

NCHS PTSA General Meeting September 1, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom
Minutes

Attendees:

Lisa Crittenden, President
Stephanie Doersam, Senior Banners
Genny Furley, Vice President
Erin Bezek, Secretary
Tericka Adair, Treasurer
Sheryl Parks, Hospitality
Carin Ellis, Membership
Latroy Fowlkes, Assistant Principal
Cindy Atkinson
Jen Hartlove-Shaffer
Melissa Pitt
Susan Carter
Vicki Hood
Michelle Mills
Stacie Brownrigg
Rhonda Shaffer
Laurese Hale
Shelly Carter
Beth Hancock
Allison Everett
Bethany Spore
Andrea James
Erika Sorto
Terri Collett
Grace Ellis

Welcome & Introductions at 7:05

Lisa thanked everyone for coming and noted we had enough members to constitute quorum.

President's Report:

- Agenda for tonight is to vote on the budget for the upcoming year and two reimbursements left over from last year then open the floor for questions and concerns for Mr. Fowlkes to address.

Principal's Representative Report- Mr Fowlkes

- .Mr. Fowlkes thanked PTSA for all they do. The school is very appreciative.
- There are many concerns about traffic. It is a mess,
 - Challenges:
 - Elementary school enters within 20 minutes of high school.
 - There is only one road into the school for both the high school and elementary school.
 - There are many extra parents dropping their kids off because of the bus issues. Several bus routes are not running, others just didn't show up on time leaving parents to bring their kids to school themselves.

- Encourage everyone to reach out to local representatives to try and fix this problem.
 - Students are encouraged to ride the bus whenever possible (assuming the bus shows up)
 - We are the largest school in the county and there have been no changes made to the traffic patterns despite many requests over the years..
- Bathrooms are locked during transition between classes due to safety concerns. We are being proactive vs reactive where safety issues are concerned due to the large number of students.
- There are two flex schedule blocks which means more transition periods.
- Things are going better this year than they were this time last year.
- Parent reported witnessing students getting out of cars at B&A and crossing the road to get to school on time. Wrote to the Board and their response was to contact the school principal. Parent is worried that students will be seriously injured or killed.
 - There is no way for administration to monitor where students are getting out of cars.
 - Parents need to be band together and be loud and complain as often as possible to the board in order to get results. Without parents leading the charge, nothing will change.
- Suggestion was made to have kids video the situation while their parents are dropping them off and alerting the media to the problem.
- A parent asked if our school board member has been to our school yet this week. They have not.
- A parent asked if the police have been to the school. The police have been there to check security, not for traffic issues. Mr. Jefferson would like to have them come in the middle of the traffic so they can see the problems firsthand.
- How is the school handling absences due to inability to get to school due to no bus?
 - This will be a code 19 (legal absence).
- Parent expressed concern: Will our dropout rate go up because we are in an area where there are high poverty rates and those students may not be able to find alternate transportation?
- Last year we had 45% of student body chronically absent (18 days or more). This doesn't include quarantine absences.
- Parent expressed concern: There are students missing school because they might have a bus but their younger sibling doesn't and they have to stay home to watch them so their parent can work. Mr. Fowlkes acknowledged this is a problem.
- As of now, there are no alternatives being given when the bus is not available. Buses are so overcrowded that some students can't even get on it when it does come.
- The last-minute notifications to parents about buses not coming is also a huge problem.
- A parent asked how many teachers NCHS is missing. We are short approximately 8-9 teachers. Department chairs are helping to cover classes. Students using Owl technology to learn virtually with teachers at other schools.
- Are students who are late due to bus issues, specifically Cat North students and athletes penalized? No, those students are not penalized for that. Teachers are lenient with this and work with students to make up any extra work they might have missed.
- How do we get more people involved?
 - Townhall meetings will be started in the community.
- One parent suggested a demonstration that could potentially block traffic/buses to the school. That would certainly generate a lot of attention.
- Parents are encouraged to reach out the their Board members and representatives and anyone else they can think of to raise awareness of the problem.

Treasurer's Report:

- Last years after prom committee had two reimbursement requests that were over the budget amount. The committee did enough fundraising to cover the amounts but never amended the budget. The budgeted amounts were already reimbursed. The extra amount for reimbursement was put to a vote.
 - After Prom prize budget: \$750, reimbursement request: \$2,601.00
 - Decorations budget: \$250, reimbursement request: \$1,024.32
 - The motion passed to reimburse the full amount spent for both line items.
- The budget for the 2022-2023 school year was presented and discussed. Motion was made to approve the budget. Vote was taken and the motion passed. Budget approved for 2022-2023 school year.

Committee Reports:

After Prom Breakfast (APB)-

- No report

Banner Report:

- No report

Craft Fair:

- No report

Hospitality:

- No report

Scholarships:

- No report

Membership:

- 98 paid memberships as of 3pm 9/1/22

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Still looking for committee chairs. Co-chairs are welcome, you don't have to do it alone!
- Fundraisers:
 - Chick Fil A coming up
 - Amazon Smile

Standing Rules:.

- Will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting concluded at 8:15