

Northpoint Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2009

Welcome and Introductions

Amy Hennen, PTO President, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those in attendance approved the November meeting minutes.

Presentations

Bren Froseth – Best Buy

Bren informed those in attendance about the Best Buy Reward Zone program for schools. Customers can donate their reward zone certificates to the school of their choice at the time of their purchase (once the school is enrolled in the program). 2% will go back to the school, regardless of how the customer pays for their purchase. The principal can go to a website to view how much the school has been awarded, and can purchase technology for the school. Technology that is not available in the stores is available through this program. The certificates never expire. Sign up next time you make a purchase at Best Buy if you are interested.

Annette Winrick

Annette Winrick, school board member, reported that all incumbents were re-elected in the November election. The first referendum question passed, the second question did not. The main focus of the school board at this time is budget modifications, which are predicted to be at about \$1.5 million.

Usborne Books

Representatives from Usborne Books informed those in attendance that they do book fairs. They do all of the set up and take down, but do ask for a few parent volunteers to help people check out.

The school can get 50% of the profits back in free books or up to 30% cash back. They have a program called Reach For the Stars. This can be done like a read-a-thon and can be a pledge-based program where students are asked to read for a certain amount of time per day, and get pledges for reading. Students can be rewarded with books to them or the school.

Northpoint Basic Skills and ELL Teachers

April Lindeman, English as a second language teacher, reported that she co-teaches during reading and math. She works with students in grades 1-3 in classrooms with cluster ESL students (5-10 per classroom). She works in groups of 3-5 students at a time on listening, speaking, reading and writing. Approximately 12% of the students at Northpoint are ESL.

Jackie Hoover, Basic Skills teacher, reported that she provides support for reading and math. She has 20-25 minute daily interventions. She also works with the Early Risers program, which takes place from 8:30-9:00 in the morning to provide extra support for students. Students are tested to qualify for this program. The hope is to catch students at risk and to fill in the gaps.

Jean Nolby

Jean Noldy, 3rd grade teacher, reported that Friday is the end of the trimester. There is no school for students on Monday, December 7. The teachers have a math in-service and will be working on report cards.

The students were excited about the coat, hat and mitten drive!

Amy Hennen

Amy Hennen, Northpoint PTO President, reported on behalf of Mr. Callahan, Northpoint principal that he would like to thank all of the volunteers who have helped so far this school year. He appreciates all of the positive energy that the volunteers bring to Northpoint!

Treasurer's Report

Kelly Rademacher, PTO Treasurer, reviewed the budget and reported that there have been no changes made from last month.

Activities Update

Chair appreciation

Thank yous were extended to the following people who have chaired committees:

- Jen Edlund for coordinating and ordering Northpoint apparel.
- Dona Mulrooney for the coat/hat/mitten drive

Coat, Hat and Mitten Drive

Dona Mulrooney reported that approximately 370 items were donated! The items will be used first at Northpoint, then give to other schools and then to the community. Thank you to everyone who donated items!

Non-traditional volunteer oppportunities

Jen Edlund, Northpoint PTO Vice President, reported that a meeting was held to discuss non-traditional volunteer opportunities. People want a night volunteer opportunity to be at school and help teachers. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Jen Edlund.

Carnival

Amy Hennen reported that Kate Chapman and Kieu Stueve will be co-chairing the carnival. We are in need of people to be in charge of games, activities and possibly a silent auction. Let Amy or Kate know if you are interested.

Next year's board and chairperson opportunities

Amy Hennen reported that we are looking for people to serve as Northpoint PTO board members for the 2010-2011 school year. We are also looking for people to chair committees. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Amy.

Winter Activities

January movie night – Doors will open at 6:00, and a movie will be shown in 2 locations this year. Best Buy will bring the blue ray player and movie. Refreshments will be available for purchase. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Jessica Friedman.

February reading event – Winter Weavers story tellers will be at school during the day on February 19 and will be coming back at night for the reading night event.

February conference meals – Coming in February.

Book Fair – It was decided to hold a Usborne book fair, but not have a read-a-thon for pledges. The book fair will take place during February conferences, on February 1 and 4. Jean Nolby will find out if there is a staff committee for I love to read month.

Open microphone

Amy Privratski reported that the Panther Foundation gala will be held on February 6, 2010 at the TPC Twin Cities. If you have silent or live auction items that you would like to donate, or if you are interested in purchasing tickets to attend the gala, please contact Amy Privratski. Last year the gala brought in over \$90,000 to help the students in the Spring Lake Park school district. See pantherfoundation.org for membership information.

****REMINDER - NEXT PTO MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 AT 6:30****