Approved at Oct. 27, 2014, PTA Meeting

**NS PTA MEETING**

Date/Time: May 20, 2014 / 7PM

Location: NS Cafeteria

Attendance: See sign in sheet.

**AGENDA**

Introduction and Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance/NS Pledge

President’s Message

Fundraising Update

Principal’s Message/Vice Principal’s Message

Guest Speaker

Question/Answer

**President’s Message**

Jen Wootten called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and turned the floor over to Mrs. Thomas who thanked everyone for the last Staff Appreciation Lunch that was held. Mrs. Thomas is glad to be back and is amazed at the level of interaction between all of the children of varied grades at the Young Author celebration. Mrs. Thomas was very happy at the smoothness of the most recent Student Principal for a Day. A very special guest, a retired teacher from Ohio, will be visiting the school over the summer to paint a 20’ x 40’ map of the United States in the parking lot, along with two hop scotches, two four-square grids, a fractions chart and number line. The playground surface will be finished with the added feature of the State of Delaware embedded within. A 4th and 5th grade newspaper will be coming to North Star next year and the theme for next year will be community service.

**Board Presentations**

At 7:10pm Ann Pollock took the floor with the current budget updates (which are available on the PTA website in detail and copies handed out at the mtg.). A quick overview consists of Carnival profit of approximately $16,500., Spirit Fest profit of $15,000, and an estimated overall profit of $18,000/$19,000. Five gifts were approved for the: Art Room, Library, Music program, Oddesy of the Mind and year end monetary school gift from the PTA which will go towards Phase II of the playground project in the amount of $15,000. Andrea Gallimore made a motion to approve the proposed gifts budget, Seconded by Julie Alvarez, all were in favor. Natalie asked if the Cooking Kit on the cooking cart could be replaced, with a top priority given to getting an induction burner for harvest. The entire kit was estimated at $500., which was proposed by Jen Wootten to be taken out of the “PTA Surplus Account.” Julie Alvarez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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 The summer budget which is active until the September PTA Meeting, proposed by Ann Pollock, approved by Julie Alvarez and seconded by Andrea Gallimore consists of Staff Appreciation Breakfast/Lunch, PTA printing, blue homework folders, PTA insurance, deposit on first assembly, tax audit, recess equipment, student of the week program, student planners and $1500. for carnival entertainment rental expenses (exact breakdown can be located within the financial spreadsheets found on the PTA website). The motion to approve the summer budget was approved by all.

 At 7:25pm, Andrea Gallimore asked if anyone would like to step up and take over Fundraising Chair. Many of the board members explained how easy Andrea has made it, along with Ann Pollock’s support by putting everything on a spreadsheet. Fundraising is not as much about asking for donations as we have extremely generous parent and business participation, as it is about organizing the events and the events committees. The open Vice President position was also mentioned and volunteers were welcomed. No interest was exhibited for this position either.

At 7:27pm the new board member installation and retiring of board members began lead by Jen Wootten. See Attachment.

At 7:28pm Donna Stack made a plea for volunteers to sign up for Field Day. Field Day is progressing nicely.

**Guest Speaker**

Aaron Selekman , Principal of HB DuPont Middle School, gave an impressive presentation about the school starting with his experience from 1st grade teacher, to Principal of Mote for 6 years on through his current position as Principal of HB for 2 years. He shared his philosophy of a very broad range of choices for the students of HB so at the end of their time in middle school, hopefully they will have experienced many things enabling them to narrow down the choices for what they would like to specialize in as they continue their education. Mr. Selekman is very focused on and sensitive to transfer students and their parents. The first day of school is only 6th grade, a new program started by Mr. Selekman this year, as well as, the 6th Grade Academy which is a program designed to acclimate the new students for the first two weeks. The students get a tour of all the exploratories (known to us as specials). The Activity Block, comprised of a wide range of programs, selected by the adults in the building (see website for details), allows students five choices for the first half of the year and they are invited to select another 5 choices mid-year. Mr. Selekman is focused on personal organization and helping the children make the change from everything being in their desk, to now being in their locker with personal items needing to be carried from class to class. Each student is given a draw string bag to assist with this and new students are encouraged to write down homework assignments and ask questions of the teachers when the assignments are given. In the beginning of the school year, locker issues are wide spread and to quote Mr. Selekman “locker issues are like colic, they seem ongoing for the first couple weeks and all of a sudden all is well.” Mr. Selekman spoke in detail about the placement process, which takes place over the summer and how he wants children properly placed and does not mind reviewing placement until the proper placement is found. HB is the only middle school with a professional artist as an art teacher. Music and Chorus are both offered and scheduling conflicts are worked out so the children may participate in both. The Business Ed program focuses on Microsoft Products while the Tech Ed program focuses on robotics, solar cars, etc., FCS,

