

# Northpoint Elementary PTO – January 13, 2020

## Welcome

by Jessica Nelson (PTO President) at 6:30pm in Media Center. Snacks and waters available.

## Introductions

PTO Board members, School Board Representative Amy Wheaton, Principal Judi Kahoun, Teacher liaison Tammy Saladis, Abbey Pierce (Social Worker and Community Resource Liaison), and Nancy Ortega (Lee Carlson Center therapist located at Northpoint/Woodcrest), approximately 13 other parents

## Presentations

**Nancy Ortega** (Lee Carlson Center therapist located at Northpoint/Woodcrest) **and Abbey Pierce** (Social Worker and Community Resource Liaison),

- Abbey is a social worker in her first year with SLP and Nancy is in her first full school year at Northpoint (half-time Northpoint, half-time Woodcrest) as last year was the first year to have school-linked therapist
- Teachers are assisting in the classroom, for example with coping skills
- Abbey assists families within the community with extra support and services to help bridge gap between home and school, and SLP has 4.5 social workers (student family advocates are now called social workers)
- Nancy typically meets with a student 1 time per week for 30 minutes to an hour
  - Topics addressed include anxiety, restlessness, fidgeting, depression, etc.
  - A 1:1 relationship is developed to help ID behaviors, offer social/emotional coping skills, and provide extra support at school
  - Informal meetings with parents as well
- Services are confidential and any information shared would be approved by parent

### **Questions:**

- Can families self-identify? Yes. Call Nancy, Abbey, staff, or teacher, and ask about options for counseling.
- Pay like you would outpatient service? Yes, we (Lee Carlson center) go through insurance. We discuss with family before starting, offer scholarships and go over criteria.
- There are separate services for students with IEPs, scheduled with teachers.
- Not a long-term issue? Mediations? Teachers are amazing at helping kids get to break area if they need it, or getting a drink, standing up, adapting for needs, etc. Their services are usually more intensive with the family.
- Principal Kahoun reminds us about the SLP comprehensive behavior management plan.
  - Some kids have lagging skills and need to be taught – responsive classroom to address some of these issues.

- Zones of regulation are taught and kids can then recognize them and help/communicate.
- Second Step is a K-4 social skills curriculum that we use.
- Minds Up includes thinking about mindfulness.
- These all work together to develop common practices, language and experiences for a universal experience class to class, and grade and grade. 80% of kids respond to this.
- For those that don't, we look at student AND teacher communication, behavior, etc. Teachers can report if a student needs some support. Teachers can bring students with higher needs to the "pit crew" – Principal Kahoun, Brooke, Robin and Jackie – and they work together on next step, whether academic or social/emotional/behavioral.
- Beyond that, the next step would be a special education evaluation.
- There is professional development around these topics. And just today, Jackie sent out resource links to parents.
- Do parents know if kid is "moving up the pyramid?" Yes, parents should know! It is a partnership with parents. Teacher can identify, students can identify, and parents can identify. Parents often see parts that school doesn't. Nancy Ortega adds that they are trying to bridge gap between home and school, and have open communication about what is going on at home. Lee Carlson has a comprehensive intake and works with parents closely before even working with kid.
- Regarding Second Step and Minds Up – with all that teachers have to squeeze in, how do you make sure it's being taught and there is time for it? The expectation is there and communicated that it is time well spent. Relationships are stressed as critical. Morning meeting is often where it is taught and then worked into the rest of the day.
  - Are there actual lessons for Second Step? Yes. Weekly. But also, teachers can be flexible with lessons that are needed and can be retaught.
  - Request for parent connection sheet to be sent home. Minds Up was in the fall, Second Step is just getting going, so sheets may be coming home in the future.

#### **Judi Kahoun**

- Academics – continuing to work hard in math, developing deep levels of understanding. Teachers are receiving extended professional development and providing good higher order thinking questions. More questions will be written that support the curriculum.
- Looking forward to movie night!

#### **Tammy Saladis – Teacher Liaison**

- Students love their Wargo Nature Center field trips and they are planning to be continued next year. Each grade level is a different experience.

#### **School Board Amy Wheaton**

- Retreat in November – worked on district operational plan, communication and leadership.

- December meeting was a lot of numbers, and next year's school calendar was approved.
- Welcomed a new board member and said goodbye to one.

#### PTO Business

- Movie Night – Toy Story 4! (Sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044BAAA922A4FD0-movie> )
  - A group of 4<sup>th</sup> graders came to Principal Kahoun and wanted to support the specialists with more supplies. She worked with them to coordinate a flyer and drive. There will be a coin drive at movie night for specialists or identified supplies, with dress up days next week as well.
  - Free event and concessions. Popcorn making starting early at 3pm.
- Dr. Koch to talk about gifted services at next meeting Feb. 10.
- Alison Feigh – April 6.
- Tyler Nelson, Westwood principal, to talk about the transition to Westwood – May 11.

\*\*Next meeting – February 10! Dr. Kevin Koch to discuss gifted services.

\*\*Email [nppto.president@gmail.com](mailto:nppto.president@gmail.com) or [nppto.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:nppto.volunteer@gmail.com) for questions, ideas, or for more information on volunteering!

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

<https://twitter.com/judikahoun>

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Minutes by Allie Owen, Northpoint PTO Co-Secretary