

Northrop Site Council 1/13/26

Attendees

- Mr Uhler (principal)
- Mr Nanneman
- Mr Tiff
- Aaron Taylor
- Kris Gorman
- Mary Rick
- Grace Goodrich
- Jessalyn Johnson

Notes

New HSA, Parvin Jaipat

- The new “Donna” in the health office

Cards mailed to all possible incoming kindergarteners

- 80 potential kindergarteners in the boundary
- It would be great to have enough enroll who are within the boundary to get to 3 classrooms

Conference Sign Ups

- Will go out Jan 27th to get them out earlier

ANET Partnership - UFLI Instruction

- Support for teachers implementing UFLI (more similar, but less intense than Groves support)
- Only going to 3 schools in the district - focused on schools without extra instructional coaches (Northrop has .2 FTE of current instructional support and ANET is above and beyond that)

Supporting Northrop Families

- Safety: this is priority #1. Staff can bring students inside at any time and will if there is an emergency. Operating in Code Yellow (Lockout; normal inside activity with tight security at a single entrance) throughout the day, except for recess. All staff are aware of plans for arrival and dismissal (e.g. sending buses to drive around or holding kids inside at dismissal).
 - Trying to balance not causing fear among students while providing support

- Crossing guards - adding up to 2 parents to each corner with crossing guards; avoiding inviting outside community members on school grounds; also concerns about people staring at an elementary school from across the street
- Recess - not currently seeking support
- Support:
 - 17 kids (14 families) went to online learning with tech support including hot spots; ELL teacher, Ms Alexa will teach 15 kids; Special Ed teacher, Ms Joana will teach 2 kids
 - PTA has helped make sure they have winter clothes, food and other supplies
 - Starting “Buddy Families” who would provide consistent support privately and with appropriate caution

Questions/Discussion

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Northrop Parent Teacher Association Meeting Minutes

Northrop Elementary Media Center + Online

January 13, 2026

Attendees: 40 in person, 27 online

Officers/Staff Present

Austin Calhoun – President

Sabrina Sands – Vice President

Nick Lienesch – Treasurer

Kris Gorman – Secretary

Andy Uhler – Principal

Becky MacDonald (SEA)

Ms Dusbabek (3rd grade)

Josh Lang (Social Worker)

Alexa Michaletz (ELL)

Wendy Krough (2nd grade)

Introductions

Austin Calhoun calls meeting to order at 6:00pm and invites folks to take a moment to be present.

Principal's Update

Principal Uhler to present about the current situation and Northrop's response. He focused on 2 areas:

- School safety - Making sure all students are safe at school
 - All staff knows they can bring students inside at any time. Mr Uhler noted that they had to evacuate the playground during recess due to a car chase last year and could do it in less than 2 minutes.
 - We have plans that all staff know for arrival and dismissal.
 - We are in a Code Yellow Lockout out throughout each day (except for recess). This means that all doors are locked and only entrance is through the main office. District policy is only judicial warrants could grant access to the school and staff are to contact the General Counsel before allowing any access. Thus far, access to schools has been not part of ICE operations.
- Support - Making sure our families who need support get it. Primarily through Ms Alexa, Mr Lang and PTA funds, the school has been meeting student and family needs.
 - Food - grocery bags, gift cards
 - Winter Clothing
 - Online Learning (17 students, 14 families in online learning. Technology, including hot spots were delivered this week. Ms Alexa and Ms Joanna are teaching the online classes; no other teaching changes)
 - Other resources
 - Privacy and safety for families is paramount.
- School does not ask about or record immigration status
- We have a small number of families seeking support relative to the size of our school. Other schools in the district have much larger needs.
- In awe of the generosity and support offered through the Northrop community.

