

Northpoint PTO

Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2017

Opening

The regular meeting of the Northpoint PTO was called to order at 6:35pm on April 10th 2017 in the Northpoint Media Center by Marla Sciara.

Present

PTO Board Members: Marla Sciara (President), Andy Kuempel (Vice President), Jenny DePoint (Treasurer), Rachel Folden (Volunteer Coordinator) and Kim Porter (Secretary). Principal, Judi Kahoun. Teacher Liaisons, Kevin Koch. School Board Representative, Marilyn Forsberg. There were approximately 8 additional parents/guardians in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

March Minutes were routed for review. A motion to approve was requested. Approved. Seconded. Minutes have been posted on the Northpoint PTO webpage.

Agenda Topics

Presentations – Report Card Overview

Our teacher liaison, Keven Koch, spent time reviewing and explaining the report cards that are used at Northpoint. Overall, the marks on the reports cards throughout the year are based upon the expectations of knowledge at the end of the school year. Standards and targets are always determined based on this end-of-the-year point in time. There are two main ways we conduct assessments.

Formative assessments – these assessments are designed to see where students are at that point – to determine each students strengths and weaknesses, gaps in knowledge, what needs to be worked on and how.

Summative assessments – these assessments are administered at the end of each trimester and are consistent across the district. These tests are based upon learning targets and are consistent at all elementary schools – this uniformity is seen in both the tests and approach used for grading. If there are multiple interpretations between schools, a lead at the District Service Center is made aware and proceeds to contact ALL schools to be sure that all proceed with the consistent agreed upon approach.

Exceed standards. Exceeds standard is only when the student is consistently at ONE full grade level above their currently grad for the school year. One example that Dr. Koch shared was from a study with 13 million students. In this study, students were accelerated at an earlier age and compared to those that went at a slower rate but dug deeper. Students that were pushed at an accelerated rate tested at lower rates in standardized tests at the high school level vs. those that took it slower and went more in depth.

Example situation: A reading target for 2nd grade is main idea and detail. An assessment will come home and families will see that there might be pieces that the student got correct but there were pieces that they did not quite get. For instance, in a multi-paragraph text, the student got main idea and three specific details that explain that main idea (at standard). Approaching Standard would be when the student gets the main idea and 2 main details. The student has not yet met the target, therefor approaching standard. The student would need to show that they understand this target on multiple occasions.

Teachers are meeting with students individually to review their targets and why they are working towards these. They will be working with their specific strengths and weaknesses.

Schoology – when creating assignments, there is an option to go into the targets and assign targets to the assignments. This will show that a certain project is tied to specific targets. This is still an optional function within Schoology, but a great tool/resource that teachers can use. Teachers can also pull instant reports that will indicate how many students have reached certain targets. Judi Kahoun added that one area that the district will focus on next year will be standard ways of utilizing Schoology. For parents and/or guardians, the hope is that we can navigate Schoology the same way for students with varying teachers.

Question: What is grade level skill that determines meeting the targets? Where can we find this information? (i.e. what does it mean to meet the standard for 2nd grade punctuation?) **Judi Kahoun responded:** these are not necessarily posted out on the website at all,

but certainly something we can get shared or post. Approximately 1.5 years ago we updated the SLP guiding documents in regards to report cards. These are only 1 way of communicating. Purpose is to enhance communication and document progress towards essential learning targets and life skills. This will help students/families/teacher partnership to help students achieve their goals and setting them up for success.

Referenced: Seven Strategies of Assessments for Learning.

Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning

Where am I going?

- 1 Provide students with a clear and understandable vision of the learning target.
- 2 Use examples and models of strong and weak work.

Where am I now?

- 3 Offer regular descriptive feedback.
- 4 Teach students to self-assess and set goals.

How can I close the gap?

- 5 Design lessons to focus on one learning target or aspect of quality at a time.
- 6 Teach students focused revision.
- 7 Engage students in self-reflection, and let them keep track of and share their learning.

