

Northpoint Elementary PTO – October 7, 2019

Welcome

by Jessica Nelson (PTO President) at 6:30pm in Media Center. PTO Meeting Agenda handout available as well as fruits, veggies, treats, sparkling waters – please help yourself!

Introductions

PTO Board members, School Board Representative Amy Wheaton, Principal Judi Kahoun, Teacher liaison Kari Walton, approximately 7 other parents

Presentations

- **Principal Judi Kahoun**
 - Parent Info Night was very well-received and had a good turnout. Thank you to the staff who put it on and parents who attended!
 - The Fun Run was a success, with kids and volunteers all having a great time. People really liked the decorated sidewalks and the dance party. This was the first year that different grade levels cheered each other on, which was great fun for especially the 4th graders and kindergarteners. Look for that to continue next year.
 - Academic Update
 - Reading - District-wide work being done to “reset.” Staff had a full day training during workshop week, and the district is revisiting research and evidence-based reading. The district has been working to personalize reading, but we are not seeing the desired results. To that end, we are focusing on the five elements of reading because those are real predictors of reading success. This includes more screening and focus on phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. We are making sure all students have access to text at their level.
 - Math – This is the second year with the Bridges math curriculum, and the school is seeing the benefits of conceptual knowledge growth. Students are learning to look at the problem, seek out what is being asked and apply understanding to multiple situations. Teachers are continuing to work on higher level conversations, meeting a range of levels through low floor to high ceiling problems. Dr. Koch is joining teachers at their every other week PLC.
 - Inquiry and STEM learning – This year all Northpoint students will visit the Wargo Nature Center, beginning in the next few weeks. Each grade will make three visits to Wargo this year, and each grade has a different topic and focus for learning. Before going, students will have inquiry questions and literature. Following the field trips, there is a culminating experience back at school.

- Question about lagging skills and teacher communication – If a student has a lagging skill, teachers should be communicating with parent, and before conferences if there is a significant concern.
- **Superintendent Jeff Ronneberg – Levy Renewal**
(joined by Erika Taibl, Director of Communications and Marketing, and Colleen Pederson, Director of Community Education)
 - 1st question - Levy for Learning renewal
 - Funds teachers, support staff, education programs.
 - Passed in 2002, renewed in 2011
 - 2nd question - Capital Projects
 - Funds classroom technology, school operations, security and safety systems
 - Passed in 2011
 - We have a balanced budget and national recognition for sound financial management. One of only a few districts in the metro area to have NO budget reductions in the past 8 years.
 - Levy renewal has no tax increase and no funding increase; it maintains current funding for low class sizes and essential programs and technologies.
 - Vote on or before Tuesday, November 5th – in-person absentee (District Center or Anoka County Government Center) or on November 5 at the National Sports Center or Woodcrest
 - [SLP Levy Renewal Video](#)
- **School Board Representative Amy Wheaton**
 - Kids First, a get out the vote group - “Vote Yes!”
 - Event at Invictus on Wednesday Night – 6:30pm - 8:30pm, parent lists available to check out. See who you know and would be willing to contact for a “yes” vote.
 - Colleen Pederson has the lists in her office – contact her and see the list!
 - Goal – identify 2,275 “yes” votes. They will move to cold calling if they don’t get to that number through word of mouth. 758 claimed on the list as of now.
 - Facilities upgrades
 - SLP Fall Carnival & 2K highlighted the football stadium and work done outside (concessions, restrooms) with Panther Foundation grant.
 - Enhancements to Fine Arts Center.
 - Turf in front of Centerview added so practices don’t go so late.
- **Kari Walton, Teacher Liaison – 4th grade update**
 - What can students learn from animals to help them learn in the wild.
 - Whole class novel – The Thing About Georgie. Kids are very interested, sparking empathy, and trying to figure out what it’s like to be little.

PTO Business

- Conference Meals – Laura Perkins is fall chair. See volunteer signup.
- Fun Run last Friday! Huge thank you! Over \$15,000 raised with more coming in! Funds fields trips and more!
- Busy time for volunteers! See signups!
 - Fall Party Chairperson needed, or it will be cancelled
 - Conference meals, book fair and library helper signups all sent out!
- Possible December technology meeting?
****Please check out [Schoolology and Seesaw Info and Tutorials](#) for technology and app help!**
- Next meeting is **November 11!** Hope to see you there!

**Email nppto.president@gmail.com or nppto.volunteer@gmail.com for questions, ideas, or for more information on volunteering!

**Follow Northpoint PTO on Facebook!

** Check out twitter! **#SLPPantherProud #NPPride**

<https://twitter.com/judikahoun>

https://twitter.com/slp_schools/lists/northpoint-elementary

Minutes by Allie Owen, Northpoint PTO Co-Secretary