

Noelani PTA minutes

November 12, 2020

Zoom Recording: Mr. Gusman's YouTube channel- [Noelani PTA Meeting 11-12-2020](#)

Call to order by PTA President Maria Su at 6:00 pm.

Present: Maria Su, Bryan Gusman, Stanford Togashi, Jen Dacumos, and Lorelei Saito, and almost 20 Noelani parents/ PTA members

Minutes of previous meeting approved by consensus.

Principal's Report:

1. **Reopening of school:** School is in the second week of phase 3 (kindergarten and 5th grade return to campus). The slow phase in w/ limited amount of students allows for plans to be tested, revised, and modified for improvement. One example is linking of system between the Healthroom and Office for what happens when a student is absent due to illness. Return to school policy: Wait 10 days, doctor clearance, or negative Covid test. Fever free for 24 hours w/out medication. Healthroom nurse will give clearance. Parents need to call the office if a student is absent. Office will follow up if a call is not received. First and fourth will return next week in A/B cohorts. Start time is the same. Mixing of grade levels will be managed by time slots for each grade level when reporting to classrooms.

Nov. 16: Email will be sent home regarding parents' decision to keep student on campus, or switch to learning from home (distance learning). Decision will run for the entire second semester. Decisions are due on December 4, Friday.

-Distance learning students want to return to campus which will impact the current numbers on campus. This may result in younger grades going to a A/B cohort schedule.

Question from PTA member: Can school limit the amount of students (who initially opted for full distance learning) in the DL cohort who want to return to school? Studies suggest the impact of limited time on campus is most damaging to younger students.

Mr. Gusman's response: Unfortunately, he cannot restrict a student's decision to return to campus. He understands this will ultimately put families who committed earlier in the school year in a tough situation. However, he is committed to keeping the school community safe.

2. **Acellus:** 27% of Noelani students are on this program. There has been lots of negative publicity around this program in the local news. Teachers are trying to put together packets of work to address some of the concerns regarding the program's curriculum. The goal is to have this online program be a smaller part of the student's curriculum.

Example: for math, students can do the Noelani math packet instead of the math unit on Acellus.

-School appreciates the community's flexibility and support.

-A+ Program: Is on! Staffing continues to be a challenge because of HR procedures. In addition to the fact that HR is not fully staffed. This is a barrier in getting the staff needed to accommodate the numbers. Contact Mr. Fukushima at aplus@nes.k12.hi.us

Note: Other options for after school care: Japanese school and Manoa Valley Church

- 3. Changes to campus:** Part of 5th grade gift: murals on A and B buildings. Mr. Gusman is encouraging parents to take a look at the murals when your child is on campus.
Question from PTA Board: Please clarify parent access to campus.
Mr. Gusman's response: Parents who need to walk their child to class, and pick up in the afternoon, may view the murals from the open field area. Parents are not allowed on campus at random times during the school day (unless cleared by office).
- 4. Care Package to Partnerschool in Japan:** Mahalo to PTA for contributing items to box to be sent to Sakaimachi school. Mr. Gusman met w/ school principal (who is thrilled to be working w/ Noelani), Mayor of Sakaimachi, and the head of their Board of Education. Excited for this global partnership.

Treasurer's Report:

Account Balance: \$252,805.43

Checking: \$229,048.29

Savings: \$21,743.31

Free Business Checking: \$2,013.83

Income:

Foodland: \$3,707.00

Give Aloha: \$877.49

PTA Dues (membership): \$305.00

Bank Interest: .29

Expenditures:

Mana Maoli (Music teacher): \$14,934.06

Noelani postage: \$1,000.00

Mural-phase 2: \$3,500.00

Website: \$171.68

Bank fees: \$48.75

Unfinished Business

1. E-Newsletter: first newsletter was sent via Mr. Gusman to Noelani community. Next newsletter would be introduction of main committee chairs, then special feature of craft fair, then introduction of other committee chairs. Please let PTA know if there are other ideas for articles, videos, pictures.
2. General Meeting: Usually we have three a year. Open House, Song Fest, and May Fair. Push general meeting to January. Show video of events: Halloween costume contest, craft fair. Thinking of doing mask designing contest and announce winner at the General Meeting.
3. Giftcard (spirit card): Manoa Elementary School sells these cards to raise money. Looking for a parent volunteer to head this fundraising. Dana Senaha shared that the \$1 discount at Coffee Bean & Tea leaf is a real selling point!
Question from PTA member: What if someone just wants to donate money to the school instead of participating in a fundraiser?
PTA response: Donations are always welcome. Purpose of PTA was to raise money to support the school. It is also a way to boost faculty/ staff moral, bring community together, and create a sense of 'ohana.
4. GoFundMe donation for Christianson family: balance was \$8,300
5. Halloween Virtual Contest: Thank you to Lisa Tulchin for creating the website in less than a week! We received more than 30 posts/ entries (pictures and videos)

New Business

1. **Other fundraising opportunities: Panda Express-** set up a day and location (create flyers to distribute to Noelani families and friends), a portion of sales will go to PTA. Lisa Imai is willing to move forward w/ organizing this for the school. The King Street location is closest to Manoa. Will target January weekend (preferably on a Saturday). Lisa also looking into Raising Canes.
2. **Craft Fair:** This year we are trying to maintain partnerships w/ vendors and community businesses. Goal is to create community rather than fundraising. Vendors are appreciative. Dani is collecting ideas for next year. We do have a special designed Noelani canvas bag for fundraising. Grateful to Dani and the committee in organizing and planning. Maybe a combination of in person and virtual craft fair next year.

Committee Reports

1. **By Laws:** Looking at decreasing some of our bank fees which are a lot for a non-profit. Dani looking into investment opportunities. Possibly adding a statement to the By Laws about this.
2. **T-shirts:** Printing is done and will be distributed by homeroom (approved by Mr. Gusman).
3. **Box Tops:** Our goal for the school year is \$200. Participation has declined. Digital submissions are at \$100.70, collected \$29.70 for hard copy Box Tops. Currently at 130.00.
4. **Nomination Chair:** Still need someone to chair.
5. **Membership:** Mahalo to Ryan for organizing and rallying community to join. The Give Aloha campaign has helped increase membership numbers. Thank you letter sent to Foodland. We have 29 new members w/ total dues collected at \$1071.00. Right now we have current total at- \$5,428.00.. This does not include Foodland's contribution.
6. **Virtual facemask design contest:** Contest for student designs. Winner will receive their design on a mask. May ask teachers to vote on the best mask. Lorelei will check w/ Bellamann.
7. **Website:** Some updates added to the website based on suggestions.

Mahalo to Lisa T., and Lisa I. for keeping Facebook and website updated w/ current information.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 10, 2020, 6:00-7:00 pm
-Zoom link (created and hosted by Stanford) to be sent by Principal Gusman to Noelani community.

Meeting adjourned by Maria Su at 7:10 pm.