

North Star PTA Meeting

Date/Time: October 12, 2023 7:00pm

Location: NSE Library and Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Attendance sheet in Dropbox file

Agenda

Welcome

Treasurer's Report

Guest Speaker

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.
- Motion to approve September minutes by Anna Grieder and second by Bruce Spencer. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer

Jen Agster

- Review of budget vs actual for July 1 through October 11, 2023. See full budget at:
<http://www.nspta.com/BudgetReports.html>
- Family activities income of \$594 from BYOP night. Expenses are zero because we have not reimbursed all costs yet.
- Carnival income of \$325 is a check from last year that was mailed to us after July 1st.
- Thank you for your generosity with Spirit Fest! Over \$7,000 received so far. More pledges are still coming in.
- Membership - thank you! Expenses under membership are for state dues.

- Q: What is the membership? A: 381 members.
- Spirit wear income is over \$5,000. Thank you for your purchase!
- Restaurant night expense is the cotton candy that was sold on Meet the Teacher Night.
- State PTA Conference fees are \$25. This line item covers PTA attendance at the annual conference for Delaware.
- PTA Operating expense is for things like copy paper to send out flyers.
- We have used \$105 in the recess equipment budget to purchase balls and pumps.
- School and staff support is teacher reimbursement for classroom spending. The amount was increased from \$150 to \$200 per teacher this year. Teachers, please take advantage of that!
- Student planner line item are the blue folders that students bring back and forth to school.
- Rawlins agreed to provide our agendas again. Thank you, Rawlins Orthodontics!
- Comment by Dr. J: The district is looking at having nurses create an ARC program for the school so we would no longer pay for it. If that happens, the \$2,200 could come off the budget.
Response by Jen Agster: If expenses are associated with the program, we can talk about reimbursement for the nurse.
- Kristin Becker: There are changes to academic competition fees this year. Math Olympiad (\$110) and Geography Bee (\$120) are not offered this year, so no fee for those. Odyssey of the mind is increasing from \$240 to \$290. Science Olympiad is increasing from \$25 to \$55. Spelling Bee is increasing from \$175 to \$180.
- Motion by Sheri Laratonda to approve adjustments to academic competition fees and second by Anna Grieder. There were no questions and none opposed. The motion was passed.
- No questions regarding the budget in-person or on Zoom.

Guest Speaker

Jay Bastianelli, Principal at H.B. duPont Middle School

- HB Open House for 4th and 5th graders is on 11/30 at 6pm.
- Tuesday Tours- Spend a day in the life of a 6th grader. Starts at 9:40am.
- HB has numerous award-winning after school programs!
- Specials are called “Explorations” and TAG is called “Honors” at HB.
- Students can rank their choice of exploratory classes.
- There are 3 levels of math for 6th graders: 6th grade math, 7th grade math, and Pre-Algebra.

- Sports- There are 4 in the fall, 4 in winter, and 6 in Spring. There were 8 championship sports last year. Cuts are made only for basketball, cheerleading, and softball.
- Q: Is baseball one of the sports offered? A: Yes!
- Q: Are 4th graders encouraged to attend the open house? A: Yes!
- There is an activity block at the end of each day where the passion of staff members is matched with student interests. For example, Mr. Bastianelli's passion is comic books!

President

Jen Stephenson

- Spirit Fest donations end tonight. The moon bounce for the top class in each grade will be on 10/20.
- We met our \$10,000 fundraising goal, which means the entire school gets an assembly! (The assembly will feature Tyler Severance, World Yo-Yo Champion!)
- Thank you for a great Spirit Fest day!
- Thank you Laura McDermott and Lauren Monaco for planning our BYOP event; Joe Flocco and Giant for the pumpkin donation; and all the volunteers. We appreciate you!
- There will be a yearbook raffled off for new members who join the night of the dance. Later in the year, we will hold a raffle of 1 yearbook for every 100 members. That could be 5 yearbooks if we meet our membership goal.
- Flyers went home for the yearbook art cover contest. There is one winner for the cover, and the winners for each grade are printed on the back cover of the yearbook. Kids will vote for the top artwork first, then teachers will cast the final votes. This year's theme is: *Every problem has an opportunity for something good. You just have to look for it.*
- Roni Jacobus is our yearbook chair and she does an amazing job. Thank you, Roni!

