

Northpoint PTO

Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2016

Opening

The regular meeting of the Northpoint PTO was called to order at 6:37pm on October 24th 2016 in the Northpoint Art Room by Marla Sciara.

Present

PTO Board Members: Marla Sciara (President), Andy Keumpel (Vice President), Jenny DePoint (Treasurer), Rachel Folden (Volunteer Coordinator) and Kim Porter (Secretary). Principal, Judi Kahoun. Teacher Liaisons, Kevin Koch and Alyssa Wargin. School Board Representative, Marilynn Forsberg. Presenters from the Northpoint Behavioral team included Katie Kingsbury and Ryan Quitney. There were approximately 10 additional parents/guardians in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

September Minutes were routed for review. A motion to approve was requested. Approved. Seconded. Minutes have been emailed out to the PTO distribution list and posted on the Northpoint PTO webpage.

Agenda Topics

Presentations – Behavioral Team at Northpoint, Katie Kingsbury and Ryan Quitney

Kelly Smlak, Jen Hurley, Ryan Quitney and Katie Kingsbury make up the Behavioral specialist team at Northpoint. Behaviors within student population covers five different tears.

Tier 1: Includes the general population, all students in classroom. Teachers and Staff utilize the PBIS approach - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. Some of these practices are part of our behavior model across the district. Northpoint uses responsive classroom approach, take a break concept, whole class morning meetings, buddy classroom, visuals in the classroom and morning meetings. These options aid to help the student re-focus and get back on track for a successful day of learning. Additionally, Judi explained the Behavior Management plan that was developed at the District Level. This plan calls on Responsive Classroom, practices to build relationships, rules developed together, etc. Positive teacher language to redirect or be proactive. Teachers should be taking time throughout the day to teach these practices throughout the day. Fidelity should be across all of the student experiences. This all starts with the relationship – do we know the kids, they should feel valued, inspired and sense of belonging.

Tier 2: Introduce CICO – check in check out (thumbs up, down, sideways or other behavior tracking sheet). This format is utilized a bit differently depending on students. Lunch Bunch – option for one on one lunch time with Jen. Social Conferencing – sitting one on one or small group for support for understanding and to improve behaviors.

Tier 3: More individually focused. Students that need more one on one time or relationship building. More movement or breaks needed throughout the day. Many students on behavior charts to be successful for proactive interactions.

Tier 4: Direct teaching involving social skills groups. Potential one on one or small groups up to 4 that work on same/similar concepts (i.e. it is okay to ask for help, when it is appropriate to talk in class)

Tier 5: Special Ed referral. Note: Behavior isn't a negative or that something was done wrong or that a student is misbehaving. Moreover to help support the student, teacher and classroom as a whole.

Focus on positives. Student forms/CICO only have positive notes. Students are involved in tracking sheets as this helps the child understand their ownership with their behaviors and how to be successful and motivated. If teachers have concern they will reach out to behavior team to see what, if any, interventions are needed. Behavior team specialists work directly with students, teachers, Judi and parents/guardians.

Major vs. Minor behaviors:

Minor behaviors are addressed with the hope to quickly move on. Minor behaviors can become Major behaviors if students are not responsive and behavior escalates instead of making corrective action.

Minor Behaviors: inappropriate language, property misuse, physical contact with others (without injury), defiance/disrespect/disruptive, work refusal, off-task or inappropriate behavior, lying, bathroom issues.

Major Behaviors: Inappropriate language/excessive swearing including harassment/threats, bullying, physical aggression(intent to hurt), defiance, property misuse resulting in damage, weapon possession.

Questions:

When are parents involved? For any intervention that arises, the parent/guardian will be notified and involved. If a general take a break, at the tier 1 level is given, it is not necessarily brought to parent/guardian. This is at teacher discretion.

Are the tiers for Northpoint specific or district wide? Tiers, practices, behavioral plans are district wide.

Do you work directly with the Intermediate school? Behavioral teams from K-3 and Intermediate school meet every spring to prepare for the 3rd grade transition.

Budget – Quick PTO budget and financial status. No huge changes from last month. A couple more Fun Run envelopes were turned in. Please direct any questions to Jenny at nppto.treasurer@gmail.com.

