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NEF 2005 in Review

The Newburyport Education Foundation launched 2005 with several new board members and a new fundraising event.

New Board members

Fundraisers

- Spelling Bee
- Gala
- Teacher Tributes
- TZ Tees + Bumblebee
- Alumni

Allocation focus

- Science Labs

Misc

- NYT

On 10 February the NEF kicked off the year with its very successful and highly profitable first annual *Step Up and Spell Adult Team Spelling Bee*. With 38 teams competing to win the "Eddie" trophy, NEF's own officer and founding member, Cindy Johnson and her teammates on the "Mod Squad". Also in February, the Banknorth made a \$5000 gift to the NEF.

In March, the NEF announced the 2005 Ed Award winners, Bob McLellan and Mike Strem, for their years of service and support to the Newburyport Public Schools. Their awards were presented in April at the Ed Award Gala where dining and dancing were enjoyed by all. Also in April, The Provident Bank, the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank and the Institution for Savings all paid out their second installments of their three-year pledge.

In May, the NEF held the Teacher Tribute drive to coincide with Teacher Appreciation week throughout the school system. Many parents honored special teachers with generous donations to the NEF.

June brought graduation and with it, an attempt to give parents a chance to leave their student's legacy through the "Save Your Seat" program. Parents could "buy" a chair in the NHS auditorium and have their student's name on a plaque on the chair arm.

The NEF got off to a good start with the school year. The

science labs at the Nock Middle School were named our top focus and the case statement was written and distributed to board members as well as members of the community. September also saw the re-launching of the Alumni Engagement committee with former NHS principal John Elwell joining the NEF and being nominated for vice president for the 2006 year. In addition to Mr. Elwell, the 2006 slate passed with seven new members to our board.

In October, the NHS Class of 1942 had their reunion where they voted to raise money to name a room at the high school, much like the Class of 1938 before them.

Our first grant to the Nock science labs came in November with a \$61k grant from the Mary Alice Arakelian Foundation. Other monies were being solicited from the Newburyport business community through a compact committee comprised of board members from the NEF and the NEBC specifically for the Nock labs and were very successful.

The biggest news for the year came in December when Mark Welch and other trustees of the Institution for Savings came to the December School Committee meeting to announce that not only would they give \$500k to fund the renovations for the Nock science labs but would also pledge an additional \$100k over ten years to provide for maintenance of the labs, guest speakers and faculty training and enrichment. With this amazing gift, the NEF will attempt to renovate the labs a full year early.

Because of the Institution for Savings pledge, the NEF was able to disburse funds for other needs in the Newburyport Public Schools. At the final meeting of 2006, the NEF board voted to give \$25k to the schools for technology enhancements throughout the system and \$10k to fund field trips for elementary classes in and around Newburyport for community-based lessons.

The NEF ended 2005 with a joint fundraiser with TZ Tees and the Bumblebee market where 20% of TZ Tee sales and 10% of all other Bumblebee sales were donated to the NEF. TZ Tees has a permanent display of all of their merchandise at the Bumblebee and 20% of sales always go to the NEF.