Kevin Koch added that the school does place focus on mistakes as well. How did this help you grow? Mistakes can be good to help our children grow and develop, and allows them to be comfortable to take risks. Students should not always think their work is perfect. Growth Mindset – mistakes are okay!

Judi Kahoun asked: How can we make this partnership more seamless? (communication between teacher/parent/guardian)

Responses: Consistent communication. Similar or same approach by all teachers. Same usage of Schoology. If there are continued themes that come up with a child, we suggest more communication home to make parents/guardians aware and help drive the same teachings.

Budget – Spring carnival charges are coming in. We still have several that will be coming in. Please direct any questions to Jenny DePoint at nppto.treasurer@gmail.com.

Business –

➤ Spring Carnival – April 21st. Sign-up is posted and has been emailed out. 100 volunteers is needed for this to run smoothly. Need for Volunteers and a crazy hair lead potentially. Committee meeting Wednesday for last minute details. Since budget has a surplus, we will be lowering the cost of admittance to the carnival to \$5 per child / \$20 max per family. Carnival is not a revenue generating event.

- Mileage Club – Heidi Sass will be leading this and looking for a committed group that will rotate with her for set up/take down. Ideas are flowing on how to enhance this group so that volunteers will not have to take cards/toe tokens home during the evenings. 2 shifts/day, 4-5 lead volunteers and then approximately 5 (total) per shift. Flyer will be sent home and posted on Facebook.
- Book Fair Picnic – May 11th – still looking for volunteers.
- Staff Appreciation – PTO will host a catered lunch and other little things throughout the week. Teacher Appreciate week is May 9th-12th.
- Board for Next School Year – We will be voting during our May meeting. Jenny Depoint and Rachel Folden will remain in their positions for next year. Marla Sciara is stepping down from presidency. Andy Kuempel and Kim Porter are thinking about running for co-presidents.

Administration –

Marilynn Forsberg: committee that worked over the summer – Ground has been broken for new science rooms at HS. Hopefully this will be open in the Fall 2017. One more hurdle for the new school. The City of Blaine needs to approve one more time (on April 20th). Plans are on the website for reference. Board level working on some policy use with technology. There is a “Refunding” meeting on April 11th to refinance bonds for lower interest rate. Not much savings however could potentially lower taxes. MN School Board Associate Day at the Capital (Marilyn attended last Monday). MN School Board going through a budget year, so we are hoping for some additional funding. Kuddos/Fun Fact: SLP had 4 semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholars; at least 1 of the 4 has been selected as a finalist!

Judi Kahoun:

- Parent input forms will be out mid-late April, due into respective school offices on May 5th
- May 26th for Volunteer Appreciation (tentative date)
- Conference Meal dishes still in the staff lunch room
- Last week of school – trying to determine how we can have crowd control a bit better compared to last year (parking was full all day)
- Positive influence on students writing – teachers recently went through design process to enhance students engagement and learning opportunity with writing.
- Focus on Vocabulary – Way Cool Words, everyday interesting words. Power Hour was just completed. Overall, Judi believes it was a lot of fun and very engaging. Feedback and suggestions on how we can become even more engaged is being collected.
- Communication day will be on April 28th. Students are not in school, however teachers will be utilizing the afternoon for family communications.
- All school field trip K and 2nd grades will be going on May 17th; 1 and 3rd grade will attend on May 24th.
- Students will be provided with a snack on the bus ride to the theatre and a picnic lunch back at school after the production of Frog and Toad.
- The computer room was repurposed recently which is now used for small group instruction and sensory breaks. No desktop computers are available at the school; a cart of 30 laptops were just received for teachers to check out.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Marla Sciara. The next meeting will be next month. May 8th 2017 at 6:30pm in the Northpoint library.

Minutes submitted by: Kim Porter

Reviewed By: Judi Kahoun, Marla Sciara