



PTA Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2017

Introduction of Officers

- Stacy Delzer-Martin, President
- Kjessia Johnson Karol, Vice President
- Patrick Jackson, Treasurer
- Jill Carlton, Secretary

Teacher Feature

- Intro of Teachers in Attendance
 - Mrs. Kristina Ebert, 3rd Grade Teacher
 - Ms. Rachel Matsumoto, 5th grade teacher

Staff-Lead Discussion

- Current Events and Our Children
 - How to effectively talk with our kids about current events, such as natural disasters and violence.
 - School Social Worker, Dena Wilson (Dena.Wilson@mpls.k12.mn.us) and School Psychologist, Lindsey Wagner (Lindsey.Wagner@mpls.k12.mn.us) joined us.
 - Both took time to explain their roles before the discussion started.
 - Lindsey, the School Psychologist, is in Northrop 1.5 days a week. She spends much time doing evaluations for special education. She is part of a multi-tiered system of support. Dena is in the school 3 days a week. She works with special education students, attendance issues, and provides much in the moment support to students in crisis. She is open to referrals and will speak with parents who are worried their kids are struggling with a particular issue.
 - Lindsey and Dena provided important resources, all which we have attached.
 - Some of the general ideas include:
 - asking general questions about what they know, to feel out what they are hearing and thinking
 - Reassure kids it's ok to talk about things
 - Reassure kids that they are safe, even if you feel uneasy about things
 - Divert fear and anxiety by having kids do something proactive - such as writing thank you notes to firefighter
 - Watch your own stress level, and be aware when your own stress is possibly rubbing off them
 - Many resources available - Lindsey finds many good resources at the National Association of School Psychologists, anyone is able to access at <https://www.nasponline.org/>.

Budget

- 2016-2017 Financials
 - Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2017.
 - Final Discretionary spending included:
 - Gift cards for family needs (such as winter gear, groceries, etc. working with Dena Wilson)
 - Bike Fix It Station
 - All school assembly with Taiko Drumming on November 10.
 - A few revisions were made:
 - Rally expenses lowered from \$4000 to \$2300
 - Plant Sale needed to increase expenses, as there was an increase in sales last year
 - Final Budget Approval for 2017-2018 was voted on; it was approved.

Walk-A-Thon Recap

- It was a success on a sunny, beautiful fall day!
- We raised around \$5,000! Money will be used for sets of snowshoes (two classroom sets) and Leveled Classroom Library books.
- Let the PTA know if you would like to help with the purchasing of the snowshoes

Grant Request

- The PTA approved a grant request from Mr. Martin (2nd grade) for vests for \$193.68. He plans to use these for vests for his class for environmental hikes. All agreed it sounded like a great use of funds!

Reminder of Ongoing Fundraisers

- Corporate Programs
- Parkway Pizza Night and Cardinal Bar Night
- Please let us know if you have ideas for other locations, a parent let us know that there is a program through Office Depot
 - <https://www.officedepot.com/a/content/back-to-school/5percent/>
 - NORTHROP COMMUNITY SCHOOL ID: 70054369

Volunteer Opportunities within PTA

- Please assist with the following, as you are able!
 - Yearbook Photos (email to northropyearbook@gmail.com)
 - Northrop Night Out - Chair needed!

- Craft Night - please let us know if you have ideas for a craft table for kids!
- Plant Sale
- Rally Around Northrop - Chair needed!

Idea for Community Service

- Kjessia presented information on The Sheridan Story, a non-profit dedicated to fighting hunger and providing families with food to take home on the weekend. Ideas were discussed about doing this as a group.

New Business

- Principal Amy answered questions about construction and provided update
 - The construction is on track at this time; there was a recent delay of about 2 weeks (many materials were low as they were sent to hurricane hit areas of the country), but they appear to be back on schedule.
 - Around mid-December, the new lunchroom should be completed.
 - After this, they will head into Phase 2, which is turning the old lunchroom into a new music and art room (that will include a kiln area)
 - Impact on kids as appeared low - minimal noise has been reported. The construction crew has been sensitive to being quiet during certain times and responding if there are any complaints.
- Questions about Media Center
 - Several parents in attendance had questions about the media center and its current use.
 - Amy discussed that after MEA, kids will be able to be back in the Media Center checking out books.
 - There is a new para is being hired that will staff the Media Center and will allow 30 minutes a week for each class.
 - The art teacher will utilize the space during construction for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade art times.

Next Meeting

- Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Child Care always provided!