



# Big Red PTO

NAHS Media Center  
May 30, 2018 • 7 pm

## Attendees:

- Co-Presidents: Sharon Ruddy & Mary Blake
- Vice President: Bonnie O'Neill
- Secretary: Stacey Nassaney
- Parents: Jean Bullock, Kathryn Carmichael
- Administration: Principal Haviland

## Updates / New Business from Administration Team:

- Principal Haviland shared:
  - ✓ *Graduation*: It will be the 1<sup>st</sup> outdoor graduation on the turf field. Pictures will be taken elsewhere than on the field, and flower pots are being placed near the lobby's main entrance, near outdoor stairwell, sitting area and flagpole.
  - ✓ *Special Education*: Special Olympics was a big success. Attleboro asked Kyle Johnson's family to attend to help kick off the ceremony to start the games. Also, planting is going to be an ongoing learning activity for our special education students.
  - ✓ *SHINE*: He is meeting with the Educational Coordinator, Jessika Zequeira, for the SHINE Initiative in June. They plan to discuss items such as mindfulness and stress relief strategies. We want to provide tools and strategies about how to cope with stress and may mention it and/or have tools available during Open House. They are based out of our geographical area and they are grant funded.
- PTO Events for Fall 2018:
  - ✓ *Freshman Step-Up Day*: It is on Thursday, August 16.
  - ✓ *Open House*: It is on Wednesday, September 26.
    - "PTO Cares" or "PTO Supports"... We discussed ways the PTO can assist the NAHS community and it was discussed that we should come up with an objective or plan to assist with the care and well-being for education kids and parents on decision-making by facilitating and leading workshops and/or programs. It would be ideal to get a team of people to assist with a potential wellness program. For instance, ask a first responder, parents who are doctors and/or nurses, etc. to facilitate or introduce a topic for a PTO-sponsored wellness program.

*continued*

### **Updates / New Business from Administration Team (continued):**

- PTO Events for Fall 2018 (continued):
  - ✓ *Nurse Snack Drive*: It take place in September.
  - ✓ *Reality Check Day*: It is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, which is the same day as Open House. Since the Class of 2019 didn't have the program in spring, it will be provided during the fall of their senior year. Kendel will be reaching out for volunteers to assist.
  - ✓ *Brainstorming PTO Mission Statement*: We agreed that a mission statement will help to provide focus and guidance for the group. As we see how the PTO can best assist the NAHS community, this piece will become clearer. We discussed engaging new attendees in the fall to assist with this effort. Stacey said she could provide sample mission statements from other PTOs in town to start the process.
  - ✓ *501(c)(3)*: The concerns discussed were the expense to become this type of organization based on the few active members. It requires bylaws and other paperwork to be filed annually. In the meantime, the Big Red PTO funds are managed by the School Department. Any funds raised need to directly benefit students. The Stop & Shop A+ Rewards program provides funds directly to the Big Red PTO.
  - ✓ *Election of PTO Board 2018-2019*: We discussed postponing elections until the fall, but opted to proceed in the spring for the purpose of ensuring we had leadership in place for the 1<sup>st</sup> PTO meeting with new members. After nominations and voting, Sharon Ruddy and Mary Blake were re-elected as Co-Presidents, Bonnie O'Neill was re-elected as Vice President and Jean Bullock was newly elected as Vice President to create a "Co-Vice President" position for the 2018-2019 school year. Stacey Nassaney was re-elected as Secretary.

### **Old Business:**

- Recap of Teacher Appreciation Grab n Go breakfast - The faculty and staff greatly appreciated the items offered. We want to provide more warm items for next time.
- Comments on "If They Had Known" video at Attleboro High School – Jean attended and said there were about 90 people in attendance. The seniors and juniors at AHS had seen it in conjunction with their prom day. The

### **Old Business (continued):**

- “If They Had Known” (continued): The Principal spoke 10 mins prior and 10 mins after the viewing to share how he wants to change the “party culture”. The video was good but more reinforcement is needed. It is geared towards ages 14-26 and shows that kids don’t want to call for help even if it’s a matter of life/death. Initially, we had discussed hosting this viewing in the fall, but we opted to proceed with a seeking a program about vaping as it’s a more prevalent issue. Principal Haviland is going to talk with some people to get some names of possible programs. Also, he shared the success of Arlington High School with its students and how it shares information with students and the community.

**Next Meeting is TBD.** We opted not to meet in June due to the end of year activities and we need time to hear back from Principal Haviland about a potential PTO-sponsored program in the fall. The Open House would have been our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting date, but we will not have a meeting. Per last fall, we will be on hand with the Stop and Shop A+ Rewards program information and to collect snacks for the nurses. We discussed aiming for the potential vaping program to occur in mid-October, but it depends on what we hear back from Principal Haviland on which program to seek.