

North County High School PTSA
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m.

In attendance: Nancy Sumwalt; Wanda Behnke; Lisa Bonanno; Michele Schneck; Lisa Crittenden; Alison Cherowitzo; Sonya Sutter; Sally Wood; Susan Carter; Ed Rigby; Brenda Ali; Stephanie Doersam; Rose Hunter; Elizabeth Leight; Eric Jefferson; Simone Tesheira; Crystal Beatty; and Alicia Patrick.

Welcome: Sonya Sutter

President Sonya Sutter welcomed all in attendance and acknowledged that some parents were absent due to the Marching Band exhibition. Introductions were made.

Approval of September 2018 Minutes: Nancy Sumwalt

Prior minutes were reviewed and one correction was made.

- Motion: Elizabeth L. motioned and Lisa B. seconded to approve the September 26, 2018 meeting minutes as amended.
- Vote: Motion carried.
- Resolved: Minutes from the September 26, 2018 meeting approved, as amended.

President's Report: Sonya Sutter

Sonya summarized communications issues and submittal to Mr. Jefferson. He responded with information and contacts.

Sonya emailed Mr. Bernstein; he will update the PTSA.

Administration heard our concerns and are working on them.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Crittenden

Lisa C. distributed and explained the Treasurer's report.

Old Business: Sonya Sutter

Sonya distributed a rough draft of contact information and important dates. She emails Ms. McAlily with information for the weekly bulletins.

Website: It would cost \$10,000 to purchase the former site back. There are links to the new website. Mr. Jefferson and Bob Mosier checked the links to make sure all were correct. They blocked the ".org" site from the school's website, but cannot control other's use. The company

that administered the website did not send NCHS the bill until after it already expired. They suggested to have a vote for ".com" in Google.

The school has Twitter and Instagram accounts, but they use Twitter. The PTSA has a Twitter account, but decided not to use it.

Stephanie D. mentioned that some messages were sent home through ConnectEd but we did not get them. Mr. Jefferson thinks there was a glitch. He told his Admin Team to send phone, email and text ConnectEds. It was noted that some parents received five calls from Lindale Middle regarding early dismissal.

Will continue with Facebook and website. Most people are happy with emails.

The PTSA wants to find a way to connect with the Athletic Boosters. We have a common theme. Ms. Bange emails Stephanie D. with Music Booster information to post. Someone from Athletic Boosters can email Stephanie with important information as well. We may need a liaison between the PTSA and Athletic Boosters. The banner is on pause at this time.

Stephanie D. will continue to screen Facebook requests. News such as the golf student who won the championship is important and should be noted on the PTSA page.

Sally W. noted that the Music Boosters has a food night on 10/23/2018; she will post an event for it.

We can email Mr. Jefferson with upcoming events.

Homecoming:

- a. Sally W. and Stephanie D. stated that homecoming events were not on weekly bulletin. A phone call did go out about it and an email was sent out with contract information before the event.
- b. Simone T. said she reviewed the homecoming contract with her daughter. They reviewed the dress code and then saw students in jeans. Mr. Jefferson said they turned about 20 students away.
- c. Administrators from each school and the parents signed the guest forms. The students signed the contracts when they purchased the tickets during the lunch periods; and they signed the back of their tickets at that time.
- d. Mr. Jefferson said they stopped the ticket sales at 1,200; only 14 teachers signed up to be chaperones; and they had two SROs. He asked Sonya to request help from the PTSA; Sonya distributed the request to the members and 12 volunteers showed up.
- e. Rose H. suggested that the drop-offs wind through the front parking lot in order to access the gym parking lot to alleviate the backup. We could use volunteers for this next year.
- f. Crystal B. asked Mr. Jefferson if the volunteers have to be approved. He said they do for NCHS.
- g. Stephanie D. suggested Google Docs for parents to sign up in advance; or use SignUpGenius.
- h. Ed. R. said this was his first homecoming dance and he was glad he walked. Traffic on 648 was backed up. He was pleased with how the school handled it, but he thought a police officer

should have been available at the intersection. Mr. Jefferson explained that the officers were called away.

- i. It is too expensive to move to a different venue (\$30K-\$40K). (It cost approx. \$60,000 for 500 students to attend the prom.) The SGA made \$14,000.
- j. The District has a Community Relations office for any parent who needs help.

Mr. Jefferson said they had an orderly homecoming game this year. Last year students showed up from Old Mill and caused trouble. There was a fight at the team entrance and an incident at the gate. Some students were arrested. This was not the norm.

