schools report that kids are masked and spaced far enough apart for safety.

### Directives for Classrooms

- Teachers and staff received directives to incorporate mask breaks into the students' day, but no specific directions were given. Generally, at the elementary level, students remain with their homeroom teacher for the majority of the day and mask breaks are ensured. Middle and high school level students, however, may change teachers and classrooms throughout the day and may not be getting enough breaks.
- When students must wait 2-3 days for COVID test results, some teachers enable students to ZOOM in from home and/or assign asynchronous work, but some do not. Since no specific directives were given to teachers regarding at home learning, some students have fallen behind. The District is discussing if some virtual learning supports should be brought back into use.

### New Middle School

- Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held October 19th 6:00-7:30pm. The celebration will be open to the public.

**Q:** Will the event be live streamed?

**A:** Response to this question was received after the 9/21/21 PTO meeting date:

*The following will be live streamed on the day of the event and information will be sent out via social media:*

- Actual ribbon cutting event (outside in the front of the school)
- Student speeches
- Message from Board President, Nikki Rivera, and project manager for the construction project, Jay Darkey

### Comprehensive Planning Goals

- Sapphire and Schoology are working to be linked for improved connection.
- PTO Bi-Laws will be reviewed and rewritten to better reflect the new comprehensive planning goals. Student government can be connected to assist this project.

- Three years remain for comprehensive planning goals to be written. These goals incorporate:
  1. DEI – how to make learning equitable for all.
    - a. Last year, Nitrauer DEI discussed changing Spring Fest to Cultural Fest.
  2. Mental health goals
    - a. Discussions of standardizing homework and grading across the district to control how many assignments are given for each grade level.
    - b. Discussing adding 'homework free weekends' once per marking period.
    - c. Helping to bridge the gap by rethinking the way things are graded.
  3. Life Ready graduate programs.
    - a. Typing courses are being discussed beginning at Elementary levels.
  4. MTSS- Multi Tied Systems of Support

**Q:** What is the best manner in which to obtain specifics regarding DEI/ comprehensive planning/ MTSS/ Mental Health Supports/ Life Ready Graduates information?

**A:** *Response to this question was received after the 9/21/21 PTO meeting date:*

- *The information is posted in a variety of places on the district website and school webpages.*
- *The information will be put together into slides and sent to SLAC members as a resource for sharing with the PTO's.*

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Fall Fest:** Maggie Foley

- Fall Fest needs a chairperson in order to run. Please contact Maggie or Angie (NitrauerPTOVolunteer@gmail.com), if interested.
- 5:00-7:00pm a fire truck will move with the costumed students and families through the neighborhood.

#### **Race for Education:** Diana H. & Nancy I.

- The race date will be November 3rd.
- A traditional letter and a virtual message with a link to follow will be sent out October 4th. Families may follow the link to enter a student's name and make donations online. The link will also be posted on the private PTO FaceBook group.
- A goal of \$15K- \$25K has been set
- \$22K were raised in 2018.
- Q: How can the donation registration information be shared? A: The link can be shared via social media, email or text. The letter can be reprinted and mailed.
- People can also donate after the race date.

**Spirit Wear:** Alex Massie

- Spirit wear sale will be November 15th- 29th.
- This year's sale will include: t-shirts, long sleeved t-shirts and hoodies.
- Nitrauer families may donate gently used spirit wear to be washed and re-distributed by the school, as needed. Jenine N. will arrange for the clothes to be washed and organized for redistribution.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Open Committee Positions:** Angela Salabsky

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Fall Fest*              | - Games Day              |
| - President Understudy*   | - Talent Show Assistant  |
| - Laminating*             | - Project Night: Student |
| - Holiday Pottery*        | Science, Art, and Report |
| - Bus Driver Appreciation | Projects                 |

*\*Chair position has been filled since the 9/21/2021 PTO meeting date. Volunteers are still needed for all events. Please contact [NitrauerPTOVolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:NitrauerPTOVolunteer@gmail.com) for more information and visit [www.NitrauerPTO.org](http://www.NitrauerPTO.org) for event descriptions.*

**New Business:** None

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm**

# Nitrauer PTO Treasurer's Report

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September 21, 2021

Banking activity since May 18, 2021:

**for FY ending June 30, 2021**

- ◇ 5/19/21 – Check #4951 for **\$695.38** written to Nitrauer Elementary School for commitment of funding toner for color printer (Budget line item “**Gift to Nitrauer**”)
- ◇ 6/02/21 – Check #4952 for **\$19.45** written to Ali Grafenstine for reimbursement of year end popsicles (Budget line item “**Field Days**”)
- ◇ 6/02/21 – Check #4953 for **\$11.97** written to Aimee Fisher for reimbursement of Safety Patrol year end popsicles (Budget line item “**Safety Patrol**”)
- ◇ 6/10/21 – Check # 4954 for **\$250.00** written to Amy Baumann for reimbursement of Year End Teacher/Staff Lunch (Budget line items “**Teacher Appreciation Lunch**” and “**Staff Appreciation**”)

**for FY July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022**

- ◇ 9/02/21 – Check #4955 for **\$227.90** written to Alexandra Massie for reimbursement of QuickBooks renewal (Budget line item “**QuickBooks**”)
- ◇ 9/14/21 – Check #4957 for **\$720.00** written to Cherry Hill Orchards for upcoming Kindergarten Field (Budget line item “**Field Trips**”)

Current Account Balances as of 9/21/21:

<b>Checking</b>	<b>\$ 3,450.36</b>
<b>Savings</b>	<b>\$ 15,001.99</b>

Other news:

- ◇ The PTO has delayed its annual Teacher/Staff donation. With RFE scheduled for this November, rather than giving \$50/\$25 at the beginning of the year, we chose to wait until December to see if the budget could manage \$100/\$50.

