

# Northpoint Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

## January 5, 2009

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Amy Hennen, PTO President, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those in attendance approved the December meeting minutes.

### **Presentations**

#### First Grade Teachers

Northpoint first grade teachers Mrs. Innvaer and Mrs. Bertschinger presented to the group. First grade classes are using math skills groups to personalize lessons for students. Students are put into groups based on pre-tests of targets, and they switch classrooms and/or teachers. The targets that students are tested on are used to plan lessons.

Teachers use different methods of teaching such as internet resources and smart boards. Think-Tac-Toe is used to enrich and extend targets for those students above standard.

Teachers like students to assess themselves and have ways for them to do that.

#### Annette Winrick

Annette Winrick, school board member, reported that the school board will have a work session on Thursday, January 7 to discuss budget modifications and staff negotiations. The next school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12..

#### Mr. Callahan, Northpoint Principal

Mr. Callahan reported that kindergarten information night will be held at Northpoint on Tuesday, January 19. If parents cannot attend this session, they can attend a session at either Park Terrace Elementary or Woodcrest Elementary. Kindergarten round-up will be held in March.

Conferences will be held on Monday, February 1, Thursday, February 4 and Friday, February 5. Sign-up forms will be going home on Thursday, January 14 in Thursday folders and confirmation of conference times will be going home with students on Thursday, January 21.

Thursday, January 28 is an early release day for students, and there is no school on Friday, January 29. Teachers will meet to focus on student learning and data.

Mr. Callahan thanked everyone who participate in supporting Northpoint by collecting Box Tops and having a percentage of their Target purchases go to Northpoint. These greatly help us respond to the needs of the school. Examples of how this money is used are:

\$1000 for Spanish books  
\$1800 for Phy Ed mats  
\$80 per month for star student pizza parties  
\$1300 in library books from Box Tops  
A smart board (to float)  
Science supplies  
Math supplies (such as calculators)  
Easels for pod areas  
Banners  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade bussing to the Fine Arts Center  
3<sup>rd</sup> grads track and field day busses  
Books for kindergarten round-up (so that each student can take a book home)

### **Treasurer's Report**

Kelly Rademacher, PTO Treasurer, reviewed the budget and reported that there is more money in the budget this month from T-shirt and hat sales.

### **Activities Update**

#### School kits

Amy Hennen reported that we are in need of someone to co-chair the school kits for next year. If you are interested, please contact Amy or Laura Dickinson.

#### Non-traditional volunteer opportunities

Jen Edlund, Northpoint PTO Vice President, reported that this program will begin on Wednesday, January 20 and will start out as a way to give parents an opportunity to work on projects for teachers at school in the evening.

Jen is interested in possibly doing a service project in the community in the spring.

If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact Amy or Jen.

#### Volunteer survey

The next volunteer survey will be going home on Thursday, January 7 in the Thursday folders. A lot of volunteers are needed for the carnival!

#### Carnival

Kate Chapman, carnival co-chair, reported that she is looking for someone to be in charge of food for the carnival. Please contact Kate if you are interested.

#### Caribou partnership

The Caribou in Blaine (near Kohls and Menards) is interested in "adopting" Northpoint. They would recognize a different staff group each month and give them a free beverage.

### Next year's board and chairperson opportunities

Amy Hennen reported that we are looking for people to serve as Northpoint PTO board members for the 2010-2011 school year, as well as people to chair committees. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Amy.

### Winter Activities

January movie night – Jessica Friedman reported that Wall-E was chosen by the students as the movie to be shown at movie night. Doors will open at 6:00, and the movie will be shown in 2 locations this year. Best Buy will bring the blue ray players and movies, and will give away the movies. Refreshments will be available for purchase. There will be a raffle for Toys R Us gift cards. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Jessica Friedman.

February reading event – Amy Wheaton and Whitney Woodford reported that they have purchased 500 books for the event. Winter Weavers story tellers have been booked and will be at school during the day on February 19 and will be coming back at night for the reading night event.

February conference meals – Shaun Olson reported that she will be sending out e-mails next week looking for volunteers to contribute to the February conference meals.

Book Fair – Jean Calabrese and Heather Samuelson reported that flyers will be sent home on Thursday, January 14. The e-fair is currently open for those who would like to purchase books online, otherwise you can purchase books at the book fair being held on February 1, 4 and 5.

### Open microphone

Amy Privratsky reported that the Panther Foundation gala will be held on Saturday, February 6, at the TPC Twin Cities and tickets are still available. If you have silent or live auction items that you would like to donate, or if you are interested in purchasing tickets to attend the gala, please contact Amy Privratsky. Last year the gala brought in over \$98,000 to help the students in the Spring Lake Park school district. See [pantherfoundation.org](http://pantherfoundation.org) for membership information.

**\*\*REMINDER - NEXT PTO MEETING IS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AT 6:30\*\***

*PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE FROM OUR ORIGINAL CALENDAR*