

Minutes, PTSO meeting 9/22/2020

1. Call to Order

Introductions: multiple members introduced themselves – welcome to all, especially those who are new to North

2. Principal's Report

A few technical glitches, but in general things seem to be going well.

Look for surveys soon to see how others are feeling about it.

The district continues to look at potentially having the hybrid students back daily after October 2; unknown if that will happen. This will be based on metrics, not a vote. The news suggests WI is doing badly, but this is not school-aged kids – more college-age. Surrounding districts are doing similar COVID-mitigation. If returning, students would stay cohorted.

The school is looking for educational associates about 5h per day to help monitor study halls, work with small groups, etc. If you know anyone....

Look for links to “open house” videos by the end of the week; all teachers have made these. There is a focus on seeing how Schoology works in the school.

3. Teacher's Rep Report

A representative hasn't been recruited yet.

4. Treasurer's Report

Previous budget and Proposed budget shown.

There was no end-of-year meeting to go over the end-of-year; in any event, end-of-year for budget is the end of June.

We were under budget due to not paying out everything expected. Therefore bringing forward over \$7000. Currently around \$15,000 in the bank.

The proposed budget includes a loss of about \$1400.

It has been difficult to plan fundraisers and what overall can (safely) happen under the circumstances. The income projections are therefore conservative.

There have been some cuts to expenses in some areas; example, Gifts and Grants was cut some since it has not been collected consistently in the past. Scholarship payouts are already “promised,” though timing may be altered due to some students waiting a semester. Field trip money is down partly due to likely income being down.

People tend to be very generous around Teacher Appreciation, so the budgeted money does not reflect everything spent on that.

Overall, Income anticipated around \$7000 (conservative) and outlay around \$8400 (cut from last year).

Karin moved to approve

Kristen seconded

Multiple Ayes with none opposed.

5. Membership Report

Board members MUST pay!

A membership form came out; can also link to PTSO through the NMS site:

<https://northmiddleschoolptso.wordpress.com/>

Can also pay through Paypal through the site.

\$10; all stays local – we are not members of the National PTA association.

Still looking into whether we can have a Membership Directory through the school.

There are some privacy issues. Some feel we do not need it due to ease of contacting people other ways.

Decision: no directory.

A “Welcome to PTSO” video is invited.

6. Presidents’ Report

Welcome to everyone, and the Board hopes everyone will volunteer and be involved.

Please encourage everyone to attend PTSO meetings and participate.

7. Committee Reports

a. **Staff Appreciation** already had a lunch. This group is led by parents of 8th graders, so they will need new faces! They collect donations and buy food for particularly long days at the school.

b. **Cherrydale**: Kristen heads this and would like to have a “shadow” to learn to do it in the future. This brought in less money than expected last year, so new ideas are being solicited. This year will likely be hybrid catalog and virtual.

Preference asked between food catalog and gift catalog.

A few folks spoke for having both.

Kickoff: video on the 23rd. Will run October 23-November 6. Items will come before Christmas!

c. **Book Fair**: We had planned to skip this, as volunteers are a big problem, but there are rumors that Scholastic may offer a virtual version. Further details pending.

d. **Spiritwear**: There is leftover “Indians” spiritwear that cannot be sold on school grounds, but can be sold. We will find a contact for managing that, possibly on Facebook. Discussion re what is the right thing to do with it, and the re-branding of North that is happening (NMS having its own identity).

e. **Restaurants**: we need someone for this. Entails reaching out to restaurants in the falls (chains or otherwise) asking them to schedule a fundraiser night. The chains will be familiar with this & will negotiate a date; some will already have template fliers; PTSO has some templates that could be revised for those that don’t. Some stores give a percent of all sales that block (often 4 hours); others will have to see a flier, but often give back a higher percentage. Ideally, we’d have one every 3-4 weeks to make budget. May even be more successful with current situation of take-out and of push to support local businesses.

Dina volunteered! She would be happy to have a “buddy.”

NOTE: contact for the PTSO is: northmiddleschoolptso@gmail.com

f. **Mask fundraiser?**: many organizations are selling “branded” masks. There is a new North Star logo; Marigold could produce 100 masks in a week; cost \$5 and we could likely sell for \$10. Questions re which kind they are; will confirm. Probably the more form-fitting.

8. Old Business: none

9. New Business: also none, but some questions:

Parent question re whether other kids are struggling with passing time and getting to the bus.

There is a NMS parent info group on Facebook if others: North Middle School – Info Group. This is parent-run and not school-sanctioned.

Amazon Smile was on the Agenda and not addressed; explained that this is an option to select North as a “charity” when paying on Amazon, which gains the PTSO a small portion of the sale. Now available on iPhone as well as Android. Be careful to get the site correct – you go to the Smile site & not Amazon directly.

We meet every other month, on the 4th Tuesday. **Next meeting will be November 24, 6:30 pm, site TBD (likely Zoom).**

Yes, that is Thanksgiving week. The meeting will be shorter!

We are excited to count 17 people, and hope everyone will be back for the November meeting.

Thanks again to Dina for picking up a committee. Cherrydale needs someone, as does the Scholarship committee!

Adjourned at 7:35 pm.