Email account for direct contact to PTO Treasurer is: [nitrauerptotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:nitrauerptotreasurer@gmail.com)

*Attachment: 2 of 2*

**Superintendent's Lay Advisory Council Meeting**

**September 20, 2021**

**Minutes**

Members:

Dr. Robin Felty, Superintendent  
Meghan Eckert (MS), Chairperson  
Caryl Buffa (HS), Secretary  
Marissa Kmiec (HS)  
Elizabeth O'Brien (HS)  
Jill Speizer (HS)  
Moniqua Acosta (MS)  
Carrie Evans (MS)  
Sharee Livingston Anderson (MS)  
Jessica Kahler (LRIS)  
Steve Kemper (MS)  
Rosamund Mische John (LRIS)  
Kim Romano (LRIS)  
Dan Nyiri (Brecht)  
Jadie Catania (Bucher)  
Allyson Gibson (Bucher)  
Jackie Wachinski (Bucher)  
Jenine Nicholas (Nitrauer)  
Nancy Izquieta (Nitrauer)  
Stephanie Ruth (Nitrauer)  
Carolyn Garneau (Reidenbaugh)  
Melissa Grosh (Reidenbaugh)

Members Absent:

Renee Suydam (HS)  
Julia Kamanda (Brecht)  
Jill Milton (Brecht)  
Kisha Johnson (Neff)  
Denise Rosario (Neff)  
Meredith Steidler (Neff)  
Meghan Keller (Reidenbaugh)  
Lauren Becker (Schaeffer)



Becky Trayers (Schaeffer)

Guests: none

Call to Order

- Meeting began 6:30 pm.

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## I. Welcome and Introductions

## II. Minutes from May 2021 approved

## III. Safety Planning

- New to SLAC
- Filters – air particles
- Chemicals used for cleaning
- Health & Safety Plan on mtwp.net
- Central repository for vaccination records
  - For employees
  - Students who are vaccinated, info should go to school nurse
  - Only Dept of Health can do contact tracing per guidelines 21-22
  - Families have not been notified even though reported
  - Health Coordinator
- Schools can issue exclusion only Dept Health can issue quarantine
- Contact tracing and school notifications without more information are not well received.
  - For families with multiple children it would be helpful to know which child is being contacted
  - Possible flow chart for parents to know what to do
  - Communicate with principals if need admin excuse for exposure; case by case
  - Missed instruction is more disturbing than absences, so is district considering remote instruction
  - Some teachers may upload instructional videos, good practice when students are out
- Small school (elementary under 500), Large (LRIS, MS, HS)
  - 5% of students and staff DOH can close for cleaning
  - Learning loss last year was great
  - Dept of Health goal to keep kids in school
- Not mandating all staff to be vaccinated
- If parents have questions ask the nurse and then ask principals
- Mask breaks aren't consistent – mandating it now
  - Reach out to teacher and then principal if in elementary level

#### IV. Celebrating the New Middle School

- Dr Felty showed the progression
- Ribbon Cutting Oct 19 6-7:30
- HS speakers
- Student lead tours
- Everyone welcome

#### V. District Focus Areas/Initiatives 22021/2022

- Comprehensive Planning
  - Future, Present, Past
  - Have extra year
  - Six year strategic plan, we are in 3<sup>rd</sup> year
  - District level goals have to align with school goals
  - Diversity Equity and Inclusion
    - [www.mtwp.net](http://www.mtwp.net), District Tab
- North Star & DEI
  - Creating an inclusive learning environment where all students and staff feel a sense of belonging
  - Each school has a DEI team and district level team
- Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
- Social-Emotional Learning/Mental Health Supports
- Life Ready Graduates
  - Career Ready Lancaster!
  - <https://careerreadylancaster.com/career-exploration/high-five/>
  - High 5 Elements
  - Lancaster County Workforce Development Board

#### VI. PTO Sharing – Reflections & Questions

- Only 3 FID days are allowed per school year
- Standardizing homework – issues of Math homework for correctness and not completion.
- Eliminated variety in grading, looking for clarification of grading changes
- Proficient vs Non-Proficient grades
- Amount of assignments in each weighted assessments
- How many FID days does District have available to use

- Bus runs – streamlining? HS 6:30 pickup 3:40 dropoff
- New plan with Brightbill coming based on recent survey
- Scaffolding returning in math – open note/open book tests to nothing, new learning curve. How to get them back
- Homework free weekend once per marking period; done to social/emotional – to alleviate stress. Looks positive but can it be more steps.
- Typing courses to elementary level, follow up
- Can teachers use Sapphire as it means to be, \* are a zero, andj assignment aren't even due yet
- Sapphire isn't syncing well with Schoology
- Can Schoology have a snapshot
- PTO meetings are during working business hours, is that the time to provide a Skype option for more involvement. Record version for parents to watch later
- AP & Honors summer assignments not graded are not equitable to students who did the work
- Add tour of engineering behind landscaping for Middle School
- PTO Bylaws are old – reflect focus of the district, where is a good place to add it
- Gym class – can we focus on mental/social aspect in elementary
- Can we bring Health into earlier grades
- Field trips will return as appropriate

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#### Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 8:51 PM, without a motion
- Remaining 2021-22 Meetings

11/8

5/9

1/10

3/14