

FINAL

Approved at 1/21/09 PTA Meeting

North Star PTA Meeting

Date/Time: November 5, 2008 at 7:00pm
Location: North Star Elementary/Multi-Purpose Room
Attendance: Attendance Sheet in PTA Office File: PTA Meeting 11/5/08
Note: A quorum was present for the meeting.

AGENDA

Introduction and Welcome
Pledge of Allegiance/North Star Pledge
Introduction of Board Members
Board Presentations
Principal/Vice Principal's Message
Closing/Meeting Adjourned

Visual: Power Point Presentation in PTA Office File: PTA Meeting 11/5/08

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Julia - Called the meeting to order. Introduced Board Members

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND NORTH STAR PLEDGE

Julia Montgomery led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and recited the NS Pledge.

VICE PRESIDENT

Candy McDermott – Reported that the two authors that visited this month were a great success!
Jamie Kleman, "It's Not Mean To Be Green" related directly to our Go Green initiative! Susan Bosak was a great motivational speaker. She involved the kids by putting their photos up on the big screen.

Launch Program: Currently offering Chess, Tennis and Drama. Session II will include Chess and Drama.

Basket Brigade: No recognition for classrooms and their collections. We are giving just to give! Donations due 11/20/08. Amanda Froelich will help on Sat., 11/22 to pack goods in boxes. Amanda needs boxes!

Megan Stewart: Lost and Found needs space. Could the PTA purchase a clothing box or display? Megan will research the cost of the box. Once a quarter the clothes will be donated to Planet Aid - they will pick up the clothes. Before each donation, Becky Abbott will send out a "last chance" e-mail to all parents. We will encourage all parents to visit the lost and found during Book Fair/Conference time!

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Becky Abbott – The PTA is continuing its efforts to go paperless. New website is up and running. Before calling the main office, please visit www.nspta.com for all PTA questions or e-mail nspta@dca.net. We are still not reaching everyone! Please visit our website to sign-up for our e-mail distribution list.

STATS: 423 e-mails fielded from our hotline. 31 mass-e-mails sent, saving the PTA over \$250.00 in printing costs. 979 hits on our website to date.

Questions were raised about the possibility of putting our Directory online. Becky will research our ability to password protect this e-document. Andrea Lanciault will discuss with the District.

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL SUPPORT

Kristy Adkins – Thank you all who made donations towards the Staff Appreciation Luncheon. The luncheon was a HUGE success! Please check the PTA office to view “Thank You” notes from staff.

Deadline for Newsletter submissions is 11/13/08.

Mary Ellen Charno is continuing to receive new memberships. Please join the PTA!

We are in need of snacks and water for teacher meetings. Please donate.

TREASURER

Jill McCormick – Jill presented the October Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

Techno-Walk numbers have increased to \$19,000. Still have some fundraising to do!

A question was asked regarding our “Instructional Budget” and why the District does not provide all computers? Andrea Lanciault responded: We currently have 750 students and our highest ever budget from the District. We were given \$90,000 this year for everything and anything! We did get laptops. They were shared between classrooms and over the years they were heavily used and many have been taken out of circulation. Last year the PTA identified a need for stationary work-stations within each classroom. The District pays for some computers but not all. Technology is now our goal.

Lisa DiMaio asked of there were Grants available for computers. Andrea Lanciault responded: Yes, usually based on financial need. We (North Star, Red Clay) generally not qualify due to our financial stability.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

Julie Edmiston - Julie reviewed our upcoming PTA sponsored events.

Bingo Night – 1/15/09

Tile Night - 2/26/09 (Combined with Book Fair Family Night)

Roller Skating Party – 3/25/09

Lisa DiMaio asked: Is it possible to distribute the Directory sooner? Julie responded that because the Directory contained so many errors, we were starting from scratch. Everyone was required to submit new data. Very difficult to get families to submit information in a timely manner.

The idea of an online Directory was mentioned again. Some were concerned about the security of their information. Others were in agreement. Becky Abbott agreed to look into posting this information with password protection. Directory is strictly voluntary!

Elizabeth O'Connor summarized the Reflections Program. This year's theme is “WOW” and everyone is encouraged to enter! Categories include drama, photography, dance, poetry, and more! Deadline for entry/submission is December 1st. Please refer to the website for entry specifics. Click on “forms” to print the rules for each submission category.

We need pictures for the yearbook. Please take pictures and forward them to Andrea Autry or Julie Edmiston. We don't want to wait until the end of the year to collect pictures.

Lori Pala announced our Product Incentive totals. Way to go! Keep them coming. Lori talked to John Donohue at Acme and he agreed to raise our \$\$ cap. Lori was waiting to hear from John.

DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING

Gillian Waugh – Reach For The Stars Basket and Silent Auction Event will be on Saturday, April 25th at the Hockessin Fire Hall. Again, we will assemble classroom baskets and solicit local businesses for donations. We need new volunteers in many different capacities. We need dads to help with basket transportation. It is a fun event to plan as this is our largest fundraiser for the year!

Gillian announced that immediately following the PTA Meeting, she would be holding a short Auction meeting for those interested in volunteering.

Megan Stewart raised concerns regarding the Vocabulary Parade. These concerns were not necessarily hers, but rather concerns she was hearing around the school.

Not enough notice!

Too much work for the parents at a very busy time of year.

Are prizes necessary?

Andrea Lanciault responded: This was not her intent and she was very upset that there was so much dissatisfaction! This event was a vocabulary initiative and meant only to be a fun learning opportunity for the children.

Teachers were responsible for communicating the themes and guidelines to parents. Many teachers sent out e-mails at least one month in advance. Information and themes were posted on the website at least two weeks before the event. E-mail reminders were sent too.

Children were supposed to make their own costumes. Awards were presented based on the words and their usage only. Awards were not presented for best costume.

Gillian Waugh stated that she did not think we should award prizes and that it was getting too competitive.

General Comments: Those present agreed that the parents are at fault and that they have turned it into a competition. Parents would like to see the elimination of prizes or prizes for everyone. Parents offered suggestions for simplifying the event ex: recycled materials only, no purchased items may be used, parents may not assist, hats only, projects could be made in art class, awards by grade, awards by peers, etc.

Andrea and Anne are going to revisit the event and will give careful consideration to information gathered. Guidelines will be clearly outlined next year.

PRINCIPAL/VICE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Andrea Lanciault – The Board spoke out of turn and Andrea was introduced at the end of the meeting instead of the beginning. Sorry Andrea.

A waiver was submitted to the District - this is required if you have more than 22 students in a classroom. Andrea was proud to report that we will not lose any teachers this year. We are up to 760 students and our class sizes are right on target.

Question: Someone asked about the North Star population. How many Choice, How many Feeder?

Andrea Lanciault reported: No new choice students were accepted for the 2008-2009 school year. Siblings only. This year, we converted the Music room and the Tag room into classrooms. We are not zoned for trailers. Due to the economy, it is a great possibility that more children will transfer from private schools throughout the year and next year. Andrea's Super has been advised and there is great concern regarding the issue of space at North Star. Choice students and siblings will eventually phase out, opening more space for feeder children. It is hard to predict our future.

Ann Wilson – We have the BEST website in the district! Thank you Becky Abbott.

Lisa Dimaio – Cab Calloway Open House 11/12/08. Also, don't miss the Show Stoppers Series! Middle School and High School productions are amazing. Check out their website for dates and times!

Meeting Adjourned: 8:368pm

Submitted by: Becky Abbott, North Star Elementary PTA Secretary 11/6/08