



There was a meeting of the Friends of North Syracuse Early Education, Inc. on October 19, 2017 at Main Street School.

**Attendance:** Shari Doherty, Janet Gonçalves, Trisha Harp, Jennifer Higgs, Dawn Hussein, Jessica Kurpiewski, Linda Kurpiewski, Sara MacMartin, Danielle O'Brien, Catherine Podolak, and Kate Zacharek. Special guest in attendance was Jenn Slusser.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm.

Kate Zacharek made the motion to approve the minutes from September 21, 2017 meeting. Sara MacMartin seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**\*Treasurer's Report:** There is currently \$47,883.24 on deposit with \$19,794.01 tied up with encumbered funds and budget commitments and \$28,089.23 in dispensable funds. The expenses for the month totaled \$4,271.14. Income for the month totaled \$4,074.45. Jennifer Higgs made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and prepared. Linda Kurpiewski seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

\*Jennifer Higgs made the motion to appoint Danielle O'Brien a board member of the Friends of the North Syracuse Early Education Program. Kate Zacharek seconded the motion and the motion was carried out unanimously.

**\*Wish Requests:** Jenn Slusser has requested light, musical cause and effect materials and toys with an adapted switch capability. Portable CD player with radio, Piano Puppy, Gumball Switches (set of 5), Music and Light Caterpillar, Butterfly and Bump N Bubbles Robot, LED Fan, and three plush toys for a total of \$794.65 plus shipping.

-The toys and materials will support students with physical limitations as well as visual impairments with the following key learning activities:

- ~Understanding cause and effect
- ~Sharing when playing with a peer
- ~Increasing visual tracking
- ~Improve graded control to activate the switches
- ~Increase visual and auditory attention

-The goal of the materials is to allow accessibility for all children to successfully activate toys using adapted switches. The materials will be stored in the OT department and will need to be signed out. It was put to the rubric and was unanimously approved by all board members.

Eight easels: Book fair and PTO to cover cost of five of the easels, Kate Zacharek to cover the cost of one art easel. Friends of NSEEP and Main Street PTO will split the cost of the other two easels.

Writing Table: this item is being put on hold for the time being, until further notice.

Professional Development for 11/7: A mindful yoga workshop for teachers, students, and therapists. The request for the yoga workshop was put to the rubric and was unanimously approved by all members of the board.

Washer and Dryer Combo from Lowes: The washer and dryer will be delivered as soon as October 22 and Lowes has donated a laundry basket filled with fragrance free laundry detergent. Jennifer Higgs will be picking that up in the next week. This washer and dryer will be of great value to the administration at NSEEP to aid in cleaning the soiled clothing,

smocks, blankets and toys the children use daily. The washer and dryer that were replaced were over 35 years old. The approval of the purchase of the washer and dryer was done prior to the board meeting via email.

**\*Fall Fundraiser Ideas:** Delta Sonic Tickets for \$12.00 plus with every ticket sold you receive a \$5.00 gift card and the tickets can be used for car washes or getting your car detailed. FNSEEP receives 50% of the sales and all the tickets are valid at all the Sonic 29 locations and they never expire. All orders can receive a gift box. The gift cards do have an expiration date of 60 days after issue date. Fundraiser ends on November 27, 2017 so that they will arrive in time for the Christmas holiday.

The quilts are going to be used at the Therapy Ball as a silent auction items and the totes will be used as ticket raffles for the Therapy Ball.

**\*Lowes Giving Program:** Every year Lowes takes part in a program called Lowes Heroes. They pick a business to support and then employees come in and do the entire project. Each of the five stores in the area contribute between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to help with the upgrade at the business they select. However, there are a few concerns about a project as large as this:

- ~will the district let Lowes modify the building in summer/fall 2018
- ~The building will have to be open 1-2 weekends to get the work done

If Main Street is picked for the upgrade what areas would benefit the most from the upgrade?

- ~the stage in the gym?
- ~the toy library?
- ~the cafeteria?

**\*School News:** Part of the snack room off the cafeteria is going to be used to build an adult bathroom. Helping to eliminate traffic from going to the nurse's office all the time.

~Currently there are 7 children that are not mobile in the building and the stage, at the moment, is not wheel chair accessible. A ramp is being created to make the stage wheel chair accessible.

~Main Street is moving forward with the electronic sign that will be going out in the front of the Main Street Building. A tree is going to be removed and a brick holder will be put in place to hold the sign. The sign will be added from supplemental funds donated by Al Stirpe.

~A few staff members will be returning to Albany in the next week to discuss funding challenges that the 44/10s are facing.

**\*Open Discussion:** Janet Gonçalves will be printing flyers for the 5 Below fundraiser to use during the Thanksgiving holiday. CD rates will be discussed at the November Friends meeting.

Sara MacMartin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kate Zacharek seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously at 8:05 pm.

The next meeting will be held on November 9, 2017 at 6:30 pm at Main Street School.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Harp