

North County High School PTSA
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:37 p.m.

In attendance: Elizabeth Leight; Jen Suber; Stephanie Doersam; Ramona Riordan; Sally Wood; Sonya Sutter; Nancy Sumwalt; Marquenta Taylor; Sarah Longo; Kim Bixler; Ed Rigby; Lisa Crittenden; Mr. Fowlkes; and Andrea Zamora.

Welcome: Sonya Sutter

President Sonya Sutter welcomed all in attendance. Introductions were made.

Approval of November 2018 Minutes: Nancy Sumwalt

Prior minutes were reviewed. (There was no meeting in December 2018.) Nancy S. thanked Stephanie D. for taking the minutes of the prior meeting.

- Motion: Stephanie D. motioned and Sally W. seconded to approve the November 28, 2018 meeting minutes as written.
- Vote: Motion carried.
- Resolved: Minutes from the November 28, 2018 meeting are approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Sonya Sutter

Sonya discussed Lisa Crittenden's resignation as Treasurer and the appointment of Lisa Bonanno as her successor. Lisa B. was unable to attend the meeting. Per Lisa C., all financial documents were turned over to Lisa B. The report will be presented at the next meeting.

President's Report: Sonya Sutter

There was a discussion regarding graduation still being held at the Equestrian Center.

Sonya introduced Ms. Taylor, the Guidance Department Chair. Ms. Taylor presented an overview of the Guidance Department and there was discussion about some of the parents' concerns.

- There are 2,255 enrolled students with six fulltime and one part-time counselors. She answered questions and concerns.
- Ramona R. stated that some STEM parents were told that the scheduling meeting was not for STEM, but learned later that a STEM meeting was held after the main meeting.
- The Pathway meeting was held in school and a paper was sent home.
- Last week's PowerPoint and link to last year's studies will be posted; some classes were added and some were dropped.
- They need a better way to explain the target audience.
- Ms. Taylor discussed her background; very active in the North County community (in the Meade cluster); she wants to implement new ideas to the NC community.

- Stephanie D. addressed out-of-area students' issues. The PTSA is not really representative of the whole school community (i.e. STEM parents); just the locals who show up at meetings. Andrea Z. explained that this is due to many parents having issues with getting time off work (with no pay) or having transportation issues.
- Ms. Taylor is learning the community and the needs of students and parents; she wants an open communication with the PTSA.
- Ms. Hildebrand is now the Registrar;
- The counselor newsletter is in transition;
- Sonya asked Mr. Jefferson for some ideas where PTSA can help the students (such as what the students' needs are). Stephanie D. suggested items such as a washer/dryer for students to do their laundry.
- Elizabeth L. stated that the Kirwan Commission (of which she is a member) is reviewing ideas to help students (i.e., food pantry, washers and dryers, health facilities). Out-of-area students do not have the same level of assistance.
- Guidance has a link on the school website; will post information.
- Per Andrea Z., NCHS is over capacity and understaffed. Our school is the worst in the County. We need to address this with County officials. Students from the new area developments will be coming here.
- Ms. Taylor stated that course selection sheets will be distributed on Tuesday, 1/22/2019. Students will have until Friday, 1/25/2019 to return them. Transcripts were distributed last Friday (core classes and electives). Descriptions are on the County website. In April, class choices go home for parents to review/request changes. Stephanie D. stated that some non-STEM Freshman have quarter-credit classes. Ms. Taylor said there are currently 581 incoming Freshman. Students may not be able to make 2nd semester changes due to staffing. The building is staffed on the current student population.
- The incoming Freshman night will have a PowerPoint showing graduation requirements, promotion requirements, scheduling and tidbits. Stephanie D. suggested that Guidance's PowerPoint (.pdf) be sent home through ConnectEd or linked through their website.
- Ms. Taylor's email is mitaylor@aacps.org.

Sonya introduced Elizabeth Light, a PTSA member and a member of County Executive Pittman's Education Transition Team, to discuss a survey of questions to share with parents about concerns and challenges in the area of education.

- Elizabeth discussed her role and distributed a sample of education transition questions.
- The team is working on libraries and arts for children and adult education.
- Email questions and concerns to Elizabeth (eyleight@aol.com).
- We have a 2,400 student limit; class size is larger than in the past but not at limit; no limit per Board of Education.
- Mr. Fowlkes stated that he is concerned with the new building in the community; redistricting may need to happen.
- Per Andrea Z., NCHS has about 2,300 students, which is 99% of the County's limit. Arundel is at 101%; Chesapeake is at 66%; Meade is at 78%; Northeast is at 85%; Severna Park is at 84%; and Southern is at 69%. NCHS was already at capacity when County Executive Schuh allowed new building.
- Mr. Fowlkes said NCHS will already get a large number of students next year, plus the additional City students moving to Brooklyn Park and more ESOL students. Some

apartment complexes (Willows) have two to three families in one apartment. We will also get Kinship Care students ("I live with Aunt Betsy"; they don't have to be related. Their status is only checked on once by PPW and never revisited.

- Elizabeth L. explained the Kirwan Commission.
- Some questions for the transition team:
 - How are adjustment transfers dealt with?
 - Food questions/discussions: Students can only get the free after-school meals between 2:18 and 2:40 p.m. Bus students can't stay to eat before they have to get on the buses. There was not enough accountability for the food trays in the classrooms so breakfast is now in the cafeteria. Regarding the FARM (Free and Reduced Meal) students (52%-55% of the students), some have Celiac's disease or allergies and they may not have food choices. How can these issues be dealt with?

Administration Report: Mr. Fowlkes

They combined the Senior meeting with scheduling night. They are working on a Senior trip (King's Dominion) and there are incentives for the Seniors to qualify to go. The cap and gown orders are due. Mr. Fowlkes believes there will be four to six graduation tickets per graduate. They have a Senior PowerPoint link as well. Prom tickets are \$75 each. Prom will be held at The Hotel at Arundel Preserve. Our SROs will be able to attend. The After Prom party is free.

The pepper spray incident was discussed. Mr. Fowlkes stated that 85% of those students involved in the fights do not belong in our school. They were administratively assigned by other schools and should be going to a lesser crowded school. We also transfer students out. Some transfers are based on bus routes. Safe & Orderly makes the ultimate decisions.

STEM helps our school's test scores.

Committee Report

After Prom: Andrea Z. said Queen can no longer help with fundraising. We need someone to take this over. We need someone to set up restaurant fundraisers. She is putting together a donation letter. Ms. Cammuse is surveying the Seniors regarding their food choices.

Miscellaneous

Stephanie D. asked Mr. Fowlkes what sort of guidance the provisional teachers get? There was a discussion regarding the RSAs (Right Start Advisors)/new teacher cohorts. The Department Chair works with those teachers. Their initial term is for two years and can renew for another two years.

Mr. Sirota (head of Computer Science) is going to the Board of Education.

Next meeting: 2/20/2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. (Ramona R. motioned; Kim B. seconded)