# Northpoint Elementary PTO – September 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes

# <u>Welcome</u>

by Andy Kuempel (PTO Co-President) at 6:35 in Media Center. PTO Meeting Agenda Handout

#### Introductions

PTO Board introductions

Principal Judi Kahoun, Teacher liaison Tammy Saladis, Teacher liaison Kari Walton, approximately 12 other parents

#### Presentations

## **Principal Judi Kahoun**

- It was a great first week!
  - Staff can notice there are less students this year and teacher Kari Walton, new to
     Northpoint, likes the school design with pods they are quiet and great for learning!
  - Arrival went smoothly with lots of volunteers and teachers helping. Kindergarteners met in gym. There are 5 sections of lunch instead of 8. Dismissal has gone as smoothly and timely as its ever gone. A few errors with tags and bus drivers that have been corrected.
     Staff is double-checking tags to make sure kids get to the right place/bus.
  - The focus so far is on getting to know the kids, team-building, getting to know teachers.
- Behavior plans are basically the same as last year. It is approached as something to learn rather than punitive, but still react efficiently to inappropriate or dangerous behaviors. Kids need to know and understand expectations to succeed.
- New math curriculum conceptual deep understanding vs just procedural knowledge. Risk taking, strategies.
  - Parent question about teacher training for new math curriculum. Answer Teachers were part of a summer study and read a book, had 2 days of workshop, and could pick up materials early and receive stipend for curriculum specific work (high level teacher participation in this).
  - Parent question about math, if kids will switch rooms based on level. Answer classes will be mostly heterogenous with lots of training to differentiate within class. This is in response to kids being switched around too frequently as their level changed. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades will have some accelerated levels. For reading, K-4 has targeted and core reading. Targeted is based on level, and core being their heterogenous homeroom group, and like math, with the goal of minimal switching of teachers.
- Parent Information Night Sep. 18! Teachers will be sharing lots of information!
- All grade levels use Schoology. K-2 use Seesaw to share real-time info in the classroom starting next week.
- Check out Twitter for Northpoint updates and pictures!!!

https://twitter.com/judikahoun

https://twitter.com/slp\_schools/lists/northpoint-elementary

#### **Teacher Liaisons**

- Tammy Saladis: Time so far focuses on getting to know kids, including all kids on a team. Also taking time for extra playtime outside.
- Kari Walton: Appreciates helping out the younger kids and connecting with many different kids at school. 4<sup>th</sup> graders excited to be at Northpoint and be leaders.

#### **PTO Business**

- Budget (SEE BUDGET SPREADSHEET INCLUDED BELOW)
  - Surplus for years, keep trying to make it smaller. Fun Run is only fundraiser, probably not asking for particular money amount this year.
  - Question from Principal Kahoun about Lovelace books to be included again? \$600 for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes, also \$300 Star of the North picture books for younger grades, via Kevin Koch recommendation. PTO to look into it!
  - Gaga pit possibility looking into cost, best kind, etc.

#### Events

- o Fun Run, Oct. 5 one and only fundraiser.
- Book Fair coincides with conferences/fall break need a Chairperson for coordinating conference meals with a sign-up genius, set-up and takedown. Also volunteers!
- o Fall Party, Nov. 2 free! Looking for volunteers!
- Library volunteers need someone to help coordinate parent helpers in AM / PM
- Spring carnival! Need chairperson with subcommittees of helpers!
- Wednesday morning helpers! Do projects for teachers. Kids welcome, flexible come when you can, no sign up. Meet in PTO room (by library) at 9:15 am.

## • Parent Comments/Questions

- o Reminder about having a School Board member come!
- Comment from new parent: impressed with school communication, Learning Ventures, being welcomed, but concerned about how long lunch is, needing more time with hot lunch. Feedback from others: kids learn schedule and eat quicker, line moves quicker, and sometimes 30 minutes is too long later in the year!
- Question about snack/snack lists. Principal Kahoun: We are doing lots and lots of thinking and reviewing many options around snack. There are some very severe nut allergies at Northpoint and the staff is seeking what's best for all kids, throughout whole school. Look for more to come soon on snack list and policy!
- Judi Kahoun presents volunteer opportunity to put up an encouraging sign in library and volunteer found!
- Parent question about recess. Principal Kahoun: Teacher supervised. One longer, and one shorter, except when they also have phy.ed. Specialist schedule is different this year for grades 1-4 3 days phy.ed, 3 days music, 3 days art. Kindergartners have own specialist, covering many different areas including culture and music, STEM, games and more.

\*The PTO is always seeking feedback and ideas! Sheets passed around – seeking ideas for presentations! Every parent of a Northpoint kid is part of the PTO! We would love new ideas, questions, presentation ideas, feedback.

Adjourn 7:50pm

Minutes submitted by Allie Owen, co-secretary and posted online at <a href="https://www.springlakeparkschools.org/Page/198">https://www.springlakeparkschools.org/Page/198</a>

# BUDGET:

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			2018	-2019					
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	Hospitality	(	500.00)			( - )		(	(500.00
	NSF Check Charge	(	50.00)			( - )		(	(50.0
	Office Supplies	(	25.00)			( - )		(	(25.00
	Postage	(	20.00)			( - )		(	(20.0
	Printing Costs	(	- )			( - )		(	-
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