

Northpoint PTO

Meeting Minutes - September 19, 2016

Opening

The regular meeting of the Northpoint PTO was called to order at 6:34pm on September 19 2016 in the Northpoint Media Center 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, Marilyn Forsberg. There were approximately 15 additional parents/guardians in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

No previous minutes to approve at our first meeting.

Agenda Topics

Presentations – It was decided that presentation topics will be at the very beginning of the PTO meetings this year. Introductions will follow. Since this is the first meeting, a brief PTO presentation was given that provided an introduction of board members and overview of the events/opportunities that will occur throughout the 2016-17 academic year. Staff liaisons introduced themselves. Marla explained how PTO works and clarified that everyone is part of PTO with no obligation. Handout provided with 2016-17 PTO Sponsored Events and PTO Meeting Dates.

Social/Introductions – “Find Someone Who...” Approximately 10 minutes were spent by getting to know other people in attendance. We went around each table for introductions including names, children name(s) and grade/teacher details.

Budget – At each meeting, Jenny DePoint will review the PTO budget and financial status. Marla gave a brief overview today. No drastic changes from last year. The only money generating event is the Fall Fun Run/Fundraiser. Book Fair profits go directly back into books/reading projects for the school. Marla went over the general other expenses noted on the budget to inform those in attendance how/what is spent. Please direct any questions to Jenny moving forward at nppto.treasurer@gmail.com. Heidi Sass is also a wonderful resource for the NP PTO as she had held this position for several years in the past.

Treasurer’s Report/Budget was motioned to approve. Approved. Seconded.

Business –

- Volunteer Forms/Open Chair Positions (Rachel). Current needs include Conference Meals, Teacher Appreciation (May), Mileage Club. Kim Porter added that PTO needs chairs needed for NP Apparel, Usborne Book Fair as well.
 - Heidi Sass – request for help for both Mileage Club and Fall Party. Heidi is chair for these this year, but would like to have interested parties to help her and learn the ropes. If interested please let Rachel know via nppto.volunteer@gmail.com
- Wednesday Volunteers (Marla). Per Alison Vandewiele, this has started. Please come in between 9:30-45 to work on teacher projects. These include collating, cutting, tracing, etc. This is held in the PTO Workroom / Mrs. Nolby’s office in the Media Center. Younger children are always welcomed to attend as well (there are books and toys in the room).
- Fun Run (Marla). Overview was provided for upcoming Fun Run on September 30th. Lacing Up for Northpoint laces were distributed to teachers and students will be receiving next week for spirit week. Volunteers are still

needed; please see your child's class schedule on the sign up genius. Please link to the sign up genius or connect with Rachel at nppto.volunteer@gmail.com

- Conference Meals (Marla). We are looking for a chair to organize and create the sign up genius. Easy 1st chair opportunity. For Evening Conferences PTO provides evening meal; for daytime conferences lighter fare/grab and go items are provided.
- Book Fairs (Marla). With our chair moving out of Northpoint, we are looking for someone to lead the Usborne Book Fair. Please contact Rachel if interested. Colleen Lindgren also stated that she can review this event with the new chair. Scholastic Book Fair will be held during Fall Conferences. More information coming.

Administration –

Kevin Koch and Alyssa Wargin: expressed their gratitude for the assistance PTO provided already this year including stuffing student folders, the gift cards, and the Wednesday Volunteers. On behalf of the teachers and faculty, they really appreciate everything we do. Kevin added that the conference meals are so appreciated during the busy days they face during conference week. Alyssa mentioned that in her class only 1 Fun Run envelope has been returned to date. A reminder and the letter explaining the Fun Run will be posted on Schoology.

Marla to follow up with the digital copy of the letter to post to Schoology or send to parents. Extra envelopes are in the office, however PTO only needs the student name/class/grade if they misplaced their envelope.

Marilynn Forsberg: shared that she is a cheerleader for the district! Combined, our SLP school board has over 100 years of experience which is very unusual and wonderful.

Facilities Update – 3 sites include Lexington and 109th, 105th near 35W, and the National Sport Center. The sport center is not independently owned, but rather connected to the state. Both state issues that need to be resolved before moving forward and the land remedies that are necessary for the other two sites, are tabling the location selection. The goal is for the new K-4 building to open Fall 2018.

Emphasis in Academics – much work has been done by teachers over the summer.

Financially – SLP is in very good standings. We have received the Minnesota Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) – Excellence in Finance certificate for many years. This is a somewhat unique position to be in and it allows us to do some things we might not have been able to do.

Panther Foundation – Marilyn shared that there is a grant program and that all the grants go back into the schools. This year the Panther Foundation will cross the million dollar mark with the funds that have been both raised and put back into our schools.

There are seven board members, each elected for a four year term. Elections are on the off-year as a special election.

Judi Kahoun: shared appreciation for all that the PTO has already done this year including the welcome back breakfast, folders, bus tags, gift cards.

Summer Reading Project – Judi shared with us that some of the book fair/special project funds last year were used to send book kits home to selected students over the summer. Fifty-Six books were sent at three different times over the summer. Each kit also included a self-addressed stamp envelope for students to respond.

Curriculum – work occurred over the summer with design studios and independent team work. Workshop week included focus of behavior plan, expectations for the kids, how students might best learn. Toolkits were provided with many visual aids, non-verbal tools, etc. to help teach how best to manage time, etc. Feedback from staff was wonderful and follow up will occur throughout the year. New Science, Social Studies and Health Curriculum this year. Teachers will be working

among teams to help implement these successfully. Staff/Faculty have been engaging from the front end to help our students the most and to get them excited to learn.

Meet and Greet – a looping PowerPoint was playing to share new information for this year. This will be followed up by an upcoming Informational Night held on Thursday, September 22nd.

Grade Level Meetings – every day we start with a Morning Meeting. Approximately once a week, a grade-level morning meeting will take place in the gym or library. The Behavior Team facilitates these meetings, while teachers are in their Professional Learning meeting.

All School Fieldtrip – list of possibilities was brainstormed by Faculty/Staff and follow-up work will be ongoing.

Kindergarteners – all hands were on deck during first few days of school. Students were met at the buses and shown their daily process so they fully understand what was to happen in the morning and at dismissal. Third graders helped the Kindergarten students with lunch the first week to help alleviate any nerves that younger students may have had. All teaching upfront has been very helpful and made for a smooth first week.

Open Floor (5 minutes per topic)

1. Question was asked regarding the process/concept of the introduction of NP Student Council. Mrs. Kahoun shared that this is a new addition to our school community to help strengthen student leadership. Staff selected student council reps and most students are aware if they were chosen. It is undetermined at this time if the positions will be help for the entire year or by trimester/semester.
2. Parking Lot Concerns. Mrs. Kahoun shared with the group that this has been an ongoing concern for parents, volunteers, and teachers. No Parking signs have been put up to help alleviate vehicles being blocked in. Options are being looked at including options for teachers, holding 2 sessions for school events, one-way in/one-way out concept. Neighboring business have had cars towed. Parking is also keeping some people from attending events.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Marla requested for topic suggestions for meetings going forward. These could be content presentations, grade level specific projects, grading, targeted reading, etc. Please email Marla if you have a topic that would be great to include this year (nppto.president@gmail.com)

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm by Marla Sciara. The next meeting will be at 6:30pm on October 24, 2016, in the Northpoint Media Center.

Minutes submitted by: Kim Porter

Approved by: Marla Sciara and Judi Kahoun