

MINUTES

Northwoods Elementary PTA Board Meeting

Meeting Location: Media Center

Tuesday, September 3, 2019 – 6:30 p.m. | Meeting called to order by Tiffanie Taylor

In Attendance

Members present included: Rhonda Beese, Vice President; Cheryl Aber, Secretary; Mandi Baggett, K-2 Teacher Representative; Teresa Combs, 3-5 Teacher Representative; Kendra Cope, Run club & SEIC liaison; Jill Hopkins, School picnic; Heather Griffin-Dolciney, Advocacy; Tiffanie Taylor, President; DeWhitney Upchurch, Cultural Fair; Heather Nadeau, VP Fundraising; Jen Zerda, Health & Wellness; Katie Dutch, Staff Appreciation; Greg Couch, Safe Routes; Cathy Brooks, Garden/Kindergarten liaison; Julie Snyder, Treasurer; Crystal Hartzell, Community Engagement & Social Media; Joe Nixon, Principal; Jennifer Papp, TerraCycle; Wendy Werner, Grants & Awards

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, President's Report (6:30 p.m.)

Meeting was called to order by Tiffanie Taylor. Need to approve June 2019 minutes. Katy moved to approve, Heather N second. Motion approved. Diversity on the PTA board. Jen Zerda – Wake PTA council “make sure your PTA looks like your school”. Resilience will have trauma training on Jan 9th. Maybe have a showing at a health and wellness night. Kendra C – have it in Spanish? Subtitled. Heather G-D, good to have resources available for when people view and have a “now what” moment. Perhaps West Cary could host since a lot of families overlap with Northwoods and WCMS. PTA.org has a “What ‘counts’ as a PTA Diversity and Inclusion Initiative. Maybe Ms. McGrath as a Diversity Chair for next year? Asian/Indian biggest subgroup. African American about 20%. Others are about equal percentage. International night, in Spring since Fall is busy...what about smaller events during the year? Principal Nixon, we can schedule events at NES around getting parents more involved, etc. Ms. Baggett can get materials translated at Central Office.

Principal's Report (6:45 p.m.)

Joe Nixon's monthly report: our numbers are not coming in as near as we anticipated at 640 as we are at 595...with every student we lose, we have to give back the funds to the county. Some families moved and did not tell the school, some are in India and will not get back until after the 10-day head count. Ended last year at 621 students. We do not get more positions, no more money...K-3 class average has to be at 19. AIG is hired. Ms Casey is stepping in as AIG teacher (50%)

Teacher's Representative Report (6:50 p.m.)

Teresa Combs (3-5 Teacher Rep) and Mandi Baggett (K-2 Teacher Rep): Recess in the garden? Sign up genius for volunteers...Kathy is hoping to start it in the Fall. Need the grade level recess schedule. Up to Thanksgiving and then take a winter break. Maybe teachers pick the kids on a Monday and then when they see the volunteer, they can send the kids over. Maybe give some info to new staff. Ms. Comb, thank you for staff breakfast...please keep in mind that some staff have dietary restrictions.

Vice President's Report (6:55 p.m.)

Rhonda Beese's monthly report: Cary Teen Council on schedule for board meetings, need to tell RB about CTC needs...5th grade end of year and International Night. 6pm on...things with the school = no CTC... via PTA = give RB the request a

month out. This should be on the event check list. MemberHub: they still hate RB. Because of Principal Nixon's newsletter, perhaps not needing MemberHub communication. Principal Nixon said our board meetings needs to be included in Community Use Form to reserve the facility. Put in one time and then pick all the dates. Larry Buie, community Use contact: lbuie@wcpss.net.

Treasurer's Report (7:04 p.m.)