Updates from Ms Alexa and Mr Lang

Ms Alexa & Mr Lang

- Started with gratitude to the school community and PTA funding for allowing them to meet all requested needs to date. Mr Lang wanted to reassure attendees that families do not feel alone though very isolated. Whether through Northrop or other community connections, our families are connected.
- Rent resources:
 - SE Family Fund
 - Currently assessing what might be available for rent support for families. Suggested this might be a good place for Northrop families to donate for rent assistance if they want it to serve Northrop. Stay tuned on that.
 - Foothold
 - Mr. Lang to Update the school community with links for donations
- Ask: Pre-Packaged activity bags - for folks who are unable to leave their homes (20)
 - Puzzles
 - Games
 - Arts and Crafts
- Buddy Families
 - New way to create connections between families at home and another family to provide support. Some have material needs; others need a prescription picked up.
 - Volunteering family would help to gather resources to meet the need. PTA could financially support the requested needs.
 - PTA to create a Google form that would help Ms Alexa match a family from each class that coordinates support for a given family in need of support (8-10 families for this). She can't share the families' contact information but can share the volunteer's information with the family. Fields to include on the form:
 - Cross Street
 - Language
 - Kids Classroom
 - Kids Name
 - Make it clear on sign up that this isn't a monetary commitment
 - Safety and caution is paramount for families seeking support. (Kris Gorman notes: Volunteers for this should make sure that they are choosing their other engagement activities with care, assuming their car, phone and identity are being tracked if they are doing observer work and/or protesting. There are roles for all of us, but this isn't a role for everyone.)

Budget Update

Nick Lienesch (treasurer) gives update

- Lots of our standard yearly expenses were paid out since last meeting, including Midwest Food Connection, Every Meal and Family Tree. We continue to be in a strong budget position with healthy balance and few remaining large items.

Families Helping Families

Kris Gorman presents on a previous funding request to meet family needs brought forward from the social worker

- \$3000 approved in November to address needs
- Went towards Pre-packed grocery bags, Holiday Gifts, Boots & Winter Gear, Gas Cards, Food Delivery Gift Cards
- After discussion, a funding request was brought forward for \$3000 for the same type of expenses for spring to continue to support needs

- Sabrina motioned to approve, Kris seconded - Motion passes
- Recommendation made that if this stretches the budget, that we make a strong fundraising call for Northrop Night Out

Crossing Guard Volunteers / Parent Patrols

Kris Gorman presents on approach to supporting safety patrol / crossing guard

- Bolstering current safety patrol / crossing guard approach with more adults. No more than 2 adults per corner.
- Sign up through the usual Volunteering sign-up form on the Northrop website. Under “Families and Community”
- Britta Fitzer organizing schedule. She is emphasizing:
 - Having you as an extra grown-up presence to help safety patrol run smoothly and keep your eyes and ears open for any other happenings in the area.
 - If you see/hear unusual activity in the area our MPS policy is to calmly and quickly get students inside. In this case, you can go to the closest door and enter the building there.
 - In case of this situation, please report to the office once inside and tell someone in there what you saw, where, time, and what direction they were headed.

Kirsten Biel presents on Sanctuary Schools training offered by Minneapolis Families for Public Schools and MFE (Educators Union) last Sunday. 6 Northrop community members attended.

- In general Northrop is doing what was recommended, focusing on mutual aid and supporting/bolstering security protocols in place. Emphasis on de-escalation if ICE were on school grounds.
- At arrival and pick-up times, 1-2 parents/caregivers who are part of the Sanctuary Schools team will be present in the event of ICE on school grounds. Safety patrol volunteers should focus on getting kids/families in the building and the Sanctuary Schools team would aim to de-escalate any ICE and neighborhood interactions.
- They seek to work in partnership with existing structures.
- Kirsten and Nicole Cavender will meet with Mr Uhler on Wednesday to ensure alignment with existing procedures.
- Contact them if you are interested in getting involved. (Kris also has contact information if needed)

Discussion about also coordinating with St Helena about their patrols and needs. Kate Tabor is going to connect with Kirsten about joint patrol needs and will also be in touch about any additional needs that our community may be able to support there.

Teacher appreciation

- Question from the audience - is there a way for us to support the teachers during this time?
 - Ideas suggested: Meal at school; Chair Massages?
- Kris Gorman requested \$500 for teacher appreciation activities - Sarah Omernik motioned to approve. Louisa Fose seconded. Motion passes.
- Megan to email Sabrina about coordinating catering

Funding Request - Women’s History Month

Ms Dusbabek presents on a funding request for She Rock She Rock, a Minneapolis non-profit band of female musicians to play and educate our kids at an assembly for Women's History Month in March.

- \$800 requested
- Sabrina Sands motioned to approve. Louisa Fose seconded. Motion passes.

Meeting Adjourn

Kris Gorman motion to adjourn and Nick seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.