

# Northpoint Elementary PTO – September 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

## Welcome

by Andy Kuempel (PTO co-president) at 6:35 in Media Center. PTO Meeting Agenda Handout available.

## Introductions

PTO co-presidents Andy Kuempel and Kim Porter, PTO vice president Teri Oswald, PTO volunteer coordinator Rachel Folden, PTO treasurer Jenny DePoint, PTO co-secretaries Maggie Vertalino and Allie Owen, Principal Judi Kahoun, Teacher liaisons Tammy Saladis and Katie Storlie, and approximately 12 other parents.

## Presentations

### **Superintendent Jeff Ronneberg**

- He welcomes questions by phone, email, and/or an in-person meeting. He is confident in Principal Kahoun and the Northpoint staff to also address any issues and questions too.
- He passed out an Innovative and Personalized Learning handout and spoke about the personalized learning initiative. This includes developing learning profiles which will follow students through grade levels so each student is known by name, strength, interest and need. Other school districts are following our lead with this, and it is attracting quality staff. There is also a continuing focus on STEM and an entrepreneurial element, connecting kids with community through business.
- The Panther Foundation Fun Run and Carnival is on September 30 at the high school! This will also be the grand opening of the new science addition at the high school.
- Updates on boundaries regarding the new school will come in the fall, and by December or January final boundary decisions will be made.
- He commends staff at Northpoint and that they put their best into everything they do. Check out #SLPPantherProud on social media – some teachers and staff share great twitter highlights

### **Principal Judi Kahoun**

- The first week back to school went very smoothly.
- The staff is focused on lessening stresses around arrival, dismissal and lunch. Children have 30 minutes to eat lunch. Recess is no longer attached to lunch. Teachers fit it into their schedule, and they are taking inventory of resources of what they might need for recess. Staff is double-checking that each student gets on the right bus, and also working toward getting the buses out on time. Regarding dismissal out front for parent pick-up, students wait in the gym for drive-up. Parents are using a pink paper for their dash with the student last name on it to help move the drive-up line along.

- Students see specialists daily, for 50 minutes including movement. In kindergarten, they focus on school readiness through games and play, and add culture and STEM topics linked to readiness as the year goes on. In grades 1-3, specialists are doing “skinnies” this year. There is 25 minutes of music and 25 minutes of phy. ed. for 18 days, and 6 days of art for 50 minutes each day. They will be evaluating the skinnies as the year goes on, and refine and make changes as needed.
- Personalized learning is a new initiative, like Superintendent Ronneberg talked about. Teachers want to know each child by name, interest, strength, growth area/need. It is a more formalized practice schoolwide now, and the listening conferences this week are a major part of this. These are in addition to regular conferences. Teachers hear from parents for 15 minutes about their student, their goals and what is important to them. Parents can make conference appointments with other teachers, not limited to homeroom. They are slowing down the start of work this fall a bit to get to know students well, and are receiving positive teacher feedback about this.

#### **Teacher Liaisons** (both are new to this role)

- Katie Storlie emphasized recess and outside time, and the powerful impact on learning that it has.
- Tammy Saladis also appreciates the time outside with students, as they come back in excited. She likes the slowed down approach this fall, emphasizing first getting to know the students well. She described a more team approach and getting to know more kids, like the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers doing a CARES lesson together, beyond homerooms.

#### PTO Business

- The PTO is providing meals for listening conferences on Tuesday/Thursday. It’s homecoming week, including spirit days. The Fun Run is Monday, October 2 at Northpoint during the day. Fall conferences are on October 17, 18, and 24 and fall book fair is during conferences, with teacher requests again this year.
- Budget update, with handout, from Jenny (treasurer). We have a surplus, and we continue to decrease spending on carnival, etc. and lowered request amount from the fun run. So far, costs have included staff breakfast and meet your teacher cookies. We have just the one fundraiser – the fun run. We are looking to provide more community events as one option for the surplus.
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Every Wednesday morning some parents meet in the PTO room, by the library, from 9:30-noonish to help alleviate some work for teachers, like cutting and other project prep. You can pop in anytime, and you can bring young children.
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** For every big event (like fun run, fall party, spring carnival), there is a volunteer chair or co-chairs of the event. Those spots are

currently filled for the year, but you can shadow chair to help with event and possibly chair next year.

- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** If you haven't gotten volunteer emails, get on the list! You'll be emailed as opportunities are available to volunteer at Northpoint. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/2017-18npvolunteers> or email Rachel Folden at [NPPTO.Volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:NPPTO.Volunteer@gmail.com)
- "Like" Facebook Northpoint PTO for volunteer opportunity updates. The Northpoint PTO website has the event list with dates.
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Next is Sept 21 school pictures, volunteers help with traffic in the hallways.

#### Open for questions

- Question – Where to get Panther apparel?  
Replies from various people: Dave's Sports Shop, Letterman's, and school store in the high school.
- Question – Students wait in gym for drive-up parent pick-up?  
Principal Kahoun reply: Staff is outside and has students come out as parents drive up. They radio in to teachers in gym as they see the pink last name dashboard papers and as they get to know the cars. It works better than waiting in snow banks. If students need help buckling into car seat, they should not do drive-up.
- Question – Do recesses overlap? Younger kids out with older kids?  
Saladis reply: There is short transition overlap, 5 minutes or so. Teachers stick to their new recess schedule, with some flexibility.

#### **Next meeting October 9, 2017 in Media Center.**

Meeting adjourned by PTO co-president Andy Kuempel at 7:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Allie Owen, co-secretary.

Minutes reviewed by