Mr. Jefferson said 16 alumni and four current students are banned from this Friday's football game. There will be an Administrator and police officers at the gate with pictures of these students; they can be arrested for trespassing.

More things are in place this year for games. They have four additional lights (three rentals and one from the County). Mr. Jefferson moved some games to a Saturday because of darkness around stadium and parking lot lights since he came here.

Crystal B. said that she volunteers at all games and her daughter is on the cheer team. Crystal left but was refused reentry without having to pay and the police would not let her back on the parking lot. Mr. Jefferson said volunteers do not have to pay and they should ask for Mr. Alvanos or an Administrator in the future.

Principal's Report: Mr. Jefferson

Sonya offered condolences on the loss of a teacher (heart attack). We were notified that there was an "incident at school" and some parents were worried before opening the attached notification.

There were two water fountains that were turned shut down due to lead. They had 22 ppb; the threshold is 26 ppb, however. There is no timeframe for repair/replacement since many schools are still being tested. Stephanie D. reviewed many negative Facebook posts. She pointed out that we were one of the first older schools to be tested (northern schools).

Sonya said that Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Forrester started GoFundMe and DonorsChoose accounts. It will cost about \$10,000 plus \$5,000 for labor (for the ones like Severna Park). One fountain was donated at the end of last year; the school system needs to install it. The capital projects are awaiting approval.

Mr. Jefferson stated that a December/January renovation project (double-glass doors; \$60K-\$70K) was approved for the front of the school. People will have to be buzzed in twice. The School Board approved it on the spot.

Stephanie D. noted other doors where students can let other people in. There are 67 doors. Mr. Jefferson said it would cost \$300K-\$400K to add an alarm system. Student could face automatic suspension for letting others into the school. Police, maintenance and janitors check the doors periodically.

NCHS won the Ravens RISE high school football game of the week and it will be Senior night as well. Traffic issues were discussed. NCHS is the only high school in the County with one way in and one way out. People can park on the bus lot and use the walkway from the elementary school.

The policy for homecoming was no sneakers. Mr. Jefferson will change that next year.

Overcrowding was discussed. NCHS has the capacity for 2,400 students. They have less than 2,400 students; 45 no shows. Mr. Jefferson is addressing the influx from developments (approx. 200). There was an influx of approx. 120 the week before school started and approx. 100 the first week of school.

Rose H. stated that most elementary schools are at or over capacity now. Lindale Middle and Brooklyn Park Middle are overcrowded.

Crofton relieved two high schools: Meade and Arundel. Old Mill is the next building project. Mr. Jefferson believes a new Glen Burnie High School should be built to accommodate overcrowding (through redistricting). It has six buildings and quads. They need parents at the board meetings.

Rose H. suggested a revamp of Pumphrey to take Belle Grove students and send some Brooklyn Park students to Chesapeake.

Parents need to complain at the County board meetings about bus overcrowding. The principals do not have a say in this.

Sonya suggested putting something together for the board. Wanda B. said to include all feeder systems. Ed R. discussed preparing a one-page letter.

Mr. Jefferson said it took Severna Park took eight years to get the new school. Parents showed up at all the board and council meetings. The same with Crofton. Parents need to show up from the elementary, middle and high schools.

Lisa C. suggested that we Google "small area plan" for this area. Another entrance to the school was supposed to take place.

Spalding is fighting the Old Mill development.

Committee Reports/Miscellaneous

Membership: Alison C. reported 85 parents, 21 students, 2 alumni and 5 staff members. Membership information to go to all staff mailboxes.

After Prom: Brenda A. said now is the time to start meetings and fundraising.

Banners: Stephanie D. reported 12 banners sold to date. She will send a post to order by Monday and first batch will be hung early. The price starts at \$30 and increases to \$35 and \$40 as the school year progresses.

Facebook monitors are Stephanie D. and Sally W.

Hospitality: Susan C. said grab-n-go donations should be sent to the main office. Ms. Johnston and Ms. Gossage should know about the drop-offs. Tables will be set up in the cafeteria. Sonya S. and Susan will coordinate notes to the teachers.

Ms. Gossage has been emailing Sonya S. more frequently. She will give Sonya's contact information to the staff.

Alison C. suggested that teachers should be required to be members in order to request funds from the PTSA.

Sonya S. said there are 13 boxes of candy left. We will sell them at the Craft/Vendor Fair.

Craft/Vendor Fair: Lisa C. said yard signs are available for distribution to place in the community. The Fair is Saturday, 11/20/2018, from 9:00-2:00 p.m.

Next meeting: 11/28/2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.