

MINUTES

Northwoods Elementary PTA Board Meeting

Meeting Location: Media Center

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. | Meeting called to order by Rhonda Beese, VP

In Attendance

Members present included: Rhonda Beese, Vice President; Suzanne Bleakley, Spirit Wear; Mandi Baggett, K-2 Teacher Representative; Teresa Combs, 3-5 Teacher Representative; Katy Burgwyn, Membership; Jill Hopkins, School picnic; Heather Nadeau, VP Fundraising; Greg Couch, Safe Routes; Cathy Brooks, Garden/Kindergarten liaison; Julie Snyder, Treasurer; Wendy Warner, Grants & Awards; Beatrice Le Pechoux, Cultural Arts; Bianca Howard, Terra-Cycle/ETC; Jen Zerda, Wellness; Jennifer Papp, Terra-Cycle/ETC; Brook McCarthy, 5th Grade Activities; Heather Dolciney, Advocacy; Kendra Cope, Run Club/SEIC Liaison; Heike Kuebler, School Garden; Tim Beese, Parent; Lisa Thomson, Parent.

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, President's Report (6:32 p.m.)

Meeting was called to order by Rhonda Beese. Approve January meeting minutes...Katy motion to approve, Kathy second and everyone approved.

PTA lockbox for money-related things has been procured. Mr. Nixon has let RB know that the PTA boxes can no longer remain in the hallway where they are currently located. We will need to work with Mr. Nixon to find a new place. Mr. Nixon has suggested relocating PTA mailboxes by the teacher green mailboxes. Some office mailboxes may need to be combined as space may be limited. To be determined.

RB is doing research, has discussed with Mrs. Combs, about the best way for the PTA to help provide lunch money for children who do not have enough on their account. Per Mr. Nixon, in the past PTA's would have a general fund to provide for children. Child Nutrition may have an account that they could use, with a general ID, where PTA could add funds.

RB confirmed that March 5th is family reading night, during Book Fair week. A General Board meeting will also take place on March 5th, in conjunction with family reading night.

RB confirmed that International festival will be held Tues. April 21st and led by Ms. McGrath. The Board meeting for that month has been moved to April 14th.

RB confirmed that a General Board meeting will be held on May 15th, along with Talent Show.

School Store – RB is talking with teachers and Mr. Nixon regarding the program. This is a PTA fundraiser, raises ~ \$300/yr. There has not been much interest to continue this fundraising activity. No more supplies will be ordered this year. Anything left over will be donated to teacher treasure boxes.

Ms. Baggett: Thanked us for teacher breakfast. She shared a concern from a teacher, and will ask Mr. Nixon to also include in the newsletter. Please remind parents that pictures on the classroom websites are secure and parents have signed off on permission and approval for pictures to be stored in the classroom site. The pictures are not to be used outside of the class site.

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

Mr. Nixon updates, presented by RB: (Mr. Nixon could not attend tonight due to a family event.)

- Confirmed the Talent Show date will be May 15th.
- Reminder that March 3rd is a Primary Election Day. Northwoods is an Election Site for this. No hot lunches, rather there will be bagged lunches available and lunch will be held in classrooms day of election. Commentary by group: Wake County Elections staff had complained about how hard it was for voters to vote at Northwoods last time. Parking and Carpool was a challenge.

Vice President's Report (6:31 p.m.)

Rhonda Beese's monthly report: See above in president's report

Treasurer's Report (6:50p.m.)

Julie Snyder's monthly report: Two checks cleared this month for December 2019. Only income was \$156 for School Store. Spent \$728 for administration (general items, such as printing). Still have a positive balance, \$22,199 as of end of 2019. More teachers have turned in their classroom set up funds (\$100/teacher), so far 21. Rhonda gave 5 more today. The cut off day for submission is on valentine's day.

Committee Reports (7:05 p.m.)

5th Grade Activities: Brook presented updates on current activities including 'then and now' photos and communications with parents, student community service project, school gift ideas, celebration party planning, and 'move up' ceremony planning. Group discussion was had to clarify the allotted PTA budget for 5th grade activities. Currently, the budget has 5th grade activities classified as a fundraiser, with an expense amount of \$800 and an income amount of \$500. It was clarified that the income amount is a placeholder for any money collected on behalf of the PTA for 5th grade activities. In the past, this would be where the income for T-shirts would be tracked. Further clarification was made that 5th grade could fundraise on their own, outside of PTA, to cover costs and add to their budget for activity. Suggestion was made to consider reclassifying the 5th grade activity from a fundraiser to a Program, to avoid confusion in the future.

Spirit Wear: Suzanne is down to about 30 shirts. Last year, about 60 extra shirts were ordered. This year, she had ordered over 80 shirts but on pace to run out this year. About an even number of adult shirts, may be used for 'dignitaries', and will coordinate with Ms. Baggett.

School Picnic: Jill has received new ideas, timing suggestions, etc. She has received a lot of suggestions for doing more activities at the picnic. She would love to do more, but it comes down to volunteers. Jill would like to have a PTA member with a table at the picnic to promote PTA. Would also like to have a sponsor, or multiple sponsors, with give a-ways. Has thought about activities such as 3-legged race, but needs people to help. Jill has set a date, Sept. 19,2020. Rain date is the following weekend. Have to consider construction for the event. Gussies Greek food truck and Kona Ice has been booked.

School Garden: Heather K. provided updates. A brainstorming meeting was held recently. This year they want to focus on how they can spread the word and how to get more parents and students interested and involved. One idea is to have a station for Family Reading night, place a station in the Garden. Another idea is to consider making a station in the Garden for International Festival, ie 'recipes from around the world'. They are looking to invite speakers (master gardeners, workshops, etc.) into the Garden. Maybe make a workshop for parents on the weekend, such as herbs. They are in touch with some retirement communities to see if this is something they could get involved with volunteering. Ms. Baggett confirmed they would need to each be registered as a Wake County volunteer. They are trying to have info included in bulletin boards, newsletters, etc. Thought it would be a neat idea to start a Garden Club. Still in the planning period, but are thinking it would be before school, and open to all students. Thinking of starting beginning/ending of March. RB asked if it would interfere with any other clubs. Consensus was that this is a good offering and could meet children's interest without concern of interfering with other clubs. General discussion was had about when to provide information to parents.

Book Fair: Mar 2nd – 3rd will be only browsing. Purchasing will be Mar 4th & 5th. Trinkets are being cut out this year for the event. Suggestion was made for upper classmen to help underclassmen create their wish list by writing down the items for them.

New Business (7:25 p.m.)

Mel costume – Attendees of tonight’s meeting voted on which costume to order. Option 1 was the clear winner with 12 votes, Option 3 had 4 votes, Option 4 had 1 vote, and Option 2 received no votes. BM brought up that Mr. Nixon has asked about a cleaning schedule for the suit. No information to report and no PTA money allocated for this as of yet.

ShopMascot.com:

<https://www.shopmascot.com/index.php?route=product/search&sort=p.price&order=ASC&search=koala&description=trinkets>

Final Comments (7:30 p.m.)

Adjourn! 7:30!