

PTO Minutes from:
9/7/2016



In Attendance:

Jane Harland President, Regina Sbarbaro VP, Laura Thomas Treasurer, Jenny Montgomery Co-Secty, Susan Klobberdanz Co-Secty, Audra Christenson Principal, Ellen Salyaras Past Co-President, Steph Porteous Past Vice President, Cathy Kruger Teacher Appreciation/ACT Snacks, Karen Smith Social Media Mgr., Abbe Gunnink Sign Up Genius, Brooks Nicewarner Parent, Kim Klebe Parent

Meeting commenced by President at 7:00 p.m.
Welcome and introductions.

Principal's Report

Principal Christenson (P.C.) covered the Homecoming Week activities.

Thank you to the PTO for the success of the first annual Black and Blue Night. It was well-received by the coaches, athletes and parents that P.C. spoke with. Thank you also for the treats for the back to school night.

P.C. has had positive feedback from the teachers regarding the students and the students have said they feel very comfortable and welcomed as freshman.

P.C. has already visited over 60 classrooms out of 130; well on her way to meeting her goal of being in all of them by the end of first quarter!

Kick-a-thon is a week from Friday, expecting to meet the 1 Million dollar mark this year! Fireworks this Friday and next. Over 140 community kickers.

P.C. celebrated a number of things with the teachers during opening days:

Pass rate for AP Tests is 3.4 79% of all the students who take AP tests, earn college credit.

The highest average ACT score in North's history was 24.1 for the seniors who graduated last year. All students in Illinois are required to take the test. This year students will be taking the SAT. The practice SAT is October 19. This is also a National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. All sophomores and all juniors take this. Only juniors will be eligible to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship. Freshman will be taking a practice SAT on this date as well. Tentative plans are for freshman, sophomores and juniors to test in the morning and in the afternoon there will be college and career

readiness opportunities providing information on registering for classes, time spent investigating Career Cruising (which also provides two free practice SAT tests) which will help them choose classes based on their aptitude and interests. For seniors, North has worked with NIU, Elgin Community College and U of I to coordinate visits to those campuses during that day. There will also be community service opportunities and job sharing available that day as well. Counselors and English teachers will also be available in the building to share their expertise and assistance in helping the students with their college essays. This is excellent timing since Nov. 1 is typically the start of college applications being submitted. A lot of planning is going into the above, and final plans will be shared as they solidify.

To get free information and free practice SAT tests, visit [Collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org) and [Khanacademy.org](https://khanacademy.org).

The above assist with the skills and knowledge involved in the test, not test taking strategies.

Treasurer's Report

Laura presented the budget. It will also be posted online. She highlighted that the PTO dues fell far short this year. Last year \$9,060 was collected from 453 families. This year, only 215 families paid. We are \$2,500 short of our budgeted amount. Much of the decline is being attributed to the new dues payment system this year. Line items in the budget are being reviewed to address this shortfall. Approximately \$1,200 in dues was collected at the Black and Blue Night. We are waiting for the final numbers from the vendors from Black and Blue Night. It was a success though and enjoyed by many. Discussion was regarding holding a similar event in the spring. Jenny will address our concerns regarding the dues payment system at the next DPTO meeting. Discussion was held regarding additional marketing efforts to collect more dues but it does not look promising for the rest of the year. Next year the district is switching to Push Coin. Every school in the district is having the same problem. People may not realize that they haven't paid their dues. We will continue to post in Polaris and hopefully P.C. could send out an email. Parents may not realize all of the activities that the PTO is sponsoring. Budget approved.

President's Report

PTO Exec board will be riding in the Homecoming Parade. Walkers are welcome.

Student Council Rep absence tonight due to volleyball game. She will come in October.

There were six new babies born to staff and teachers over the summer. PTO will provide North Star bibs as a congratulation gift.

Committee Chair Reports

Stephanie Porteous - Coffee Fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 14-30. Finalizing flyer tomorrow. Papa Nicholas is providing a higher percentage to us this year. Students can choose which club money is going to. As of now, the groups to which students can donate their earnings are music department, athletic department and individual, specific clubs. Stephanie will meet with the coaches again to explain this great opportunity to earn money. Last year's highest grossing group cleared \$500 for its club! Stephanie is working hard to promote this opportunity. This year people can order online as well. Close to \$4,000 was given back to the school last year.

Kim Klebe - Nurse Fund

PTO supplied snacks, water and perishable items last year. Kim is now running a Sign Up Genius every nine weeks for volunteers to provide items due to our budget shortfall.

Old Business

Minutes from May 2016 were approved.

Bylaws will be reviewed and updated by May of 2017. On agenda for next month.

New Business

Brooks Nicewarner, a new parent to North and active in the DPTO, presented information about St. Baldrick's Foundation, a childhood cancer research foundation. He has been active in it at Anderson and Corron and is looking for someone to spearhead North's participation and possibly evolve into a district-wide fundraising event. Eighty percent of money raised goes to funding research at Chicago Med School and Lurie's Children Hospital, for example. A new childhood cancer drug was released last year! Haines will be hosting the March 10th fundraising event. Anderson, Corron, Lincoln, Davis, Richmond and Haines have all committed to supporting this event. Many prizes have already been donated and promotion is mainly needed. Past monies have been donated to Ronald McDonald House. In the past three years, Anderson has raised \$32,000 and Corron has raised \$20,000! Brooks left a binder of information and the thought was that a club at North may see this as a great mission to support. Students can also earn service hours through this. For more information, check out:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/officialstbaldricks>

Karen Smith - Social Media Karen will continue to promote the PTO's presence on social media. Facebook

and Twitter are the two main forums. Instagram is not very active. Discussion was held regarding putting money towards “sponsoring” our site to reach more people. Karen will get more information on pricing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Next PTO meeting is October 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the LRC. Please join us!!

The Executive Board reviewed this month's financial statements and approved.