

Northrop PTA meeting minutes for Thursday, September 14, 2016

First PTA meeting of the year! We had 32 parents present, 3 staff, and Principal Amy!

PTA Introductions and Overview:

-Officers for 2016-2017 school year:

- Stacy Delzer Martin, President - has a 2nd and 5th grader at Northrop
- Kjessia Johnson Karol, Vice President – has a 1st and 3rd grader at Northrop
- Patrick Jackson, Treasurer – has a 2nd grader at Northrop
- Jill Carlton, Secretary – has a 2nd grader at Northrop

-Introduction of our new principal, Amy Kettunen Jahnke. Amy expressed her gratitude to staff, parents, kid, PTA and Site Council for how welcoming all have been.

PTA Mission Statement was read:

“PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.”

PTA Membership this year: Based on National PTA recommendations, and encouragement for families to feel vested, it is suggested that parents fill out membership forms this year that will allow us to keep you informed and in the loop on events. Also, there is a suggested donation of \$10.00.

Email List: Be sure to sign up this year!! We are creating a new list from last year and are starting from scratch. Please make sure we have your email address to stay in touch!

Teacher Feature:

Beginning with our October meeting, we will highlight various teachers/grades and allow them to share current news/curriculum/projects going on in their area.

“Woodduck Wishes” will be part of this, and the teachers presenting can bring 3 wishes that they need for their classroom or grades. They can write these on a paper duck that will be distributed, and parents can pick an item that they want to donate that a teacher is requesting (i.e. a certain game for their room, new pencil sharpeners, etc.)

At this meeting, we had the “Social Work Feature” which allowed the new school social worker, Dena Stauffenecker, LICSW, to introduce herself and her role. Dena discussed the various roles she has at Northrop. This includes:

- Improving school climate and keeping a positive atmosphere, which includes bullying prevention program and a new “random acts of kindness” curriculum
- Mental Health Support to students – may be 1:1 sessions or in groups
- Help with resources for students and families
- Legal requirements – ensuring kids have proper attendance
- Overseeing the 504 program for children with disabilities who benefit from special education
- Consultation with teacher and student providers for behavioral interventions
- Ensure all kids feel safe and supported

Dena has been a school social worker for 11 years, and enjoys all the different roles she has in a day. She is available by email as the best way to get ahold of her, and is available to all students.

Tonight, we were happy to have 2 teachers in attendance:

- Anna Whiting, STEM teacher
- Glenn Shoemaker, 1st grade teacher

Volunteer Opportunities:

Yearbook:

We are grateful for Molly Rolfsmeier, who will be donating her time to put together the yearbook. She utilizes photos from field trips and classroom activities. She is always in need of photos – if you have school photos to send on, please email to northropyearbook@gmail.com. Make sure to put the classroom the photo was taken from.

100 year Party!

2016 is the 100th birthday of Northrop! We want to celebrate this by having some sort of party for students and families in 2016. Ideas included hanging photos of the school from years ago and possibly having video interviews from people who attended in the past. PTA officers are actively looking for a volunteer to head this committee and those who can help organize this. Please utilize the PTA email if you are interested!

Rally Around Northrop:

This annual community event was discussed and summarized for new members. It is always a big event at the end of the school year, that highlights a run, a silent auction, live music, and food trucks.

Craft Night:

This event is just a fun event for families who are stuck in with the cold weather. Students and families can come and make crafts an evening in the school, typically around Valentine's Day. This year there is consideration of adding a service idea to it, such as bringing in canned food or making a craft for elderly or service people abroad.

Plant Sale:

A fundraising plant sale is always held in May, teaming with Gertens.

Non Selling Fundraisers:

Corporate programs:

Box tops – this fully supported our Math Corps program last year! Baggies were distributed encourage people to hang them at work and give out to family members who can easily collect these. There is a drop off in the main office for these. Other programs include Loaves for Learning, Coke Rewards, Amazon Smile, and Holy Land Hummus.

“Challenge 100” – with Northrop's birthday this year, we are changing to “Celebrate 100”. We will be handing out forms this fall asking for financial support.

Parkway Pizza – 4th Tues of every month they donate 5% to Northrop

Chris and Rob's pizza – now "Chicago Taste Authority" will be distributing forms with a donation night they will have as well, so be on the lookout for that.

Other ideas include Menchie's Yogurt and Chipotle – also let us know if you know of more!

Survey:

Please fill out the survey on the PTA page of the website. This survey will allow us to learn new ways of helping the school and find out what people like or want to work on from previous years. The results will be shared at the next meeting – we are accepting responses until October 14th.

The surveys can be anonymous, but if you want to provide your name you will be entered to win 1 of 3 swag bags!!

Go to: <http://northrop.mpls.k12.mn.us/NorthropPTA>

Walk-A-Thon:

This year, the Walk A Thon will be on Wednesday, October 5th, 2016.

