**Meeting called to order 6:21 pm.**

**Candice Duncan introduced all the PTO eboard officers.**

**Prayer by PTO Principal Joy.**

**Quorum verified by Bev Berndt and Candice Duncan.**

**Minutes from the May 14, 2019 meeting reviewed and approved with three corrections.**

**Financial Report by former treasurer Allyson Green. Financial report reviewed and approved with minor corrections.**

**State of the School Address by Principal:**

Principal Joy provided an update on the state of the school.

* 1. Back to school nights were successful, with good parent feedback.
  2. Got grant for plants, looking for parent volunteers from 10:45 am – 4:45 pm on 10/18 to do plantings and minor repairs, opportunity to get your 5 credit hours for this quarter.
  3. Boys basketball team competitively ranked (#4) in beltway ranking.
  4. Girls basketball team won tournament in NY.
  5. Ms. Nolte graciously volunteered to help do safety patrol this year. She is out in mornings with vest, etc.
  6. Found backup copy of library system for 17,000 volumes and textbooks that Ms. Noriko made her last week in school. Looking into moving library from downstairs to old ESL room across from 6th grade room. Need help and ideas on doing it. Tumbling that was in ESL room will be moving to downstairs.
  7. New sewage injector pump under kindergarten, accidentally pumped it dry and sewer gas came in room today. Getting fixed tonight.

**State of New Hope Academy – the Gambia:**

The Gambia Update:

* 1. 1st graduating class – 12 students graduated. Nutrition program made huge difference. Uses jolly phonics, all are able to read (graduates).
  2. Looking for uniform pants donations.
  3. Heather is going to Africa next week.
  4. Bev and Heather organizing spring break trip to the Gambia for families.
  5. Continuing solar cookers for the Gambia. Did 20 cookers last year.
  6. Need to plan in December for Spring Break trip, if interested in going on trip, please see Bev or Heather. Bev does senior trip volunteers, Heather does preschool trip volunteers.

**Parent Spotlight:**

Candice explained the video could not be set up this meeting, asked for feedback on whether to (1) continue video spotlights, (2) change to spotlighting New Hope parents, or (3) discontinue. Parent suggested doing 1 and 2. If interested in nominating parent for spotlight in future PTO meeting, please email info on parent to PTO email.

**Old Business:**

1. 2018-2019 year in review document. Went over doc, mentioned if want to do Spring Fair this year, will need parent committee to work on planning it.
2. Yearbook/Photo fees. The fee was put in place in last school year, was supposed to have been implemented in summer to be included with family enrollment package, unfortunately prior financial staff did not complete action. The fee is set for this year and cannot be changed at this time. Candice got 5 emails asking for it to be optional, she will bring to BOD to consider for next year. The fee covers electronic student pictures, paper and electronic yearbook, and electronic class photo.
3. Volunteer opportunities. See short list of possible ways to get credit hours. If have questions about credit hours, please see the front office or email the PTO email. Can do all 20 hours in first quarter and will count for year’s total hours. Some classrooms are tracking hours for their parents, working with business office to track, may do sheet that can be dropped in box, may do software to track hours, teachers right now are first line to verify. Q – Is this comprehensive list? (No). Q - If cannot do 5 hrs in the 1st quarter, but can do extra hours during the 2nd quarter, can the $125 fee be reimbursed? (Principal Joy said decision did not include extra hours in later quarters resulting in reimbursement). Q - Can special circumstance families – single moms, grandparents – get some consideration for this requirement? (Principal Joy said grandparents, other relatives, or friends can earn for family, and some activities can be remote – such as cutting valentines for teacher at home).

**New Business:**

1. Harvest Festival, Oct 26 (3-7pm) – teachers will have separate stations, need help with set up, decoration, breaking up, sign up sheet for the harvest festival. Aim is for parents to get advance warning of future events so they can plan to help out/earn hours. Individual teachers will also be asking for parents to help man tables, earn hours that way. Mr Barnard (5th grade parent) volunteered to do the set-up, fire, and break down of bonfire and smores. PTO will supply smores stuff. Bonfire will be 4-6 pm.
2. Career Day, Nov 15 – please sign up to participate. Categories are STEM, Trade, Arts (musician, theater), and Law (firemen, policemen, military, paramedic). If you work in one of those groups or have someone you know who is in one of those fields, and wish to present, please sign up. The event will be 9 - 11 am for the lower level, and 1:30 - 3:30pm for the upper level. Try to be there all day so both lower and upper classes can talk to you. Will be more information in FYI.
3. Safety Patrol (2019-2020 school year) – see Principal Joy’s address.
4. Survey Results – went over “food at meetings” survey. Based on results, PTO is sticking with providing pizza.

**Open Floor**

1. Bev – first Friday in December New Hope holds holiday bazaar. Dec 6 is the date for this year. Send kids in with money to buy gifts if desired, it is a fundraiser for The Gambia, each class has 30 minutes to do shopping.
2. Dolores asked for PTO help to plan events to commemorate NHA’s 30th anniversary (2021). Need to plan this year. Helping to plan can earn credit hours.
3. If you have question, concern, suggestion, please bring it to the PTO board. Our role is to help the school, we want to do so.
4. Need help monetizing New Hope’s Korean curriculum for elementary school. Profits from sales would be shared with New Hope. Marketing expertise is really needed. Hours would be signed off by Principal Joy or Dr. Marshall.
5. Principal Joy asked how to submit request to PTO for funding – teachers can use link that is still active on PTO website.
6. Transportation form – Ms. Davis asked Fiona to pass out during back to school nights – there was a lot of interest. Parents asked for update about any follow up during next PTO meeting.
7. Babysitters – 2-3 high school students and one adult should be on call. Heather’s daughter is doing it (two parents also helped). Kids go down to music room or gym to play. Homework pass is for K-5 homework tonight only.
8. Parking lot lighting is not turning on when it gets dark right now. Need to check the timer and make sure it turns on at dusk. Principal Joy will follow up on that.
9. Post meeting suggestion - How about giving out/holding dress down days instead of giving out homework passes for K-5 students whose parents attended the meeting? OR maybe hold dress down event for class with the most parent attendees at PTO meeting?

**Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.**