

North Star PTA Meeting

Date/Time: February 2, 2011 at 7:05pm

Location: North Star Elementary/Multi-Purpose Room

Attendance: Attendance Sheet in PTA Office File: PTA Meeting 2/2/11

Note: A quorum was present for the meeting.

AGENDA

Introduction and Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance/North Star Pledge

Principal/Vice Principal's Message

Board Presentations

Annual Auction Fundraiser Discussion

Closing/Meeting Adjourned

Visual: Power Point Presentation in PTA Office File: PTA Meeting 2/2/11

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Patti Westergard - Called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND NORTH STAR PLEDGE

Patti Westergard led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and recited the NS Pledge.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Andrea Lanciault

Fitness Night was a great evening and the Zumba and Dance Dance Revolution were wonderful additions to the event. The children's letters and cards for the Kreer family were phenomenal. It was a real-life persuasive writing experience. This week half the staff have been trained on and are using the smart boards. Thanks to the PTA for those purchases. The kids are really into learning through the use of this tool. The second round of DCAS testing is starting tomorrow (2/3) for the 3rd through 5th graders. We're getting acclimated to the tests now and the kids are even savvier with how to use the testing tools. The bad news is that the scores were not as high as in the past however we're still higher than the state average scores. We typically were at 90% in math/reading and now are in the range of 60-75%. Most of the skills being tested were not taught yet at the time the first round of testing occurred so by the end of the year the scores should be higher. Students are very busy - Ms. Sleszinski's art classes are participating in the "Doodle for Google" art contest and kids are practicing for World Math Day.

VICE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ann Wilson

We assess academic progress and we assess achievements but we don't assess creativity. Ms. Wilson is very impressed by the creativity displayed by the boys and girls at North Star. This year has been a good one for the playground and outdoor play equipment, thanks to Jen Walmsley and her playground committee. Ms. Wilson feels that the abundance of playground equipment/choices has led to fewer problems on the playground and encourages boys and girls to play well together. Thank you to Jessica Seitzman and Cynthia Catchpole for the wonderful job they are doing with the post office – the volume of mail has really picked up this year. Ms. Wilson attended the Lego League competition. The atmosphere among the North Star teams is electric and she predicts that Lego League will really take off at North Star. Andrea and Ann are going to learn how to use the sound system. Unfortunately, Pat Kreer was the one who knew how to work it and that knowledge was lost in his passing.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORT

PRESIDENT

Patti Westergard

The book fair is coming up. We need volunteers. Please email Becky Abbott if interested in volunteering. Julie Edmiston will also contact some of the people who signed up on her Volunteers List to volunteer for the book fair. We are selling Valentine Grams. Patti will talk to Rukki about delivering them on Valentines Day instead of before Thursday the 10th as originally planned. This way, parents can send Valentine Grams to the whole class in lieu of sending Valentines.

DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING

Michelle Leone

The annual auction will be Friday, April 8th. This year's theme is "Grand Prix" (NASCAR). The kids will have another race board (this time with cars instead of horses) in the cafeteria and there will be winners for the most money collected per classroom for each grade (they will win a pizza party) and overall (they will win a pizza and ice cream party). This year we are working with Best Buy's community service program. As long as we provide enough hours (40?) for their volunteers to help at the events (Family Preview Night and the auction), they will give us \$1000 and discounts on any electronics that we buy for the baskets or the auction. They will have stations to try out different electronics (iPad, Wii, PS3) at the auction and we will be auctioning off an iPad). Letters about the classroom collection for the baskets went out today. Teachers are offering an outing (like they have in the past) but this time we'll be raffling them off at \$5/ticket.

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL SUPPORT

Maureen Donnelly - Nothing to Report

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

Jen Walmsley

Tile Night is coming up on February 17th and Bingo Night is March 3rd.

TREASURER

Jill McCormick

Presented the Budget as it stands now. We will need to raise \$18,000 at the auction event to stay on target.

SECRETARY

Julie Lowe

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held the week of February 14th and will be open during Tile Night on February 17th. Instead of the cake decorating contest, there will be a coloring contest. Coloring pages for the contest are available on the PTA website.

PAST PRESIDENT

Candy McDermott – Nothing to Report

Julie presented the November 3, 2010 PTA Meeting Minutes for approval

Motion: By Candy McDermott

To approve the November 3, 2010 PTA Meeting Minutes

Vote: Majority Approved

Meeting Adjourned: Time 8:10pm

Submitted by: Julie Lowe, North Star Elementary PTA Secretary 2/4/2011