Business –

- Fun Run (Marla). Thank you to all the teachers and administration for the support and excitement you had for the fun run – this was passed along to our students. There is a lot of prep-work and day-of work that goes into this and all the money raised goes directly back into the school. Thank you for the partnership.
- Conference Meals (Marla). One more day of conference meals.
- Book Fairs (Marla). One more day for our Fall Scholastic Book Fair. Note: we are still looking for someone to lead the Usborne Book Fair. In interested or would like additional information, please contact Rachel, PTO Volunteer Coordinator nppto.volunteer@gmail.com. Colleen Lindgren also stated that she can review this event with the new chair.
- Fall Party (Heidi Sass) – The fall party is being planned for November 4th 6-8. There will be 3 areas of Bingo, DJ in the gym, all-school craft, dinner for purchase.
- Mileage Club (Heidi Sass) – Looking for interested parties to help co-chair and learn the ropes. If interested, please connect with Rachel, PTO Volunteer Coordinator
- Clarification - A food drive (or the like) will occur during our Movie night event rather than a fall/winter clothing or food drive. If you should have books that you wish to donate, we can hold onto these until the Spring Carnival book walk or Judi may have a teacher interested depending on selection.
- Request for Volunteers (Rachel). Picture Retakes November 1st, Election Day November 8th, Fall Party November 4th and Vision/Hearing starting November 7th. Emails have been sent out and posted requests on Facebook.

Administration –

Kevin Koch and Alyssa Wargin: On behalf of the teachers, Alyssa expressed gratitude for the assistance PTO provided already this year starting with the fun run (all students had a great time and thank you for the treats/shoelaces/medals), Conference Meals (very much appreciated as it makes the days a bit easier and more efficient during conferences), Wednesday Helpers (as always, very much appreciated). Teachers also enjoyed and appreciated that the book fair was set up early for students/teachers to have a sneak peek. Thank you for all you do.

Marilynn Forsberg:

Facility Update: 109th/Lexington is now at bottom of the list of location options. Facility location decision will be made in November and then made public. Intermediate/Middle School will change or reconfigure due to the K-4 changes at the elementary schools.

Enrollment Update: 39% of students are on free/reduced lunch (no change from last year). 40% non-white (increase of 1%). Non-resident 18% (no change). The number of students that leave district schools that live within district is almost equal to those that are open-enrolled. As of October 1st we had 5,666 students district-wide. This was 18 more students than what was budgeted for. 89 more students this year than last year. Northpoint currently has 735 students.

AVID: Advancement Via Individual Determination. This program (new to SLP this year) is to educate and prepare students for college readiness and success in our global society. Positions are currently open for this program.

Judi Kahoun:

Social Media: Increased opportunities to communicate in social media. The school has been really conscientious on getting more teachers on Twitter or to increase SLP presence on Twitter. Judi shared that she is very proud of our teachers moving towards utilizing social media for day to day information, pictures, and updates. Also there is an increase in communicating via Schoology. Many parents have signed up or have asked for help to better understand our technology.

Info night: This was not overwhelmingly attended, however this initial sharing was a successful night for those that were able to come.

Professional Learning: Across the district, teachers were involved in education about personalized learning; creating experiences for students, showing real world applications, and creating new experiences for our student body. During the professional learning day, teachers were able to review organizations/schools that currently utilize specific personalized learning formats. **Alyssa Wargin** echoed Judi in that the personalized learning would enhance the student relationships. This would help students become self-directed learners and illustrate how to utilize learning targets most effectively. Students will have more opportunities, enhance their soft skills and real-world applications leading them to more success later in life. **Kevin Koch** mentioned that he has made a commitment to do one STEM activity per month. This would be of great interest to the kids, however, most likely they would not have had much experience with the topics (yet). Recently, students learned about concussions, how they could develop a safe helmet for protection, what some of the side effects are and how those could affect them as students. They utilized this interdisciplinary topic for discussions, within their writing assignments, math problems, reading, etc. Students are so engaged and do not realize that they are learning.

Goal Setting: Each year teachers set three goals for themselves including Student Achievement (based on year-long learning targets), Student Engagement, and Profession Practice. Many teachers are working on goals that relate to giving feedback to students this year. Teachers/Administration would like to give the feedback to the students to assist them to become self-directed or self-learners. In turn, this would benefit students so they have the knowledge and ability to set their own goal(s), understand what it means to meet their goal(s) and set up check-in points along the way. Future states is that this model would be shared to all teachers and put out on Schoology for students/families to become more familiar with.

Election Day: voting will occur at Northpoint. Administration has been working with the superintendent's office, our facilities coordinator, and custodians, along with the City of Blaine, to set up a plan that will have the least impact on student learning.

Open Floor (5 minutes per topic)

No topics this month.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Please email Marla if you have a topic that we could include in upcoming agendas (nppto.president@gmail.com)

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm by Marla Sciara. The next meeting will be at 6:30pm on November, 14 2016, in the Northpoint Media Center.

Minutes submitted by: Kim Porter

Reviewed By: Marla Sciara and Judi Kahoun