

Northpoint Elementary PTO- January 8, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Welcome

By Andy Kuempel (PTO co-president) at 6:40pm in Media Center. PTO Meeting Agenda available

Introductions

Principal Judi Kahoun, Teacher Liaisons Tammy Saladis and Katie Storlie, PTO Board Members, and approximately 4 other parents

Presentations

Kevin Koch- Integrating STEM Learning in Elementary Classrooms

- STEM Handout Provided
- Kevin discussed STEM- how it encourages students to ask open-ended, exploratory questions that allow them to find multiple solutions for real world problem
- STEM allows for an appreciation of failure and multiple “right answers”
- STEM uses the 3D Circular Design approach (Discover, Design, Deliver)- this design is also used by the teachers for developing curriculum.
- Teachers can sign up for design days where they can learn about the connection between STEM integration and SLP vision of personalized learning. Although optional for teachers, there has been a high interest rate in these design days
- Examples of STEM: Lego Robotics in 2nd and 3rd grades (will be available in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th next year)- aligns with science and math targets
- STEM Pilot Programs: First Lego League Junior Competition (first held at Park Terrace, but will be available at Northpoint in the Spring)- will start with some EXPLORE students from 3rd grade and be centered around water “Aqua Adventure”- really emphasizes learning about the soft skills (teamwork, professionalism, problem solving, time management, resolution, etc)
- Voyagers- still uses EXPLORE students, but this time are only girls. Goal is how can we increase the number of women in STEM fields. 11 girls each from 2nd and 3rd grade are paired with a mentor from SLP high school. Focused theme projects, which this year is on extreme weather and how to survive. Belinda Jenson will be presenting to this group. The girls will be asked to develop an invention or product that will protect the homeless population from extreme weather. Their designs will be vetted by a community “shark tank”. Goals include changing girls perceptions of their ability to be great leaders and ability to do STEM work. Currently, this program is not available at Northpoint, but efforts are being made to bring the program here.

Principal Judi Kahoun

- Followed up STEM presentation and how Northpoint is working on how to incorporate STEM learning into Northpoint students learning experiences

- **Power Hour Update**- kids were given 23 choices for power hour breaks (including music, movement, games, arts, snacks, hair design, puzzles, and many more). New this year is asking for parent volunteers and there was great response. Power hour will be based on kids top 3 choices and will be across grade level. This gives kids a great opportunity with a new adult. Power Hour will be on Fridays between January and March, but not every Friday. More info will be sent home to parents
- **All School Field Trip Update**- for various reasons, the all school field trip will be held at the school this year. The day will be called the Winter Day of Fun, with potential date being some time in February. Activities will include learning, games, STEM, Olympic themed events, and hot cocoa. More information to come
- **Recess Update**- Reminder that kids will remain inside if the outside temperature is 0 or below OR the windchill is -10 or below (district level policy). There is a chance some kids will be allowed to go outside and others will have to remain inside, as weather conditions can change throughout the day. The district uses weather.com to monitor temperature. All teachers recognize that movement and breaks are still needed and work to create unique opportunities to ensure students get these essential opportunities for movement (Katie Storlie gave example of having her students race in groups of 4 down the main hallway of the school). Kids can have the option to do something active, “just talk”, read books, etc.

Teacher Updates:

- Tammy Saladis- discussed how teachers are taking this time after returning from winter break to review expectations/CARES with students. Discussed how each grade is getting an opportunity to lead an all school meeting, and 3rd grade recently had their meeting emphasizing Empathy.
- Katie Storlie- Reiterated review of CARES and how kindergarten classes are discussing how to integrate CARES into expectation statements and allowing kids to explore what this looks like in the classroom

School Board Update

- (presented by Andy Kuempel)- new boundaries have been approved and are published. Parents are encouraged to review the new boundaries with the addition of the new elementary school, if they have not done so already.

PTO Business

- Minutes will be approved prior to meetings, but copies available for all to review
- Budget Review- PTO has purchased an iPad to donate to the Panther Gala. Movie license for movie night has been received. Matching funds from corporations for the fun run are now in. It was approved to use funds from the all school field trip for the upcoming power hour options, since the on site Winter Day of Fun will not use all of the currently allocated funds.

- **Open Gym NOW available** for all PTO meetings. Please let parents now that an adult supervised open gym is available to drop kids off so that they can attend the PTO meeting. Open gym dates: 1/8, 2/12, 4/9, 5/14 from 6:00-7:30pm (NO open gym during March)
- Upcoming meeting presentation ideas- Highly encouraged to let PTO board members know if there are topics that parents would like to have presented at meetings. Ideas included nutrition services and student council.
- **NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!** Please volunteer when you can and spread the word, so our fun events can continue so successfully! Information and sign up at <http://bit.ly/2017-18npvolunteers>
- Conference Meals- STILL IN NEED OF A CHAIR

Upcoming

- Movie Night- Friday January, 26, 2018. FREE! Movie will be Despicable Me 3 and will be shown in both the gym and cafeteria
- Conferences- Thursday February 15 (4:40p-7:40p), Friday Feb 16 (8a-1p), and Tuesday Feb 20 (4:40-7:40)
- Usborne Book Fair- held during winter conferences. Preview day for the kids will be Wednesday Feb 14.
- Spring Carnival is just around the corner. This is a great opportunity to volunteer. Northpoint students, teachers, and staff always have a fabulous time at this event. More information to come.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35pm

**Minutes submitted by Maggie Vertalino, co-secretary
Minutes reviewed by Andy Kuempel and Kim Porter**

