

## **MINUTES**

Northern Heights Elementary PTA  
General Membership Meeting  
November 15th, 2016

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30PM

### Welcome-Toni Ladner

Present: Erin Swanda, Jenn Tuininga, Julie Fife, Brittany Nick, Megan Peterson, Melissa Yuryevich, Toni Ladner, Joe Fisher, Tarra Hollins, Kyla Stefani, Kari Lanham, Roxanne McCloud, Ayn and Brandon Witman, Sjana MacSwan, Sharon Newbold, Heather Johnson, Kelly (unable to read last name), Meredith Mitchell, Ally (unable to read last name), Kristin Jowett, Mia Strotheide, Annique Quinn, Pam Pottle, Sabrina Yarsley

### Guest Speaker: Laura Plaut Common Threads Farm School Garden

School gardens have been around since the 1800s, set up is the easy part. Maintenance is the ongoing and difficult part of program. Goal is a “comprehensive food education model” and to facilitate lessons. The role of Common Threads is to help facilitate the garden with the school, identify the resources present and facilitate resources that are not available.

In terms of family involvement having a parent liaison or a group of 3-5 parents committed to the garden is ideal. PTA pays an annual membership fee (\$3500 a year) to common threads. Start up prices can vary, schools choose their price point and what resources to use which makes costs variable depending on the size and aesthetic, but it's all based on what the school chooses. A site assessment and Facilities Director approval is required before start up begins.

The \$3500 fee goes towards every CHILD having access to the garden and used towards classroom time.

Grants available for start up: Kid's Foundation, Lowe's Outdoor Classroom Grant

Concerns about irrigation and location of garden. Possibility of a container garden. A plan needs to be developed on how to start the process.

### Review/Vote of Sept. & Oct. General Meeting Minutes and Standing Rules

Motion to approve September and October meeting minutes by Annique Quinn. Second by Megan Peterson.

### Treasurer Update- Annique Quinn

See budget

New PA system purchased for the school. Remainder of technology budget line was used to buy headphones for the classroom iPads.

### Box Tops

Done for the cycle. Next drive will be quicker, will take place in February. Check is for \$704 and should be here in December.

### Membership Report:

Currently at 98 members. Goal for the year is 130. We are lower than the previous year.

### Yearbook Update-Sharon Newbold

Contract was signed next week. The \$12 book was chosen, which is the same style and quality as last year. Flyers will be delivered to the school. Yearbooks will be available for pre-sale during the Book Fair and Friday evening as well with samples from previous years.

### PACS-Sharon Newbold

Dr. Baker is heading a book club, November's book is Our Kids if you are wanting to read it also. Meetings are usually the 3rd Thursday of the month, 9:30-11AM. We need a second member. Angie Retz has volunteered to be the second member. Teachers are using Our Kids as a study as well and a great companion book is How Children Succeed by Paul Tough.

### 4th Grade Fundraiser-Annique Quinn

We raised \$800, sold \$3800 total. Small group participated in the fundraising. They will be delivered on December 2nd. Location is TBD. Adventures field trip permission slips will go home next week.

### Board Report:

Upcoming Events:

- Book Fair Nov 17-22
- Book Fair Performance: Alex Zerbe Nov 18 @6:30PM NO CHARGE FOR FAMILIES
- Book Fair opens at 5:30PM
- Movie Night: December 2nd @ 6:30PM- Kid's will vote on movie.
- Choir and Cocoa December 13th @ 6:30PM

### SANDBOX- Kyla Stefani

18-24" deep and covered. 8' wide by 6'

Needs to be discussed with Mike Anderson with Grounds and Maintenance. A request to the PTA needs to be presented as a proposal to the board and then presented to the general membership for approval.

### Principal Update- Pam Pottle

"If it's good for kids, we pursue and if there are obstacles, we work around them."

Mr. Hanaway is in Beijing as part of an educational exchange program that is privately funded to explore the educational system in China. He has sent videos of the Great Wall of China, cultural dancing and school lunchrooms. We have been transitioning from having Mr. Eisenhart leave, he has gone back to school to become a Special Education Teacher. We have created a team of playground coaches, Sarah Richard, Nells Humphry, Cathy Capran as a playground coaches. The students and staff are happy to have added stability to lunch and playtimes. Tara Holland has worked on the display cases and is doing a great job showcasing diversity and ethnic groups during heritage months.

Questions-

How are school gardens funded? Not sure if there is a common funding method. Info will be brought up to the PAC meeting. There is good advocacy at the district level for the garden.

**No December Meeting, next meeting January**

Meeting Adjourned- 7:45 PM