Northpoint Elementary PTO – May 13, 2019

Welcome

by Andy Keumpel (PTO Co-President) at 6:35 in Media Center

PTO Meeting Agenda handout, Meeting Minutes handout and Budget handout available

Introductions

PTO Board introductions, School Board Representative Amy Hennen, Principal Judi Kahoun, Teacher liaison Tammy Saladis, approximately 6 other parents

Presentations

**Tyler Nelson** (Principal at Westwood Intermediate) - Transition to Westwood

* School day 8:40am - 3:15pm
* Structure is similar to Northpoint– core subjects and rotation with specialists is similar
* 5th grade band option – primarily through lessons and big band concert
* Choir option 7:40am - 8:20am, 2 days a week usually and students ride bus with 7th and 8th grade to arrive early for choir
* Friendship groups quadruple as 4 elementary schools combine – close to 500 5th graders (1900 or so kids total)

**Questions:**

* Recess? – Similar to Northpoint, there are 2 recesses, a team recess and shorter recess with support staff
* Activity buses? – not much in 5th and 6th, but 7th and 8th teams (However, activity groups can self start if 5 or more kids are interested! Like dance group or bey blades. There is a 4:40pm north and south routes activity bus, not lots of stops in neighborhoods. Or you can pick up)
* Looping for 5th and 6th graders? There will be looping teams, at least one team is interested, and they are finalizing that.
* How many teachers in a team? 4 to 5 teachers a team
* Class placements? Elementary staff (4th grade teachers) do help with class placement, as well as a parent input survey.
* Math tracks? In 5th grade, there is 5th grade, 1 year math pathway, or 2 year pathway (like accelerated). A lot based on 4th grade placement, and then teachers continue to reevaluate
* Gifted/Talented? Similar to Dr. Koch, 2 specialists (Spanish and Regular) – similar to elementary program
* Do 5th/6th students cross paths with 7th/8th students? Share cafeteria space, otherwise they don’t really cross paths, as they are on different ends of the building. The team model gives it a smaller feel too, like 4th grade.
* Homeroom teacher? Similar to Northpoint, depending on team. May departmentalize subjects or may stay all homeroom.
* Students mixed by ability? Students mixed together from school and ability levels (all teams look similar)
* Looping? – you can leave the loop if it’s not working for you/kid.
* How do you get put in loop? Parent input and 4th grade teacher input. All parent requests have been honored so far.
* A la carte option in lunch, like ice cream and cookies. 4th graders were excited about that during their info meeting!
* Parent volunteers? Teachers will take parent volunteers, but kids don’t usually like it as much! As teachers need them, parents come in.
* PTO? Parents run PTO 5th-8th together. Heidi Sass interim president right now.
* **Open house Thursday May 30th for more info about transition**

**Judi Kahoun, Northpoint Principal**

* Last few weeks of school
* Thank you for teacher appreciation week goodies and help!!
* Last Friday was the 4th grade track and field meet at high school! So much fun, positive emphasis on team spirit, and many reconnecting friends from different schools
* Kindergarten roundup tomorrow! One in the morning where families can visit class in process, do a scavenger hunt, and have a bus ride. Replicated again in the evening session.
* 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders have smaller track and field days next week.
* Appreciation breakfast for parent volunteers at 9:30am on May 22
* Preschool has ice cream socials with families on May 23rd and 24th
* Kindergarten teachers sending out class invites for students and families for kindergarten celebrations
* All school field trip to the Ordway on May 30 – Chinese acrobats. Teachers get a study guide before the trip for in-class learning and context. Eating lunch at school all together. Sponsored fully by PTO! Thank you! Wear your Northpoint blue t-shirts!
* Yearbook signing, 30-40 minutes in last week of school (probably June 4th). Kids can go all around the building and get other friends/staff to sign their book.
* June 6th family picnic at lunch times
* 4th grade graduation. Tammy Saladis and her team working on that.
* Next year
  + 4 to 5 sections in each grade level. Similar map, each grade level has a pod and kindergarten split into kindergarten pods.
  + Schedule similar with specialists.
  + Short recess during the school day apart from lunch, and bringing back recess connected with lunch.
  + Excited about a continued focus on purpose-based learning and STEM.
    - Embed in daily experience, starting in literacy block to spark interest, discover need, find problem and think of solution, along with social studies and science. Go into inquiry process – problem and solution with STEM process.
    - Remembering to focus on artisans (along with tinkerers and hackers) and the aesthetic side of creating!
* New science and nature connection with Wargo Nature Center!
* Each student will go to Wargo 3 times a year, once a trimester.
* Prior learning before students go, and purpose-based learning when they return.
* PTO budget reallocating funds for this, and each student asked to contribute $10 for this all year experience.
* Each grade level will probably have a theme.
* Curriculum will be written and experience will be designed through art, reading, science, etc.

**Tammy Saladis, PTO Teacher Liason**

* Teachers are so thankful for all the PTO does and parents helping in classrooms.
* Thank you to 4th grade parents for their support and the transition meeting they had.

**Amy Hennen, School Board Representative**

* Wrapping up for the year includes budget planning, staffing, and facilities, and there is a meeting tomorrow night.
* Track will start getting its update right after graduation to hopefully be done for fall.

PTO Business

* Thank you cards passed out to Spring Carnival chairs and sub-committee chairs, and to Andy Keumpel, Jami Peterson and Kim Porter – special thanks for all of your leadership, time and energy put into the Northpoint PTO over the years!

**Volunteer Opportunities!**

* Mileage Club – volunteers still needed
* Testing – hall monitor

**Voting for 2019-2020 PTO Board Members**

* Ballot passed out, parents voted and ballots collected and counted.
* 13 unanimous votes for each position.
  + President – Jessica Nelson
  + Vice President – Jenny DePoint and Amy Hink
  + Treasurer – Teri Oswald
  + Volunteer Coordinator – Sarah Krump and Sarah Matusovic (write-in)
  + Secretary - Allie Owen and Andrea Cobery
  + Social Media Coordinator (new position) – Lisa Partyka

Adjourn at 7:25 by Co-President Andy Keumpel

**Thank you to all Northpoint parents and all who have volunteered! See you next year!**

Check out twitter! #SLPPantherProud #NPPride

<https://twitter.com/judikahoun>

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

Minutes by Allie Owen, PTO Co-Secretary