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also known as Home Ec., includes cooking, sewing and financial literacy. The boys have a male teacher for PE and the girls have a female teacher for PE, both genders receive half a year PE and half a year Health. Classes are on a rotating schedule of 6 letter days, A, B, C, D, E and F, therefore keeping the schedule fresh and not having a least favorite class every morning, when perhaps child is not a morning person, and so forth. Science and Social Studies are not leveled so learning is appropriate by grade. Math and English are offered in levels so child could be participating at varied levels higher then grade level or even college level. Bullying is not tolerated in any manor, comradery is strongly encouraged and promoted in the various new programs. Dress code (khaki pants or skirts; blue, brown or black with a solid polo) is strictly enforced but gently carried out with the implementation of “The Boutique” which is an area where children can borrow the appropriate school attire should they not come to school wearing it, take it home, wash it and return it. Mr. Selekman has implemented rotating bells at 3 minute intervals ensuring only one grade level is in the hallway at a time. All grade levels eat lunch by themselves. Seating is open. It was mentioned that HB Oddessey of the Mind surpassed Conrad and several other schools in Science to move on to Nationals this past week. Enrollment before he started was on the decline at 230 6th graders enrolling to 310 6th graders enrolled this past year. Mr. Selekman is available for Tuesday tours and also works through the summer. He encouraged anyone who would like, to stop in. More information regarding everything mentioned and much more can be found on the HB website. We are appreciative of Mr. Selekman and his Vice Principle for coming to share their time and insight with NSE.

**Question/Answer**

Mr. Selekman was asked how much homework is given at HB. He answered an average amount and it varies depending on the teacher and the program currently being taught. More detailed information can be found as explained in the syllabus.

8:18 p.m. Meeting adjourned.



Spring 2014 Installing Officer: Jen Wootten When I ask a question, the response is “I will”.

# To the Retiring Officers

Will our retiring officers, Tammy Burgos, Andrea Gallimore and Kate Terranova, please rise to be recognized? We express our gratitude to you for the devoted, effective service that has marked your tenure as officers, and we urge you to continue your efforts to promote the interests of children and youth. Thank you. Please be seated.

# Recital of PTA Objectives

* To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship
* To raise the standards of home life
* To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth
* To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth
* To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education

# To the Continuing Officers

Will our continuing officers, Julie Alvarez (President), Ann Pollock (treasurer), Jocelyn Whitwell (School Support), Linda Walck (Secretary), and myself (Jen Wootten as Past President), please rise to be recognized and stand with me? Will you provide ongoing support for the new officers who join you at this time? (Answer, “I will”.) Thank you.

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

To the New Officers

Will Jocelyn Whitwell please rise and join us?

Will you individually and together work toward the fulfillment of our objectives in the service of children and youth? (Answer, “I will.”)

The present and the future of the North Star PTA now rest on your beliefs and abilities, your commitment and powers of implementation, joined to the skills of the officers who will serve with you, and the faith and help of all other members of the association. Will you pledge yourselves to these people, that service? (Answer, “I will.”)

# To Audience of PTA Members

Members of the North Star PTA, please rise. Here are your new leaders for the coming year. They will need your encouragement and support. Will you promise them your loyalty and cooperation, in the names of the children of this school community? (Answer, “I will.”)

# To the New Officers

With a strong belief in your abilities, with renewed hope for PTA, I now declare you duly installed officers for 2014-2015.