Julie Snyder's monthly report: Month of July...one check cleared. Going to meet with Edgar to go over budget and how he ran reports. Put in new numbers in budget to be approved at the general PTA meeting on Sept 12th. PTA council meeting. Rules and procedures breakout. Financial breakout that was helpful and let her know what she needs to do this year. State Fair tickets with school code for a no fuss fundraiser. Include how much we raised for various no fuss fundraising in Nixon Newsletter. Audit committee: Need to do monthly audits can be done over email. Beatrice and Cheryl agreed to stay on, so we need one more person to meet quarterly for 30 minutes before our PTA meeting. We can mention at the general PTA meeting...scratch that...Mrs. Combs volunteered.

New Business (7:10 p.m.)

Tiffanie, we need to put together a nominating committee for 2020-2021 because they need to start meeting in January. Last year was Rhonda, Katy and Ashley.

Need agenda for general PTA meeting. Action: CKA to send a call for items for the general agenda. Kendra may be on tap to translate in Spanish.

Committee Reports (7:00 p.m.)

End of October Fundraiser (Heather N)

- We just ask for money, not selling of items or 3rd party vendors so we can keep all the money. We have celebrated in the past with a dance party, last year we did with a spirit run. Do we need to change or incorporate anything this year? Send suggestions to HN. By mid-October, she will send out sign up genius for counting money, etc.

Wellness Committee (Jennifer Zerda):

- Wake County PTA Council and Public Schools First NC are partnering to continue showing the film "Resilience" free of charge monthly at Crossroads II (110 Corning Rd, Cary, NC) on Sep 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 12 & Apr 90 from 7 to 8:30 pm. Additionally, on January 9th there will be an interactive workshop on Strategies for being a Trauma-Informed PTA. There is also a workshop that will include tips for parents on how to Build Resilience in your child on November 14th and April 9th. All will run at the same location and time as the film screening.
- Mindfulness: National Mindfulness day is September 12th. We are hoping to continue to hold mindful mornings sessions for children throughout the year. In addition, there is a copy of the documentary "Room to Breathe" in the library for staff to check out and view. It's about 56 minutes and can also be viewed online. The exercises and curriculum shown in the video are the same lessons that are taught to kids that attend the morning sessions. If teachers are interested in any resources, please contact Jennifer Zerda (jzerda@wcpss.net). The Calm App is also free and has a calm schools guide if anyone is interested: <http://cdn.calm.com/documents/teachers-onboarding-manual.pdf>
- Substance Use Prevention and e-cigarette education. There is quite a bit of discussion regarding e-cigarettes lately. If there is interest for parents to have someone come and provide information/education at a board meeting or at a parent night, I have 2 different resources that would come talk free of charge. (This might not fit at elementary level, but I wanted to let you know that it exists.) Perhaps a good fit for the 5th graders getting ready for middle school.
- September health & wellness themes (I will put more information on Social Media about these).

- All Month - Fruits & Veggies - More Matters. Whole Grains Month. Better Breakfast Month.
- September 12th - Mindfulness Day
- September 15th - 21st - Child Passenger Safety Week
- September 28th - National Family Health & Fitness Day
- Run club starts on Sept 16th (Kendra Cope)

TerraCycle (Jennifer Papp)

- Discontinuing the cereal bag recycle program. Have it until Dec 31st. Will ask Crystal to promote on social media for a few posts.

Spirit Wear (Jennifer Papp covering for Suzanne Bleakley)

- Needs to know the teacher count and we need to know the direction of the design. Stefan said she was told to have the money in by mid-September. JP said that we did not have to pay anyone anything until October.
- Greg made several versions. Camping theme for the school year.
- Shirt color? Suzanne, Greg and Principal Nixon discussed the color. Green is approved. School colors work. Hiking theme...Northwoods climbs!

School Picnic

- Saturday, September 14th.
- Sign up genius to help work the picnic. Raffle prizes if you bring a reusable bottle. Bring a tent if you have it.
- Need to know if sponsors will be there...talk to Stefan.
- Fun run at 11am before the picnic. Prizes for that too.

Final Comments (7:32 p.m.)

General meeting will not have individual tri fold boards. One table for all.

Motion to move...Tiffanie...second...Crystal. All approved.