

# North Star PTA Meeting

Date/Time: September 14, 2023 7:00pm

Location: NSE Cafeteria and Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Attendance sheet in Dropbox file

## **Agenda**

Introduction of 2023/2024 Board Members and Committee Chairs

PTA Board Member Updates

Principal's Message

Meeting Adjourned

## **President**

Jen Stephenson

- Called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- Welcome and thank you for attending the first meeting of the 2023/2024 school year.
- Introduction of Executive Board Members and Committee Chairs.
- Motion to approve May minutes by Erin Rivera and second by Lauren Monaco. The minutes were approved.

## **Treasurer**

Jen Agster

- Review of budget for 2023/2024. See full budget at:  
<http://www.nspta.com/BudgetReports.html>
- Request by Sheri Laratonda for addition of one-time line item in the amount of \$400 for cotton candy to sell in Spirit Wear store. Motion to approve by Lauren Monaco and second by Sheri Laratonda. None opposed. The motion was approved.
- Q: Request by Erin Rivera to increase Bee Club line item by \$2,000 for this year to cover cost of program expansion. The cost to outfit new junior beekeepers with suits and gloves is about \$600. Additionally, the Bee Club has plans with the help of Mt. Cuba Center and Delaware Nature Society to complete a native plant pollinator garden in the field near the Outdoor Classroom. This will include a seating area as well. This will not cover the full estimated cost

of \$6,000. Funds are also being sought from grants and donors. Successes of the bee club include production of honey, candles, and lip balm. NSE honey is being sold in Gateway Garden Center in Hockessin. The benefit to students is they are learning beekeeping, advertising, product production, pricing, and business. Students are also provided many educational experiences including visits from entomologists and naturalists. The Bee Club plans to maintain the garden during meetings when they are not at the hives, every other week, although once established it should not require much maintenance.

- Motion by Erin Rivera to increase Bee Club line item by \$2,000 and second by Bonnie Principe. None in opposition. The motion is approved.
- Vote to approve the full 2023/2024 PTA Budget. 19 in favor, none opposed. The budget was approved.

## **Vice President**

Taresa Schmidt

- Membership reached 471 last year. Our goal is 500 members this year. Historically, our highest membership has been 540.
- Dr. J supports membership goals by participating in a special event. In the past she has slept on the school roof, been duct taped to the wall, and kissed a pig.
- Anyone can join. There is not a requirement to volunteer although all are welcome.
- Special thanks to Amanda Moseley for helping with staff snacks this year.

## **Chair of Student Services**

Lauren Monaco

- Introduction and thank you for coming. Lauren runs the NSPTA Facebook page. Please follow for up to date information on PTA events.
- Spirit Fest is the first big fundraiser of the year. We raise money for the school over 4 weeks and our goal this year is \$10,000. Donations will be collected through 10/12. Top fundraising classes in each grade earn a special recess with an inflatable moon bounce.
- Spirit Fest Spirit Week begins with theme days and ends in a day of fun and school spirit. Parents are welcome to attend Friday 10/6 when their child's class is scheduled to celebrate.
  - Monday 10/2 Dress as your future self
  - Tuesday 10/3 Dress to impress (Picture Day!)
  - Wednesday 10/4 Sports day

- Thursday 10/5 Crazy hair or hat day
- Friday 10/6 Go all out with your blue and green for Spirit Day!
- BYOP - Bring your own Pumpkin Tuesday, October 10th 6-8pm
  - Special thanks to Laura McDermott for being the chair of the event!
  - Special thanks to the Flocco family who donated pumpkins last year courtesy of Giant! Thank you for donating again this year.
  - We will have fall treats for sale including apple cider and donuts.
  - Look for volunteer and sign-up opportunities, coming soon.
- Fall Harvest Dance Friday October 27th 6-8pm
  - Special thanks to Tiffany Terranova for being the chair of the this event!
  - Please note this is not a drop off event.
  - Costumes are encouraged!
  - Expect glow sticks, Kona ice, bottled water, pizza, and soft pretzels. Dr. J will do temporary tattoos again. We will need parent volunteers as this activity is wildly popular.
  - DJ Prime will provide the music and his photo booth this year.
  - Fantastic event to make memories.
  - A former NSE student working with Phoenix used clothing will be accepting donations the night of the dance. Phoenix is female and minority owned and operated. They provide clothing to kids and families in need. All clothing donations accepted.

## **Chair of Student Services**

Sheri Laratonda

- NS socks are selling well. Spirit wear order for Back to School Night has been placed.
- A new online store is in the works, there will be no shipping costs.
- 1st Place Spirit Wear online store sale going on now. (Jen S.)

## **Principal's Message**

Dr. Karin Jakubowski

- School-wide goal is to improve math scores. K-3 teachers are teaching systematic approach to math problems. K teachers used last year and saw value.
- Mrs. Metrisko and others are using the Paws program where dogs come to support reading in the classroom.

- Work is continuing with second step social emotional curriculum.
- Already low suspension numbers are decreasing.
- Bear card store is coming back as a fun reward for students who display positive behaviors which are discussed on morning announcements.
- Hoping to bring back mindfulness lessons. Cost is 6k and a grant application is in the works. This applies to grades K-3.
- Introduction of Joy Campbell, NSE's new Assistant Principal.
- Back to school night is next week.
- There will be a bus evacuation drill on October 10th.

## **Closing**

Jen Stephenson

- Next PTA meeting is at 7pm on 10/12. Jay Bastienelli, Principal of HB Dupont Middle, will be our guest.
- November, February, and March PTA meetings will be virtual only.
- Yearbook photos can be sent to [nsbearsyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:nsbearsyearbook@gmail.com)
- Visit our website and like us on Facebook!
- Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.