

PTO Meeting Minutes from 2.1.2021

Jessica, PTO President, opened the meeting with introductions and provided the following updates and news:

- PTO is starting to plan Mileage Club for this year and is seeking a chair to facilitate. We plan to utilize the PTO Facebook page to try to find a chair or co-chairs, but please let any PTO Board members know if you or someone you know is interested.
- We are resuming helping teachers with projects. Prior to Covid-19, this took place on Wednesday mornings. Due to restrictions, we will be working on projects for teachers in our own homes. If you are interested in helping teachers with their projects, please let Jessica or Judi know so we can get those details to you.
- Be sure to share your Panther Pride, and wear your red, white and blue to show your pride! Check out the PTO Facebook page and post pictures of your pride

Tony Easter, School Board Representative: The School Board is continuing to work with the administration, superintendent and regional support staff, and the Board remains focused on getting all students back to class safely. Also, the Board is reviewing budgets to ensure there is proper PPP in place and that the PPP is available to teachers. Finally, the Board is looking at the process for getting district teachers and staff vaccinated. We are all excited to get kids back to school.

Judi, Northpoint Principal:

1. We have been back at school for around eight days now and were able to retain the same homeroom teachers for the students. Things are going well, and it is great to see the kids.
2. Currently, we are focused on 2 main areas:
 - a. Health and safety, including any needed process revisions and working with Nurse Tammy on implementing H&S expectations, and
 - b. Developing a model for bringing students back, including best lessons learned from each model (e.g. hybrid, full-time classroom and distance learning) and how to incorporate what worked best across all models. We also considered learner maps and how to best meet immediate and future goals for each student. Those discussions and decisions then flowed into decisions about scheduling and what worked and did not work.
3. Teachers and students are engaged in the first module of the new reading curriculum, Wit and Wisdom. Teachers, as always, are modifying the curriculum to meet the specific needs of students and are taking the time that their students need. This is common with new curriculum as teachers must teach both the new process and the new content.
4. Reminder - Winter conferences are coming! Conferences will be virtual and will include discussion about each student's learning map and learning profile. Teachers will communicate directly with families, but most teachers will conference around 2/12 and will have some additional before and after school times available.
5. Fun Announcement: I Love to Read Month is coming with fun daily events for the month of March, including an all school virtual bingo called by Judi.
6. Questions presented from parents in attendance:
 - a. What is SAEBRS? SAEBRS is a survey that helps teachers identify if there are any emotional or social needs of our kids that we need to know. We have done similar

assessments in previous years, but this specific form is new for this year. This survey was recently completed in grades K and 1st, and the good news is that all need that were identified in the survey had already been separately identified by our teachers. There will be more information provided in March as to how this survey will take place in 2-4 grades.

- b. Will MCA assessment test be completed this year? At this point, without further direction from the federal government, we are currently expected to administer the MCA/MTAS this spring. Administration of the MCA/MTAS must be done in person – there is no remote testing option available. As a result, we are starting to plan for this, knowing that as we plan, we also may have to adjust and adapt to any further directions or guidance from federal or state leaders.
- c. Does the PTO fund classroom materials or equipment, such as Wobble chairs? PTO funds many school events and has worked with Judi as to specific school-based needs. In the past, teachers used to send grant requests to the PTO; however, this practice stopped due to several factors, including district-wide and school funding and equity among schools so there is no disparate treatment or access. In addition, we are very fortunate that Northpoint's needs are largely met resource-wise, so the school does not want to reach out to parents to fund these things because our district is able to fund this role. District-funding includes functional furniture that we receive on a regular basis and as teachers notify the administration of the need for specific items or equipment. In addition, the School Board takes position that these are the types of funding that is a core function/role for the district to provide to schools rather than seeking additional funding from parents. Most of the funding from the PTO is used to fund the supplemental experiences like field trips (including related busing) and school activities and supplemental learning opportunities like Power Hour.
- d. Will we be hosting any additional book fairs this year? Northpoint did host a Scholastic Book Fair in the fall and is considering a possible Usborne for the spring. Jessica will reach out to Usborne to see what capabilities are and if online is an option. The scholastic fair did not require a lot of planning, but it was not well attended and did not have much participation from families. There was minimal participation in the fall, so if we do another book fair, then we need to consider how to get the word out and generate interest.
- a. Have we seen Covid-19 related cases in school? Judi gets weekly updates on this, and we have not seen much Covid activity since returning. Prior to moving from hybrid, there were several teachers and students in quarantine and some positive cases. Also, as a reminder, teachers and staff can be tested for Covid every other Monday. We are working with the state as to the immunization process for teachers and staff. A very limited number of teachers in the whole district were vaccinated during the 1st of the immunization process, around 250 teachers and staff during the 2nd round, and all remaining teachers and staff are able to sign up on the waiting list for vaccination selection during the 3rd round. The great news is that the immunization process is evolving and improving a lot.

Kim Fehringer, EFL Principal, joined us and provided the following update:

1. Distance learning was designed largely around what we learned from last spring, and we are continuing to learn and revise as we go. Teachers are loving the opportunity to connect with the kids and are making great community connections within the distance learning community. Teachers feel really good about students' progress in curriculum, learning targets and pace of learning. Teachers have spent much time building routines and schedules that work for both students and families. The challenge is keeping routines but also keeping these routines fresh and keeping kids engaged. We have had feedback that kids seem to be less inclined to engage with videos, for example on asynchronous learning Wednesdays, so we have made adjustments based on that feedback and are continuing to respond to the needs of the families.
2. We have had significant, positive feedback on the implementation of the new reading curriculum, Wit and Wisdom implementation, and we are getting great feedback from the student's too. However, as with any new curriculum, teachers have had to think about and tweak schedules as they learn more about the Wit and Wisdom curriculum and Foundations, which is the phonics part of the curriculum.
3. Reminder that conferences are coming up, and teachers are reaching out any day now to provide flexible conference times in February. Teachers will communicate directly with families for scheduling. Teachers will be talking to you about learner maps and learning profiles with you during conferences as well and next steps in learning and how to partner on these next steps. Judi also highlighted that significant partnering is happening between both models (in-classroom and EFL teachers) especially as we transition from hybrid to in-person fulltime, and this strong partnership has been incredibly important and has allowed us to be consistent in our learning as students transition. Kim and Judi agreed that this has been a powerful collaboration as we have learned together so that students' transition was seamless.