

**Northpoint Elementary PTO
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2010**

Introductions – Molly Sheedlo, President

Starting a few minutes after 6:30 p.m., Ms. Sheedlo began the meeting by introducing all new PTO Board members (Whitney Woodford, Jill Bangs, Julie Jeppson and Hattie Hillukka) and Staff Liaisons (Lorrie Murdy and Hope Rahn). Molly continued to explain that Northpoint's PTO is not a PTA, thus doesn't hold by the same official policies and procedures, and explained that it's much more casual of an organization.

Following the introductions, everyone in attendance introduced themselves, named their children and who's class they were in at Northpoint or elsewhere.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes from the May 2010 meeting were presented, so there were no minutes to be approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jill Bangs, PTO Treasurer, briefly outlined the budget for the 2010-2011 school year. The budget was approved with no questions or comments.

Presentations

1. Jodi Ruch, School Board Representative

- Ms. Ruch began her brief presentation by explaining that the School Board is a governing body versus a managing body.

- She continued to explain we may view Board meetings (held on the second Tuesday of the month) by watching local television, reading minutes made available on the school's web site and reading the quarterly newsletter.

- Ms. Ruch informed the PTO that the format for asking the Board questions. Questions may be asked at 6:45 p.m., 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. The questions will not be televised but will be recapped during the official meeting.

2. Mike Callahan, Northpoint Elementary Principal

ENROLLMENT

- Mr. Callahan started his presentation by talking about the new school bus company and procedures. He said a big "thank you" to all the volunteers who helped make this year's bussing situation very smooth.

- Mr. Callahan continued his presentation by discussing the enrollment numbers. Total enrolled students is currently at 685, slightly down from last year mainly because of moving Spanish Emersion to Westwood Intermediate.

5 = ½-day Kindergarten classes

3 = K+ classes

175 = First grade students

179 = Second grade students

155 = Third grade students

3 = Preschool classes

- Mr. Callahan than discussed that the teachers are meeting with professional assessment specialists to determine who the students are with the greatest developmental needs and how Northpoint can best serve them.

COMMUNICATION

- Mr. Callahan thanked the volunteers for helping, saying that it's the parents' job, and we need to be advocating for them.

- He continued to mention that the school always wants to be transparent about what is happening in the school.

3. Colleen Pederson, Dir. Of Community Education

- Ms. Pederson introduced her and her organization as providing the programs that happen outside of the average school day.

- She mentioned that all programs were listed on their web site and brochures were available to be picked up.

- She offered a time for questions, but there were none.

Activities Update

Fundraiser: Amy Wheaton announced that the Pod presentations were set for Thursday, Sept. 23. Prizes for this year include Toys R Us gift cards for the top three students in each grade and ice cream parties for the top class in each grade. Ms. Wheaton mentioned that the goal this year is to raise \$20,000, like last year. She also mentioned that they are handing out bracelets this year.

A question was asked if kids could be brought with parents who volunteer. They may be brought, just so that the volunteers volunteer for activities where they can also parent.

Mr. Callahan mentioned that during the pod presentations it will be made clear to students that they do NOT have to have donations.

Thank You's: Whitney Woodford provided Lorrie Murdy and Hope Rahn with school t-shirts as a thank you to the PTO staff Liaison's for all the work that they will do for the PTO this year. Julie Jeppson provided Jes Mostek for helping with Meet Your Teacher and Marla Sciara for helping with school kits.

PTO Bulletin Board: Ms. Sheedlo mentioned that the PTO Bulletin Board has been relocated to the breezeway at the front entrance.

NP Apparel: Julie Jeppson explained that the PTO Board take a lot of time determining to create a whole new look or continue with last year's logo. She explained that the Board made the best decision possible with all the information that they had. Most everyone in the room agreed that the shirts were very nice and most did not care if new designs were created every year.

There was one suggestion to make the design of the t-shirt more prevalent on the order form. One question was asked about offering hats again for the Fall/Winter. The majority of those in attendance would like to know about hats being available to order. Ms. Jeppson said that she would ask the printing company for quotes.

Ms. Jeppson mentioned that the PTO hopes to have the t-shirts delivered to students prior to the Fun Run.

The majority of those in attendance also voiced that they would like to have another order around November in time for the holidays. There was a suggestion to make sure that there is a "Special Delivery" request on the form in case they are being given as gifts to students.

Wednesday Volunteers: Michelle Dempsey announced that Weds. Volunteers would only be in the mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. She mentioned that volunteers should only stay as long as they want/can, and help as often as they want/can.

Box Tops, Labels, etc.: Tascha Schaar will be heading up as Chair for this activity. Ms. Sheedlo mentioned that the collection of these things actually make a difference and clarified that the money raised goes to the school, not PTO.

Book Fair: Heidi Sass confirmed that this year's Fall Book Fair is with Scholastic. She passed out volunteer sign-up sheets. Mr. Callahan confirmed that students may not purchase books during the school day, but will be brought to the Book Fair to see what books are available for purchase during conference hours. It was also confirmed that there will be a teacher request/wish list available.

Conference Meals: Jen Edlund and Kate Chapman will be responsible for coordinating the supply of meals for teachers during parent/teacher conferences. A volunteer sign-up sheet was passed around.

Volunteer Opportunities: Hattie Hillukka said a big thank you to those parents who already signed up to volunteer. She mentioned that the only outstanding need for Chairs this year is for the Fall Party in November. She also explained that there doesn't need to be a single Chair, but Co-Chairs or a group. She explained that being a Chair involves organizing the food, activities, dance, games and art projects, and there are plenty of sign-up volunteers to help.

Magnet: Ms. Sheedlo thanked the Panther Foundation for generously providing the magnet, listing all the schools phone numbers on it.

School Supply Kits: Ms. Sheedlo asked if any parents in attendance ordered School Kits and what they thought. All parents' who ordered the kits liked them. There was one suggestion to be provided with the list so that they know what is NOT going to be provided so that they can get this on their own.

A question was asked if parents could contribute more to a School Kit fund so that those families who cannot provide school supplies to students can get one free of charge. It was mentioned that there really is no good way to contribute to the School Kit program this way, but if extra school supplies are donated, please provide them to the office or a specific teacher. However, with the extra money made from the school kits, the PTO will look into purchasing miscellaneous school supplies in the future.

Open Microphone

Someone suggested the use of McDonald's receipts as a fundraiser. PTO said that they would look into this.

Amy Hennen, member of the Panther Foundation, mentioned that they hold two fundraisers during the year: Staff Follies and the Gala. They raise

approximately \$100,000 during the year to provide grants to teachers, students, parents, etc. district wide.

Ms. Sheedlo asked if there was any feedback regarding the busing company. Mr. Callahan mentioned that everything is going smoothly and that Lorenz seems to be very receptive to comments and working with the school. If there is a bus issue, please contact the transportation office directly at 201-8888. There was a question about who should be called if there is a comment about another child's behavior. Mr. Callahan explained that this is a school issue. He also explained that the busses, when they pull into the school parking lot prior to pick-up and drop-off turn on a camera with a live feed. All rides are recorded and may be viewed if there are issues.

Ms. Sheedlo requested that everyone who has a Target credit card to make sure that they designate Northpoint as the beneficiary of Target's 2% donation.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting

Scheduled for 6.30 p.m. on October 11 in the Media Center.