

Northpoint Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2009

Welcome and Introductions

We had a great turnout for our first PTO meeting of the school year! Thank you to all of the 52 people who were in attendance.

Presentations

Mr. Callahan, Northpoint Principal

Mr. Callahan gave a big thank you to everyone who has volunteered and helped make the beginning of the school year successful. Last year enrollment began at 597 students, and this year it began at 719 students. This year there are 10 kindergarten classes, 7 first grade classes, 6 second grade classes and 6 third grade classes. There are 12 new staff members at Northpoint this year, and only 1 open classroom. Mr. Callahan invited everyone to attend Friday's first all school meeting at 9:25. He informed everyone of the Parent Information Night taking place on September 24. There will be two sessions, one from 6:30-7:10 and the other from 7:20-8:00. Childcare is available for children ages 3 and up. Safety week will take place the week of September 21 and there will be a fire drill, tornado drill, a lockdown and students will practice a bus evacuation.

School Board Member

Jodi Ruch gave us a school board update for Annette Winrick who was not in attendance. Julie informed us that the school board is a governing board and there are 7 members. The school board is broken up into different committees. Feel free to contact one of the school board members at any time.

Lorrie Murdy and Jim Hasling, Kids First

Jim Hasling shared some information with us on a levy that will be on the ballot this November 3. He said that a levy is for learning, and a bond is for building. If the levy passes, the money will go to things such as paying teachers and helping keep class sizes down. There will be approximately \$1 ½ million - \$3 million in budget cuts if this does not pass. For the past two years the state has had a 0% increase in funding to school districts and it is predicted that it will be 0% for the next two years. Residents of Fridley and Spring Lake Park will vote at Woodcrest Elementary and residents of Blaine will vote at the Westwood campus.

The Kids First group is raising money to help fund mailers and get the word out to the community to vote yes in November. To do this, they are selling Kids First T-shirts for \$10, they are accepting donations and they are asking the school PTO/PTAs for funds (the Northpoint PTO will contribute \$100). They are also looking for 12-16 volunteer callers to call from Northpoint on Thursday, October 1 and Monday, October 26.

Amy Hennen and Laurie Murdy will be creating a Kids First page on Facebook.

Treasurer's Report and Approval of Budget

Kelly Rademacher, the PTO Treasurer went through this year's budget. Those in attendance approved the budget.

Activities Update

Northpoint apparel sales – Jen Edlund, PTO Vice President

New Northpoint short-sleeved T-shirts (\$10), long-sleeved T-shirts (\$15) and hooded sweatshirts (\$20) are available this year. An order form went home the first week of school for anyone interested in placing an order. If anyone has ideas for other apparel items that they are interested in, please share those ideas at the October PTO meeting.

Wednesday volunteers – Laura Dickinson, Volunteer Coordinator

Ann Corrigan, Michelle Dempsey, Amy Meilstrup and Whitney Woodford will be leading the Wednesday volunteer group this year. There are two sessions on Wednesdays, a morning shift from 9:30-11:30 and an afternoon shift from 1:00-3:00. Feel free to come anytime during those shifts and stay for any amount of time that your schedule allows. Siblings are welcome. It is a fun way to meet other Northpoint parents and help get projects done for the teachers!

Box Tops, Labels, etc – Ann Corrigan

Last year approximately \$2200 was raised from the Box Tops program and we have over \$800 so far this year! Items that are accepted are Kemp's caps, Land O Lakes caps, Campbell's labels and Box Tops. These can be sent to school or dropped off anytime during the school year.

Fall Fundraiser – Pam Wellen, PTO Secretary and Whitney Woodford

This year's fall fundraiser will be a pledge-based fundraiser and a ½ mile fun walk/run. An information sheet and fundraiser envelope was sent home on September 17 and pod presentations were done to inform the students and get them excited for the fundraiser. The goal is for each student to raise \$10 from 5 people. Fundraiser envelopes are due on Wednesday, September 30 and the fun run/walk will take place on Thursday, October 1. Families are encouraged to come and run/walk with their student or to cheer them on. There will be snacks and beverages for the students after the run/walk. There are prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place fundraisers in each grade, and the class with the highest amount raised in each grade will get an ice cream party. Please help your student make this year's fundraiser a big success!

Fall Party – Kelly Rademacher, PTO Treasurer and Laura Dickinson

The fall party will take place at Northpoint on Friday, October 23 from 6:00-8:00. There will be a DJ from Kid's Dance with dance contests and prizes, BINGO, crafts, and pizza, chips and cookies will be for sale. Kelly asked for additional ideas for activities and suggestions were pumpkin decorating and hay wagon rides around the school. It was also suggested to have boxes available for a food drive.

Book Fair – Rachelle Hart

The Scholastic book fair will take place October 12-14 (the week of MEA). Rachelle is looking for a co-chair for the event. If you are interested, please contact her at rachellehart1@gmail.com. Scholastic offers a 2-hour workshop for the book fair chairs, and she would love to have the co-chair attend that workshop with her.

The PTO is exploring the possibility of having our spring book fair through a company called Books Are Fun. They bring all of the products, take care of all of the set-up and take down and Northpoint receives a portion of the profits.

Conference Meals – Shaun Olson

Shaun Olson will coordinate volunteers to bring meals for teachers during conferences on October 12 and 13. The menus are yet to be determined!

PTO newsletter – Amy Hennen

Amy will be putting together a monthly PTO newsletter this year. Please contact Amy if you have ideas for the newsletter.

November meeting

It was decided that the November PTO meeting will be held on Monday, November 2 at 6:30 in the Northpoint media center.

Non-traditional volunteer opportunities

Amy Hennen discussed the possibility of having non-traditional volunteer opportunities this year for people who are not available to volunteer during school hours, such as on Saturdays. If anyone is interested in being the chairperson of this committee, please contact Amy. We will brainstorm ideas at the next meeting for things that can be done in the community, and other ideas for this group.

Open Microphone

It was brought up that there should be peanut-free snacks available at events such as the family fun night, carnival, reading night, etc. A suggestion was made to offer packaged Rice Krispie bars.

A suggestion was made to break up times for the meet your teacher event next year to alleviate congestion in the school and parking lot.

It was mentioned that if you open an account at Cartridge World, you will receive 10% off and a % of your purchase will go to Northpoint.

It was asked if guidelines for what to look for regarding the H1N1 virus will be going out. Mr. Callahan responded that a 2-page information sheet would be going home in the Thursday folders that week with this information.

Adjournment

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30pm in the Northpoint media center.