

Northrop PTA Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Attendees: 24 parents present, 2 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

Teacher Feature

This month we had 2 teachers come to discuss their role at Northrop.

- Jill Loesch, Northrop's Instructional and Advanced Differentiation Specialist. Jill is a part-time staff member at Northrop who coaches and plans with teachers to ensure kids are receiving the challenges that they need. She does various coaching cycles, working 1:1 or with groups of teachers to assist with resources and plans for the advanced tier. She is able to provide more in-depth training, connect with parents, and assists in the facilitation of the CoGat tests. She is happy to connect with parents and can be reached at Jill.Loesch@mpls.k12.mn.us.
- Wendy Krogh is a 2nd grade teacher at Northrop. She discussed her current 2nd grade class, and the work they are doing with differentiated math groups, social studies, and the Constitution (her class memorized the Preamble!). She brought their classroom rules that they worked on together, as well as some of the self-portraits they did with Ms Vetter. Both Jill and Wendy were able to provide some ideas for their "Wishlist Wooducks!"

Black Lives Matter Update

Erin Sugrue, a Northrop parent and a leader of Northrop's Black Lives Matter group provided us with a monthly update. The group had just completed their first meeting with Principal Amy, where they were able to express concerns and ideas. They will be planning an upcoming meeting at the school and welcome all school families interested to join the Facebook group. Notes from their meeting on 11/15 can be found in detail through their FB page.

Play it Safe Minneapolis

Speaker, Dianna Kennedy

Play it Safe Minneapolis is a group of Twin Cities moms that have formed to help advocate and assess the safety of our playgrounds throughout the metro area. They have a large focus on playgrounds made of tire mulch, also known as "crumb rubber infill." Many of Minneapolis schools ended up with this years ago when it was deemed safe. At this point and time, it is known that there is some level of toxicity (just unsure how much). Dianna discussed the history of this as well as current non-toxic forms that are available.

Currently, the current school board is aware and actively involved in looking at ways to change this. Due to the large cost, a quick overhaul of any playgrounds is not feasible, but there is planning in the works to figure out how to begin the process. A plan for a timeline and a budget for these changes is being looked at; also, 8 schools who never received the tire mulch will remain without it. Unfortunately, due to the extreme costs, it is not something an individual school can choose to do on it's own – it is a larger systematic issue.

The new school board recently elected will begin meeting in January, and per Dianna, this will be a topic on the table. She is hopeful that changes will be in the works. She is happy to help people get involved and connect with her as this process unfolds.

In the meantime, for parents worried about any potential toxicity on the playground, she recommends encouraging your kids to wash hands with soap and water after coming in from playing, and discussing with them other ways to play on the playground, rather than just getting into the mulch, digging, etc.

Financial Update

At this time, the PTA has \$34,000 in the bank. This fiscal year we have raised \$7,400 and spent \$4,200. The Walk a thon was a big success as we raised 20% more than anticipated. The budget is completely reconciled and up to speed at this time.

On July 1, 2016 the balance was \$10,000 more than it was on July 1, 2015. There is no record of where that additional money came from, so Patrick is working on figuring that out and how we might be allowed to use it.

Fundraising

- Chinook books are now on sale! Paper copies are \$22, and for the app only, it's \$15. The PTA will receive half the money from each sale.
- Menchie's Frozen Yogurt night – Dec 9th, from 3-9 pm, we will receive 15% of sales if you have a Northrop coupon and say you are there for Northrop!
- Parkway Pizza – Northrop night is Tuesday, November 22nd.
- Anyone who wants to help with reaching out for additional fundraising, we are looking for contact with Boss Pizza and Chipotle.

100th Birthday!

- Since this is our building's 100th birthday year, we are looking for planning ideas of ways to celebrate. Anyone interested should come to Chris and Rob's (Chicago Taste Authority!) on Wednesday, Nov 30th at 7:15 p.m. Come discuss ideas while enjoying pizza on us!

Other Opportunities

We are still looking for ideas for Fall/Winter service projects. We also discussed the idea of creating Northrop decals to sell.

Yearbook Reminder

Don't forget to send photos throughout the school year to northropeyearbook@gmail.com!

Next Meeting

Thursday, December 15th at 6:30 PM in the Media Center, with child care provided. See you then!!