

North County High School PTSA
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

In attendance: Sarah Longo; Lindsey Bruce; Cyrus Bruce; Crystal Beatty Powers; Susan Carter; Michelle Mills; Michele Schneck; Patty Lewis; Stephanie Doersam; Alison Cherowitzo; Sally Wood; Wanda Behnke; Raquel Ortiz; Janytza Ortiz; Renee McLaughlin; Cheryl Scott; Brenda Ali; Lisa Bonanno; Sonya Sutter; Ramona Riordan; Simone Tesheira; Lisa Crittenden; and Nancy Sumwalt.

Welcome: Sarah Longo and Sonya Sutter

Vice President Sarah Longo welcomed all in attendance in President Sonya Sutter's absence (arriving late). Introductions were made. When President Sonya Sutter arrived, she welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made again to benefit all the latecomers.

Approval of May 2018 Minutes: Nancy Sumwalt

Prior minutes were reviewed.

- Motion: Stephanie D. motioned and Lindsey B. seconded to approve the May 30, 2018 meeting minutes as written.
- Vote: Motion carried
- Resolved: Minutes from the May 30, 2018 meeting approved, as written.

Communications: Stephanie Doersam

Stephanie stated that she received an anonymous complaint through the PTSA Facebook page that there is a lack of communication coming from the school. There are several sports messages sent to the school community, but not enough for other important events.

A discussion was held that parents need more communications regarding events such as picture day, homecoming, the upcoming juniors' PSAT (10/10/2018), and clubs, for example. There was confusion regarding picture day (9/5-6/2018) and many parents did not get notification in advance. Some were told it would be during the students' English classes. For those students who had English on both A and B days, they did not know which class to be ready for and dressed up on the wrong day. Some parents inquired about homecoming to Stephanie D. She requested the information from the school, and also asked the school to let the school community know about it, but only she received a return email with the homecoming information. It appears that the school did not communicate about this to the parents.

Principal's Report: Sonya Sutter

Sonya stated that Mr. Fowlkes (the PTSA liaison) said Mr. Jefferson was at a Board meeting and neither of them could attend today's meeting. Mr. Fowlkes asked Sonya to stress the importance of school attendance and being on time for school. They would like the students to ride the buses if possible so traffic is not backed up in the mornings.

President's Report: Sonya Sutter

Sonya stated that several parents are not getting notices/newsletters.

Thursday is the deadline for the PTSA to submit information for the weekly bulletins for Sunday publishing.

We have a lot of new staff this year. This should be communicated to the parents and students.

There was a discussion regarding the Ninth Grade meeting that was held in January 2018. The parents were asked to make a wishlist of items they would like to know about or see happen. Ms. Williams and Ms. McVey came to one of our PTSA meetings last year to discuss the Ninth Grade meeting.

There was further discussion regarding communications from the staff: the weekly bulletins, Facebook, ConnectEd and website need to include upcoming events -- not just for that week. The Athletic Boosters probably purchased the sign at the end of the softball field for the school. Hopefully that will be fixed and can then promote the upcoming events.

New/different Administrators are handling the communications now for the staff and community.

Sonya will be the liaison with Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Fowlkes.

Knight Time is now held only Tuesdays through Thursdays. It used to be held every day, and then was held on Tuesdays through Fridays with Advisory being held on Mondays. Stephanie D. described Knight Time for the newcomers. Since there are no activity buses after school, students cannot participate in clubs if they rely on bus transportation home. Only out-of-area STEM students have Tuesday and Thursday activity buses. This is one of the reasons why the continuation of Knight Time is so important.

There should be one person in charge of the school's master calendar and all groups should be able to communicate our various events for that person to post.

Jay O. stated that she has been making announcements for Homecoming ticket sales and other events. Announcements are Monday and Friday around 9:00 a.m. and Tuesday through Thursday around 9:15 a.m. However, it is too noisy in some classrooms to hear the announcements and, per Cyrus B., those students attending CAT North during first and second period do not get to hear the announcements.

Ramona R. reminded us that some teachers use Google classroom. She also stated that if a student is under 16, he/she needs the school to sign off on attendance in order to obtain a learner's permit. That could motivate some students to have a better attendance record.

There was a discussion about the need for monitors at some of the bathrooms because of students smoking in the bathrooms. It was noted that most are locked the last 10 minutes of each class

through the first 10 minutes of the next class; some usually longer than that. Perhaps we need more than one School Resource Officer (SRO).

NCHS has over 2,400 students now. It has the most students in the county. Over the next three years, it is anticipated to have even higher incoming populations.

Per Stephanie D., our PTSA is not a full representation of the school population. We have a high homeless population, as well as a high number of students receiving free or reduced-price meals. Patty L. explained that after-school meals are provided Mondays through Thursdays, but mostly sports students take advantage of the program. It was questioned whether students are allowed to get food before they get on the buses. It appears that only walkers can take advantage of the program. It was also stated that free and reduced-lunch students can get free or reduced-price tickets to various events.

We currently advertise membership, banners and Ready2Drive. We need to promote these more.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Crittenden

Lisa C. reviewed the Treasurer's report and proposed budget for this year.

As Lisa reviewed each category in the budget, she noted that the Guidance funds could be used to offset ticket prices for students.

The proposed budget was reviewed.

- Motion: Alison C. motioned and Ramona R. seconded to approve the budget for this school year.
- Vote: Motion carried
- Resolved: The budget for this school year is approved, as written.

Sonya stated that Lisa may resign as Treasurer to focus on other matters. Sonya introduced Lisa B. as a potential successor. It was explained that, once Lisa C. resigns, the Board will vote to appoint her successor. Lisa also assists with the website and gmail account, as well as serves as the Craft/Vendor Fair Chair and hopefully she will continue to do so.

Committee Reports

Banners: Stephanie D. will continue to be in charge of the banner sales. The price starts at \$30 and increases to \$35 and \$40 as the school year progresses.

Membership: Alison C. agreed to continue as Chair this year. A total of 44 memberships (35 parents and 9 students) were processed during Freshman orientation. Lisa C. stated that 40 memberships were processed during Back-to-School night and we had an additional 10-15 processed online.

Future emails to the members regarding meetings will have a link to the website to view the minutes.

After Prom Breakfast: Per Lisa C., we need someone to chair this event. Last year approximately 260 seniors and guests attended.

Other Business

Sally W. agreed to continue to assist with the PTSA Facebook page.

Patty L. stated that Back-to-School night was poorly attended because of sports games. The County originally had it scheduled for 9/14/2018, but NCHS changed it to 9/6/2018.

Some schedules that were distributed over the summer were different than what was given to the students in Advisory on their first day of school, and some parents who relied on the summer handouts went to the wrong classrooms at Back-to-School night.

When students change classes, they cannot do it until the second week of school. This can cause students to fall behind and it is hard to catch up on their work. There should be a better way to deal with class changes so this does not occur.

It was questioned whether we have enough extra staff for the increased student population.

We need to have a PTSA representative to attend meetings (8th Grade; STEM nights; staff meetings, etc.) to promote membership. We need to push the staff to join. There is an upcoming staff meeting on 10/1/2018. If Mr. Jefferson continues with Fab Fridays, perhaps we can push for membership then as well.

Due to time constraints, the remaining agenda items were tabled until a future meeting.

Next meeting: 10/17/2018 at 6:30 p.m.

(Note: this is a 2-hour early dismissal day and there is also a Marching Band exhibition.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.