

North Star PTA Meeting

Approved October 10th, 2016

Date/Time: September 12, 2106 7:00pm

Location: North Star Elementary Multi-Purpose Room

Attendance: Attendance sheet in PTA office file

Agenda

Introduction and welcome

Guest Speakers

PTA board member updates

Assistant Principal's message

Question and Answer Session

Meeting Adjourned

Board Member Presentations

President

Ann Pollock

Ann called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and introduced the board members.

She reminded everyone in attendance to make sign the attendance sheet and to fill out a ticket for the raffle of the North Star goody bag.

A motion to approve the May 18, 2106 minutes was made by Ann. The motion was seconded by Julie Alvarez and the minutes were approved.

Guest Speakers

Donna Francisco, Membership Specialist for Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay

Girl Scouts is the first and largest girl-led organization in the world, and for over a century has been preparing girls in grades K–12 for every day leadership by providing rich experiences for them to explore new interests, face challenges, form new friendships, and make lasting community contributions. Art and STEM programs are the major focus this year. If you would like more information, fill out an information card or contact Marian Weir (Registrar Contact) at registrar.su45@gmail.com

Nick Henry, Boy Scouts of America, Delmarva council

Cub scouts and Boy Scouts provide a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. Boy Scouts of America also offers co-ed programs in venturing and exploring. If you would like more information, please take a flier or contact Nick at NHenry@delmarvacouncil.org.

Pack 959 meets at grace Lutheran church and you can get more information at pack959.com. The best part about scouting is the level of engagement between parents and children. It is something that is not found in many other programs for children of this age.

Treasurer

Melissa Gannon

The budget for 2016/2017 and the latest accounts will be available for review on the website.

A motion was made by Ann Pollock to approve the latest set of accounts for the period July 1st to September 9th, 2016. The motion was seconded by Julie Alvarez and the accounts were approved.

This budget is a good snapshot of what PTA provides for the school. Community service programs, family activities such as skate night and bingo night, academic programs such as Ashland Nature Center onsite field trips, staff appreciation luncheons and snacks, outdoor classroom maintenance, recess equipment, and instructional support for the teachers are just some of the programs funded by the PTA.

Melissa Gannon presented the annual budget line by line.

A motion was made by Ann Pollock to approve the 2016/2017 budget. The motion was seconded by Kristen Roebke and the budget was approved.

Spirit Wear

Kristen Dassel

We have sold about \$4,500 of spirit wear so far. The school will receive 10% of the purchase. The fall sale is coming to an end, but orders can be placed throughout the year at www.spiritgeardirect.com and the orders will be shipped directly to your home. There will also be two more spirit wear sales later in the year – one in spring, and one for field day shirts.

Spirit Fest

Zoe Harris

The fundraiser will help raise money for current and future programs, fund further development of the outdoor classroom, and possibly go towards an electronic sign for the front of the school.

This year, for the first \$20 raised by each student, they will receive a North Star pin. Other prizes will be awarded for higher amounts raised. More information will be coming home in the next few weeks.

Additional updates

Ann Pollock

We are still collecting school supplies for Red Clay families. Pickets for outdoor classroom can be purchased by contacting Kristen Roebke. She will arrange a time to meet for delivery of the picket(s) and payment of \$10 each must be made in cash. The pickets will not be sent home on the bus.

The calendar is included in the PTA welcome packet and on our website. Spirit Fest and the Fall Family Dance Party are coming up in October. The book fair will take place in December this year.

Tile night is returning, offering students the opportunity to purchase and decorate a tile to be hung in the cafeteria.

This year each grade has been given their own recess equipment and is responsible for keeping track of it.

Please consider becoming a member of the PTA to support the school and programs offered.

A new password-protected directory is created each year. We are aiming to have it on the website by the end of September. Yearbook volunteers are needed for grades 1 and 5. The yearbook cover contest flier will be sent home in the next few weeks. Many board positions will be available for the next year. If you are interested, please contact Ann Pollock and you can shadow the person currently holding the position.

The idea was raised to fund an electric sign for the front of the school. The PTA has cash reserves built up over the history of the school's PTA and having gone back and looked at the specific nature of the annual fundraising these commitments have been fulfilled. Stephanie Conway met with Tupp Signs over the summer and got a quote for the sign (\$26,500) and while the PTA cannot fully fund this sign at the current time, there is scope for the sign to be saved for using cash reserves and future fundraising. If such expenditure was to happen it would be discussed and voted on at future PTA meetings. The design and quote were available at the meeting for anyone who wanted a closer look.

Assistant Principal Message

Dr. Jakubowski

Thursday is picture day and back to school night. A letter will come home for student banking provided by the New Castle County Federal Credit Union. Children and staff can make deposits on Tuesday's at 9:45am. The program is available for children in grades 1-5.

Mrs. Thomas will discuss the new homework policy in more depth at next month's meeting. Please feel free to contact her through email or by phone to set up a meeting if you have questions/concerns that you would like addressed sooner. A book titled 'The Homework Myth' was discussed last year at length among the staff. After much thought and deliberation, it was decided that any homework assigned will be meaningful and thoughtful. It is requested that questions be held until October or parents can email/call Mrs. Thomas.

Questions and Answers

Hao Ni wanted to discuss the new homework policy. He was disappointed that Mrs. Thomas could not be there. He asked if a survey was ever sent out last year following the homework discussion at the October 2015 PTA meeting. He never saw one and was very surprised by the

letter from Mrs. Thomas detailing the new homework policy. Dr. Jakubowski encouraged him and any other parents to contact Mrs. Thomas and she would be happy to discuss any questions and concerns.

A parent asked for confirmation of what the cost would be for an electronic sign. Stephanie Conway received a quote of \$26,500 from Tupp Signs. Tanya Haley asked the nature of the sign and what it would be used for, which was then discussed and in summary would be for publishing school updates and dates. It was noted that many neighboring schools have such signs. Kate Terranova, the chair for the Fall Family Dance Party said we will need a new DJ this year. Kristen Dassel will send her the contact information for someone she found this summer.

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.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, October 10th at 7pm. We hope to see you there!

Meeting Adjourned at 7:52pm.