Northpoint Elementary PTO – April 8, 2019

Welcome

by Andy Keumpel (PTO Co-President) at 6:35 in Media Center (Co-President Lisa Partyka outside with kids on playground and open gym).

PTO Meeting Agenda handout, Meeting Minutes handout and Budget handout

Introductions

PTO Board introductions, School Board Representative Amy Hennen, Colleen Pederson – Director of Community Ed, Principal Judi Kahoun, Teacher liaison Tammy Saladis, Teacher liaison Kari Walton, approximately 3 other parents

Presentations

* **Principal Kahoun**
  + Kids go outside for recess and often phy. ed. with nice weather
  + Exciting and fun focus this year on purpose-based learning. Students discover and try to solve real world problems, with a focus on empathy and making the world a better place. The new STEM labs are getting used a lot.
  + Grade level observations: The 4th graders last week – they were so busy! They either were too busy to talk, couldn’t stop talking! They were so excited about what they were working on. 3rd grade was working on mummies and how they’re preserved, and making a connection with preserving food. Kindergarten had a recent visit from the bear lady from Ely, in their bear unit. There is a huge map of MN in the Media Center that the kids get to visit. 2nd Grade is having parent volunteers talk weekly about the business world for Junior Achievement.
  + The last round of Power Hour is going again, which the kids love.
  + Standardized assessments coming up. Teachers thinking of grouping and the best way to do it, and it will be spread out over 3 days for 3rd and 4th graders.
* **Teacher Liason Kari Walton**
* It’s a busy and exciting time of year! Tests, track and field, and field trips!
* **School Board Representative Amy Hennen**
* Facilities – bids for outdoor work to be ready for fall, HS, NSC turf, baseball fields, concessions, bathrooms; budget planning; meeting tomorrow night (can be found online)
* **Colleen Peterson (Director of Community Education)** – **Safety and Security**
* Emergency can take many forms – example of possible gas leak at Woodcrest and students evacuated. Turned out not to be a gas leak, but we learned what to do differently if needed to evacuate and relocate. There are plans in place for Northpoint in case there needed to be an evacuation and relocation, but not something we drill.
* 5 lockdown drills, 5 fire drills, 1 severe weather drill (tornado supposed to be Thursday)
* Active shooter very unlikely but training and plan in place. Containment is more likely – all outside doors locked (site containment). There could also be a classroom containment.
* Raptor visitor management system rolled out this year, after a recommendation from review. All visitors screened against national sex offender database (First we check that it’s actually that person. If positive identification, then access to students is screened by principal and restricted for other students.)
* Secure entrances in each of our offices
  + - We want inviting and safe environment. Allows for credentialing (visitor pass) and staff person is allowing access. If lockdown button is pushed, doors are locked, some barriers are created, like between main hallway and office and learning pods, and locked in (or out) of office.
    - Our school district is much further along than many others, like outside doors locked except for main doors. And doors can be monitored on video, and system telling who is coming going, if a door is propped open, etc. The lockdown button also calls 911.
* The safety and security district team meets on a weekly basis. Even without a safety and security grant that they applied for, the district moved forward with many projects this year, like Raptor and secure offices.
* 6:30am to 6:00pm offices are staffed, providing full day hours for safe and inviting entrance.
* Pilot program tested at Centerview and Westwood – teachers can use their phone or computer and check-in a student as present, or identify a missing student. Another teacher could mark having a student pulled safely into their room, all in real time. This makes it faster for everyone to confirm location of all students, including law enforcement trying to enter.
* Principal Kahoun add that there was a lockdown drill last week. There are multiple locked barriers including the hallway to pods, the pods themselves, and classrooms. If in hallway or Media Center, students can go in staff offices or staff bathrooms if not able to get back in pod. After every drill, key staff follow up on how it went and have reminders for future drills or situations.
* **Questions**
* How are parents notified if something happens?
* Colleen: You’ll hear from the school district as quickly as they can get information together, with specifics on the plan if there is relocation. Principal Kahoun and the staff will be focused solely on caring for students.
* How are students told about lockdown?
* Tammy Saladis: We tell students that we practice drills to keep everyone safe and they don’t ask too many questions. The older kids ask more questions, but teachers give practical, calmer scenarios and keep focus on safety.
* Colleen – An active shooter is still very rare. Students are being prepared for many possible scenarios, and active shooters are not talked about with K-4 students.
* Colleen – For a site containment, students may not know. They just don’t go outside. In the recent Westwood situation, staff did eventually tell students what was happening so that they knew. Students safety is always number one, and then factual, prompt communication. There can be data privacy issues, so situation information is shared appropriately and accordingly.
* **Panther Foundation**
  + Colleen Pederson is also the executive director of the Foundation, and Marla Sciara (Northpoint parent) is a chairperson
  + 1.7 million raised since 2004 for school district projects, with $600,000 over two years being it’s biggest project yet
  + It exists to support SLP schools. If the district decides it can’t fund something, it can get passed to Panther Foundation or Lions Club or Rotary
  + It started in 2004 to help the district in statutory operating debt. Now the district is in a great financial position, and the projects have changed. Bigger projects, no longer filling gaps or holes.
  + 3 big events: Gala, Golf tournament, and fall carnival/5K. The carnival/5K is the community event, accessible to everyone, at the high school. New high school facilities should be done by 2019 fall carnival/5k.
  + The Foundation is looking for board members, but not trying to steal from PTO! However, board members have come from previous PTO board members.
* **PTO Business**
* Budget
* Idea to vote on an adjustment of budget for all school field trip (trip to Ordway for dance show)
* Approved project for Dr. Koch for GT funds
* Graduation 4th grade treats instead of testing treats
* Panther Foundation doing gaga pit instead of PTO
* Spring Carnival (April 12) – planning update from chairperson Heidi Sass
* High school students have signed up to help with games and activities
* Signs, instructions, etc. are printed, but feel free to make it happen however it works the night of! (Heidi won’t be there)
* Board members please let Heidi know, especially for teardown, if you’ll be helping.
* Board members wear PTO lanyards to help volunteers get extra prizes, help if needed. An adult should be in every pod, able to help with older kids running any games
* Next ***volunteer opportunity*** is for testing – people to sit in the pods to keep it quiet and no distractions for students
* PTO Board for next year – ***all are welcome!*** Please let us know if you are interested in a position, as many are open! At the next PTO meeting (May 13) we will vote on board for next year.

**\*\*Next meeting May 13 - Tyler Nelson (Associate Principal at Westwood Intermediate) presenting on the transition to Westwood\*\***

Check out twitter! #SLPPantherProud #NPPride

<https://twitter.com/judikahoun>

<https://twitter.com/slp_schools/lists/northpoint-elementary>

Minutes by Allie Owen, Northpoint PTO Co-Secretary