

ST. CHARLES NORTH PTO MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

In Attendance:

Aliza Siddigu, Student Council Rep
Abbe Gunnink, Sign-up Genius
Marisol Acevedo, Co-Treasurer
Anita Ruffin
Tom Mullally, Post Prom and Central Boosters
Teresa Danna-Harbaugh, Past PTO President
Susan Jones
Ellen Salyards, Co-President
Kim Klebe
Kathy Schamberger
Audra Christenson, Principal
Jane Harland, Co-President
Steph Porteous, Vice-President
Michelle Bancroft
Cathy Kruger
Babita Panchal, Co-Treasurer
Jenny Montgomery, Secretary

Meeting commenced by Co-Presidents at 7:00pm

- * A quick introduction of teacher, Dr Rosin, who said a few words and needed to leave.
- * Welcome from both Presidents and a quick introduction of attendees.
- * Quote (I want to add the quote) Ellen can you send it to me?
- * Amend and submit last May's meeting minutes. Minutes approved.

* Treasurer's Report by Marisol Acevedo:

Financial statements were distributed and expenses reviewed. A few important line items will not be in effect this year. Those being Market Day and the directory. Kim Klebe gave a quick overview of Market Day and why we are no longer participating in the program. Treasure's report was approved.

*President's Report by Jane Harland and Ellen Salyards:

Ellen reviewed our PTO's mission statement and reminded us to keep those in mind while making the decisions throughout the year.

There are a few positions still open which were reviewed.

The topic of Parent Reps was reviewed. In the past couple of years they have had the reps but they didn't have any responsibilities. Ms. Boyton would like to re-instate these positions and have them help with some areas. One area in particular is Homecoming float building. They would like to get food to the kids who are building the floats. That consists of 3 days, 20-25 meals. Our goal is to provide at least one meal to each grade level at their building site. Tom Mullally offered to do Jersey Mikes for one of the days. We will look into this further to see if we

as a PTO can help. We would need the addresses for all the sites. This perhaps could be another use for Sign-up Genius.

Jane Harland very generously started the year off with a gift of popcorn to all the teachers. We hope to show more appreciation to the teachers this year and thanks to Jane we are off to a good start.

*Student Council Report by Aliza Siddigu:

Aliza filled us all in with Homecoming details. The theme this year is "All Around the World". She also asked if possible to get food donations for float building and PTO will ask for donations of cookies for the dance. Another Sign-up genius task.

*Principal's Report by Audra Christenson:

Audra explained the Teacher institute days and what takes place during these time. The theme has remained the same "INSTRUCTION MATTERS". There is collaboration with East (cross river) to learn, collaborate, and plan. Some topics for this SIP day are: adolescent brain development, executive functioning skills, using technology and the art of questioning. These are just a few examples of what they are learning. They also have been doing book studies on a staff level. Audra extended an invitation to see what is happening during these time.

St. Charles North had their first "early release" and it was successful. It seems to solve many of the problems that were presented by the "late start" model, i.e. traffic issues, unexcused absences and "holiday" mentality.

*Old business: Everyone is in agreement that we need to find an efficient way to get emails to St. Charles North families. Members of the PTO plan to sit down with LRC director Tanis Simoncelli to help find solutions. Tom Mullally also stated that he could share his Booster's list. Ms. Acevedo will follow up with Tom and she also presented an idea of sending out request with the program, Mailchimp. We will look into that.

*Vice-President's report:

Stephanie presented the new fundraiser that we will be holding at North. Students will be selling Papa Nicholas from October 15-30. Stephanie has handled this fundraised at Thompson Middle School in the past to much success. An extra nice feature is that the students, if they want, can pick a club or sport where they would like their money to go to. This is a fantastic opportunity for many clubs who have had budget cuts and want to get some money back in their program. Tom Mullally has reservations since he is with the Central Boosters and sees that there could be some tension in sports teams having more fundraising. A very good point given the history of the boosters but one that Audra, athletic director and Stephanie don't think should be a problem since this is a PTO fundraiser not a Central Booster fundraiser. This is not in competition with Central Boosters but a way for PTO to help all clubs and sports and ultimately help the school.

Stephanie also presented the new program "Pizza with the Principal". A program where Mrs. Christenson will extend an invitation to students to have pizza and conversation. Pizza restaurants have already shown interest in donating pizzas for this event.

A DPTO summary was given from last May's DPTO meeting.

*Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

