

North Star PTA Meeting

Approved at 9/12/2016 PTA Mtg.

Date/Time: May 18, 2106 7:00pm

Location: North Star Elementary Multi-Purpose Room

Attendance: Attendance sheet in PTA office file

Agenda

Introduction and welcome

PTA board member updates

Principal's/Assistant Principal's messages

Question and Answer Session

Meeting Adjourned

Board Member Presentations

President

Ann Pollock

Called meeting to order at 7:05pm.

We are still looking for volunteers for the Staff Appreciation and Red Clay Representative chair positions. If you are interested, please contact the PTA (nsptaboard@gmail.com) or Ann Pollock (ampollock75@gmail.com). If you are not ready to take on a position for 2016/2017 but would like to volunteer the following year, please consider shadowing a board member to learn about the position before taking over in 2017/2108.

There is still time to volunteer for Field Day on Friday! A sign-up genius is available on the PTA website.

Motion to approve the April 20, 2106 minutes was made by Ann Pollock. The motion was seconded by Julie Alvarez and the minutes were approved.

It was suggested that we change Lip Sync to a talent or variety show, including lip sync and the opportunity to share other talents. Julie Alvarez suggested possibly changing the time of year, Ruchira Behari suggested holding the event on a Friday night or a weekend day. It was also suggested that we survey the students about possible changes.

Treasurer

Ann Pollock presented in Melissa Gannon's absence.

The Profit and Loss Actual vs. Budget was presented, along with the amounts to be gifted for various programs and supplies for the school. The art program will be gifted \$2000, the library program will be gifted \$3000, and the school will be gifted up to \$10000. The school gift will be used to expand the outdoor classroom. A motion to approve the gift for the art program was

made by Ann Pollock. The motion was seconded by Julie Alvarez and the motion was approved. A motion to approve the gift for the library was made by Ann Pollock. The motion was seconded by Kristin Freebery and the motion was approved. A motion to approve the school gift was made by Ann Pollock. The motion was seconded by Kristen Roebke and the motion was approved.

The summer budget was presented. A motion to approve was made by Ann Pollock. The motion was seconded by Kristen Dassel and the motion was approved.

The financial documents can be viewed on the PTA website.

Principal's/Assistant Principal's Messages

Mrs. Thomas

Mrs. Thomas presented information about the progress of the outdoor classroom. The deck, rubber mulched area, and surrounding stones cost about \$5000. The raised beds and plants cost around \$1000. The area also includes a plexiglass easel, stumps that will be used for seating in the mulched area, and some sensory tables. There will also be an area next to the deck which will include a walking path, meadow, and giving tree memorial. Future plans include something to provide shade and a pond. As the classroom is used, teachers will ask students to share any ideas they have about expanding or improving the classroom. Engraved pavers were ordered for families and community members that have been involved in the creation of the classroom.

Mrs. Thomas wanted to discuss some issues that have arisen surrounding the LAUNCH program. She is concerned about the stress and strain on the office staff and teachers whose rooms are used for the program, vendors have a very limited time to set up, and bear care children lose access to the gym. Parents have cited concerns this year and in the past. She proposed eliminating the program, while keeping (and possibly expanding) Girls on the Run, Let Me Run, and Coding Club (which started this spring). These are all teacher-led programs and would hopefully eliminate the problems that surround the LAUNCH program. It is possible that Coding Club could be offered for 3 or 4 8-week sessions for 3rd-5th graders (perhaps expanding it later in the year to include 2nd graders), concentrating in different subject areas for each session. While a parent volunteer helps coordinate the vendors, LAUNCH is not a PTA program.

Many suggestions were made by parents about altering the program, including decreasing the number of options offered, offering it once per year instead of twice per year, and talking to other schools that offer similar programs, perhaps finding a solution to the problems facing North Star. Parents mentioned that it is a great way to expose children to a variety of programs on a small scale in a safe and comfortable environment. It was also mentioned that is a positive alternative for children staying for Bear Care, breaking the monotony and providing a fun and educational program once per week while the sessions are running.

Installation of Board Members for 2016-2017

As PTA President, Ann Pollock performed the installation ceremony for next year's board members. The nomination slate for 2016-2017 is:

President - Ann Pollock
Vice President - Stephanie Conway
Secretary - Kristin Freebery
Student Service - Kristen Dassel
Staff Support - Kristin Roebke

The slate of board members were re-elected.

Closing

You can keep up to date with PTA information by liking our Facebook page, signing up to receive e-news, and visiting nspta.com.

Have a great summer!

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm.