

# North Star PTA Meeting

**Date/Time:** December 7, 2015

**Location:** North Star Elementary Cafeteria

**Attendance:** Attendance sheet in PTA office file

Approved at the PTA meeting held on February 29, 2016.
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## Agenda

Introduction and welcome

Approval of revised budget

Discussion topic: Health Policies

PTA board member updates

Principal's/Assistant Principal's messages

Question and Answer Session

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting called to order by Ann Pollock at 9:24am.

## Presentation of the revised budget

Melissa Gannon presented the revised budget to the meeting. The \$200 budgeted for “Star of the Week” has been reduced to \$0 and a new line “Monthly Spirit Day” has been introduced with a budgeted amount of \$200. The planned use of the \$200 is to cover the costs of the printing of the photographs of the most spirited person per homeroom each spirit day. There is no overall change to the bottom line of the budget.

Donna Stack made a motion to approve the revised budget and this was seconded by Ann Pollock, and all members per the attendance signup sheet were in favor.

## Presentation by Nurse Bugbee

Mrs. Bugbee attended the meeting to present and discuss immunizations and health policies in the school.

The presentation started with the showing of a short video clip from “Kid Detective” about why we vaccinate, and following this there was a discussion on the importance of vaccinations and an overview of the requirements of State for school level children. It was noted that per Delaware State policy if a child has not been age appropriately vaccinated then they will be excluded from school, unless they have an affidavit to support the lack of vaccinations.

If a family has no insurance or their insurance does not cover all vaccinations required they can go to a public health clinic and receive free vaccinations.

It was mentioned that at Middle School age both boys and girls can have the HPV vaccination.

Overview of Red Clay policies for returning to school after certain illnesses / conditions:

*Acute Gastroenteritis: Must be 24 hour symptom free and to of resumed a normal diet.*

*Conjunctivitis: Remain away from school until symptoms have resolved or been on medication for 24 hours.*

*Fever great than 100°F: Had no fever or medication to reduce the fever for 24 hours.*

*Impetigo: 24 hours, medication started and have a doctor's note for return to school.*

*Tinea (ringworm): Excluded until treatment has started and if a large area effected it has to be covered.*

*Head Lice: If there are no live lice can stay at school, with live lice the student can return to school as soon as they have been treated.*

If a child is sent home from school with a fever there is “fever letter” covering the Red Clay policy that is completed by Nurse Bugbee with the top half being sent home with the student and then bottom half going to the homeroom teacher. If the student returns to school the next day the teacher will send them to the nurse.

Certain contagious illnesses have to reported by the school if there are known cases in the school.

Mrs. Thomas asked the question about the meningitis vaccine and it was answered that this is considered necessary for people entering the military, students at boarding school or in college dorm rooms, or playing close contact sports. Not a requirement for elementary age students.

Melissa Gannon asked about vision screening in school, and the response was screening is undertaken at the following time:

Kindergarten students and all entrants to the school; 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; and then again in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Screening will be undertaken by request.

It was also noted that in 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have a back / posture check.

## **Board Member Presentations**

### **Treasurer – Melissa Gannon**

The latest set of financial statements to December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 were available for anyone present to read, and the accounts will be posted on the PTA website following the meeting.

The November book fair was a great success with over \$11,000 being taken in cash and check sales, and when adding in credit card sales taking were in the region of \$15,000.

A suggestion was by Stephanie Conway that the prices of books are rounded to the nearest dollar to avoid confusion with students over prices and also to make giving change easier. This has been done by Scholastic for book fairs at other local school.

Carter Bowersox raised the point of students coming and buying items from the novelty table before purchasing books. Many volunteers asked students if they were allowed to buy such items instead of books and encouraged a book purchase first. It was suggested that there is a policy in place where students need to buy at least one book first. Carter also suggested that the no returns policy is publicized so all students and families are aware.

*All suggestions will be looked into for the 2016 book fair.*

### **President - Ann Pollock**

Teacher membership of the PTA is now 100% with many other staff also members.

The PTA received an Early bird membership certificate at the Delaware State PTA conference on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

Original Works orders will be available for pick up from school on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> of December. Exact details are to be published this week.

Skate night is to be on Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm, and it was noted there is no school on Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>. Flyers will be sent home in the New Year. The change in date from the traditional Thursday was questioned and it was explained that the venue was not available on Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup> and so rather than cancelling the event a different date was chosen.

There is a staff appreciation lunch on Friday January 8<sup>th</sup>, and a sign up genius will be sent out soon asking for donations.

Ann mentioned that Tile Night may be making a comeback at the request of certain North Star families. It is at the planning stage but the event would take place at Everyday Artist and two or three evenings would be booked and families would sign up via a sign up genius so everyone could be accommodated with the available space at the studio. More to follow on this as plans become set.

A motion was made by Melissa Gannon to approve the meeting minutes from October 13, 2015. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Conway and all PTA members at the meeting were in favor. The minutes were approved.

### **Principal's message – Mrs. Thomas**

Jonathan Sprout contacted Mrs. Thomas following his visit for Hero Day and he has written a song especially for North Star. Part of the song was played at the meeting for everyone to hear.

Mrs. Thomas invited Jonathan Sprout to debut his song and cut the ribbon at the opening of the outdoor classroom. The aim is to have the event in the spring.

The progress on the outdoor classroom has been slow as Mrs. Thomas has been trying get the land graded / leveled. This is now to be done by the workmen who have been working outside the school. Once the land is ready the next stage will be a community build of rubber curbs filled in with rubber mulch.

It was shared what a success Hero Day had been and how inspirational the talk from Bill May was. Bill May is a retired Blackhawk helicopter pilot with 20 years' service. He visited the school from Connecticut and also brought with him family visiting from Hawaii. Bill May has set up "House of Heroes" which with the help of volunteers repairs / rebuilds homes of veterans when they are not financially or physically able to do it themselves.

In the cafeteria there are 5 banners hung spelling out the word SMILE. Each letter is made up of cards signed by students in the school when they agreed at the start of the school year to follow the school pledge.

*It was discussed by those at the meeting that the SMILE theme could continue to run after 2015/2016.*

#### **Assistant Principals Message – Dr. Jakubowski**

The latest addition of the North Star Gazette has been published and sent home with students.

The school post office is now open and letters are being sorted and delivered by third grade students.

#### **Closing**

Ann Pollock mentioned that details about "Helping families" will be going home soon and where possible we will try to help families within North Star who need help first.

The next meeting will be held on January at 7pm where the guest speaker will be Brian Moore, where the topic of discussion will be Cyber Safety.

Meeting adjourned at 18:18am.