We will be raising money, and at this time, it is undetermined where the money will go. There have been many examples of needs teachers have, such as kiln and art supplies, shareable technology, class sets of cameras, and equipment for outside field trips.

This led to a discussion on the need for technology, and that Amy acknowledged the high demand for increased technology in the school. The 4th/5th grade teams are in need of new ipad carts, but 1 cart (with about 30 in each cart) would cost around \$10,000. The ideas of chromebooks was also discussed, as it will be less expensive. The carts are needed as they are the easiest way to transport the technology as well as to charge the items on it. The need also is present because the computer lab was turned into a 5th grade classroom this year. In general, this is a widespread problem in Mpls schools.

The fundraising goal for the Walk A Thon was not chosen during the meeting, as it was decided that a vote would occur at the next meeting. Amy will also allow teachers to vote on what they feel is the highest need and will come to the October meeting with that information.

Financials/Budgets:

The idea was discussed for a calendar to be available to families that would lay out all the fundraisers dates and what they will be raising money for, so that families can plan for what they want to choose and budget for throughout the year. It was discussed that getting home information about a fundraiser, without knowing what it is going to, often is not helpful. Families want to be aware of where the money is going and what else they will have options to donate to throughout the year.

The budget for 2016/2017 was also distributed.

Initially, it was handed out with the intention that the budget be voted on and approved. This was supposed to happen at the last meeting of last school year, in May 2016, but did not happen. This approval is needed to move forward with any spending.

Many questions arose about the budget presented, and members felt uncomfortable voting it approved. It was decided that the PTA members at that meeting with only vote on approving the October budget, and would table the rest for the next meeting. It was requested a more detailed budget be distributed for that vote.

The October budget was approved, which includes spending \$350 on CheezIts and juice boxes for the kids at the Walk A Thon, as well as the teacher stipend of \$250 per teacher. It was also approved that each teacher would be given \$50.00 to spend on buses for field trips.

Ericsson's 100th Birthday

As discussed earlier in the meeting, we are hoping to plan an event to celebrate the 100th year. More information can be found at <http://mpshistory.mpls.k12.mn.us/Ericsson.html>.

We are in need of planners for this party!! PLEASE let us know if you are interested!!!

Open Forum:

- Scott Donnelly, from Northrop Families Black Lives Matter group, spoke about this new group formed this summer. The groups goal is to have dialogue and provide support to all students, staff, and families of Northrop. The groups wants to find helpful language for kids on difficult topics and provide resources to staff as needed. All are welcome at future meetings with Scott as the current main contact. He stated they have no official affiliation with “Black Lives Matter.”
- Play It Safe Minneapolis – Kjessia Johnson talked about the tire pieces for the playground, and how there are some safer alternative options out there being discussed. This may be an idea for a future meeting, to have a speaker on this topic and hear about how other school districts are handling this. For more information, go to :<https://www.facebook.com/playitsafeminneapolis/>
- Kjessia also brought up that the mother of a kindergartner is in need of assistance in getting her son to school. For families who live SW of Northrop, there is a mom outside the bus zone at 47th and Oakland needing assistance. She is blind and unable to transport her son home. Please email the PTA if you can assist!
- Increased communication need: one PTA member brought up how we are lacking this year on Northrop emails and calendar information. Amy validated this and brought up how all the office staff are new this year. They are working on this, but due to so many staff transitions, it has delayed this.
- The cafeteria update was discussed morning line up and afternoon pick up were discussed. While there have been some transition with the changes, overall the sense is that it is going well. Amy is continually open to feedback on it and is assessing how all is going. She is also open to hearing other ideas, some of which
- by Amy as well. At this time, Amy has met with Mpls school staff who have proposed moving ahead with the project that had been slated for last spring/summer. During early construction, they found the footing would not support the changes that they wanted to make and had to make a new plan for the cafeteria expansion. The current goal is to expand the cafeteria to allow to actually have a functioning kitchen that will allow for meals to be cooked onsite. It would also have the potential for 3 salad bars. During the construction phase, there would be 2 options that would affect students and staff: EITHER, kids would have to eat in their classroom everyday with no hot meals, or the music and art rooms would be displaced during construction (so art and music would be done in the classrooms). At this time, the school is leaning towards the latter

option, but no official decision has been made. Amy plans to keep families posted as she learns more.

Next Meeting is **Thursday October 27, 2016** at 6:30 pm.

Ways to get in touch with the PTA include:

- Email: Northroppta@yahoo.com
- Twitter: @NorthropPTA
- Facebook: Northrop Urban Environmental PTA
- Send us a note with your student to our attn: (for our office mailbox)
- Mail: Northrop PTA, 4315 31 Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Thanks TO ALL for coming!!! 😊