Chair of Student Services

Lauren Monaco

- Thanks for taking the time to be here. We have several really great upcoming events!
- The fall dance is Friday 10/27 from 6-8pm. Costumes are encouraged! Please note this is not a drop-off event. Last year was our first dance since the pandemic and it was amazing. Expect glow sticks, pizza, soft pretzels, Kona Ice (20% of Kona sales get donated back to the school), and glitter tattoos! DJ Prime will be there with the blow up photo booth. This event is a popular one so we wanted to add more fun.
 - New! There will be a fall-themed basket raffle the night of the dance. Looking for a couple of extroverted parents to sell raffle tickets!

- New! PTA members who join the night of the dance get entered in a drawing for a free yearbook. The winner will be announced that night!
- Big fun takes big involvement. Please consider sharing your time to volunteer!
- Every year, Mrs. Schweizer collects donations for Stockings for Soldiers. Last year, the Candy Monster was created and students got to vote on his name... Candy Fang was the winner! Dates will be announced when donations can be “fed” to Candy Fang. Thank you Mrs. Schweizer!!!
- The Scholastic book fair will be at the end of November. Thank you to Marie Amato who has run the book fair at NSE for several years. This year, we plan to have someone shadow Marie to learn how to run the book fair in the future. Look for more info on how you can help your child’s class with book fair shopping.
- On the first night of the book fair, we will host a special event called S’more Stories. The cafetorium will be set up with multiple campfire story stations. Children will gather around and listen to stories read by our very own 5th Grade North Star Bears. We will be selling s’mores kits which were a huge hit last year. Also, please bring 1-3 gently used children’s books for a free book swap. More info to come!

Vice President

Taresa Schmidt (via Zoom)

- First, let me say that the transition to HB from NSE has been seamless for the Schmidt family. One cool thing about HB is the number of male teachers. They’ve been really influential.
- Membership- Thank you for being members. Encourage your friends and families to become members. Members mean we are getting more resources and have more dollars to give to the school. A link to the membership store is on the website (www.nspta.com)
- Current members who want to get involved should reach out. The Volunteer Interest form is on our website.
- Our membership Goal is 500 this year. Dr. J usually does something crazy when we meet our goal. Still thinking about what to do this year!

Chair of Fundraising

Sheri Laratonda

- Anthony’s restaurant night is Thursday 10/26. Applies to in-person dining or online orders. Tell them you are with North Star. HB has a Frazzberry event the same night. You won’t go home hungry!

- We are waiting to see the results of the 5 Below fundraiser. We will do it again around Thanksgiving as holiday shopping ramps up.
- The picture day pop-up spirit wear shop for staff had excellent results. Tonight's pop-up shop wasn't very busy but that's okay, it was short notice.
- We have new green and grey hoodies. Available in all sizes.
- Hope you're enjoying the North Star socks!

Principal's Message

Dr. Karin Jakubowski

- We will be presenting 7 fire prevention poster entries and 2 essays to the Hockessin Fire Company.
- Grades 3-5 attended an author visit assembly with J. Scott Savage. This visit was free to the school and planned over a year ago. Shout out to Mrs. Schweizer.
- Inspirational message: With my awesome talents, I can make a difference. Teaching kids that their life can have an impact and make a difference.
- No school tomorrow 10/13. Staff inservice.
- 4th graders will go on the Kalmar Nyckel field trip next week. K will go to Milburn Orchards the following week.
- Q: Jen Stephenson asked do you want to talk about the PTA gift?
- Staff have shared the need for updating items like carpets and teacher chairs. Rooms got new carpets and two large cabinets were ordered for the library. Unfortunately, the cabinets arrived damaged but are getting replaced.
- Bookshelves in classrooms are falling apart so PTA gift funds will be used to refurbish and put together newer items that the building budget doesn't cover.
- The PTA asked that it be shared in the weekly when items are purchased to communicate how the gift funds are used.
- Grants are out to the district for programs including: Mindfulness, \$10,000 for the school play, Let Me Run, and for a STEM program activity that Ms. Becker is working on. May ask for PTA assistance if needed.

Closing

Jen Stephenson

- Next PTA meeting is at 7pm on 11/9. Zoom only.
- February, and March PTA meetings will also be virtual only.

- Yearbook photos can be sent to nsbearsyearbook@gmail.com
- Visit our website and like us on Facebook!
- Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

DRAFT