

[Approved 3-19-19 unanimous voice vote, corrected]

Northwood PTSA General Meeting February 19, 2019

Meeting was opened at 7:41 pm by Ms Robyn Watts, PTSA President. In attendance were Ms Watts; Andrea Verbrugge, PTSA Vice President; Cathy Shrestha, PTSA Treasurer; Jenn Sawin, PTSA Secretary; Ms. Charley-Greene, Principal; Michele Moller, Northwood Cluster Coordinator; and Amarilis Lugo de Fabritz, MCCPTA Delegate.

Unable to attend were: Jenny Espinoza, PTSA Membership Chair; John Wilson, Minigrant Coordinator and Listserv moderator; Tamara Overby, NAACP Liaison; Jillian Newby, After Prom Chair; and Ashley Marchionini, Staff Appreciation Chair.

Approximately 5 other persons were in attendance.

Minutes

Copies of the January 15, 2019 meeting minutes were distributed. A motion was made from the floor to approve the draft minutes. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

MCCPTA Reports

Michele noted that both she and Amarilis testified for the Northwood Cluster in January at the Board of Education hearing. Michele has asked MCPS for an update on the plan for housing Northwood during construction of the new building, but has received no response yet. Jenn noted that the BOE business meeting coming up on February 25 has the Northwood housing item on the agenda. Michele said there will be County Council testimony re the capital budget, and people should feel free to write to the Council or the County Executive.

Michele explained we need 3 new MCCPTA Northwood Cluster Coordinators next year. She is term-limited, and other two are leaving. It's helpful but not necessary to have a student at Northwood. Interested persons should email Michele. More information available on MCCPTA website. This is time-sensitive; elections are in April so we want names by end of March.

Amarilis advised that MDPTA dues are going up to \$6.75 because of National PTA dues hike. In other financials, school impact budget has a \$120 million shortfall; \$25 can be clawed back from current budget, according to County Executive, and there's a carryover from last year so this isn't an actual cut.

Ms. Charley-Greene, Principal

News:

- Nick Boboshko is interning at Forest Knolls ES and brought the students over for Northwood basketball; great to have the kids here.
- Ms Charley-Greene is working with feeder schools to address the literacy gap that is showing up. She will do a walkthrough of feeders, coordinating with teachers because they spend all day with the children and are in the best position to know what's going on.
- Northwood students got 3 pieces of art juried into the Maryland High School art show.
- The Science Olympiad team is growing and took 5th place at the recent competition. Ms. McLaughlin is pleased. She is getting the students excited about Physics.
- The Bocce team took 2nd place in MCPS.

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- Mr Northwood this year is Alvin Hyunh. The event was a fun evening with high quality acts (no more swimwear competition) and a panel of teachers picking the winner.
- Boys' cross-country 4x400 relay took 1st place in Maryland.

MCPS recently reported on AP/IB participation and success. We had 480 AP students last year in 21 courses. The highest % increase in scores was among African American students, good increase in scores among Hispanic students. Schools with IB/AP programs have higher numbers, but Northwood doing better than most schools with respect to minority students. Students also took over 66 different MC courses (all dual enrollment, not just MC2); these guarantee college credit, while AP doesn't.

Hot Topics:

- Response to Emergencies. Recent student medical situation, regular protocol not sufficient so MCPS was called in. Corridor was closed for biohazard cleaning. Student who took video very sorry for lapse in judgment.
- "E3" Attendance Policy. E3 policy does not count excused absences; unexcused absences may cost student credit for class. Not automatic – opportunity for intervention to address absences. After Town Halls, Ms. Charley-Greene will post link to policy and share presentation. For school metrics, ESSA counts all absences, including excused.
- Senior Events. Events are on the senior class page. Letter is also coming out.
- Locker Room Supervision. Have been incidents elsewhere in MCPS; now formalizing the process for afterschool supervision. Athletic director working on draft process. Students who present ongoing problem will not be allowed to stay after school. Others must be supervised – if a student has to stay for an individual reason, there's always supervision in Media Center for Homework Club and can go there.
- School Calendar. Recent snow day means classes 6-5-19, which was a professional day. Another day off extends year to 6-18-19 (Howard County has done that).

Membership

Robyn gave the update in Jenny's absence. Added a new parent recently and another joined tonight, for a total of 57.

Ms. Cathy Shrestha, Treasurer

Cathy presented the Treasurer's report. Not many changes, but we currently have around \$8,000 in the bank aside from After Prom.

After Prom Report

Silent Auction on Sunday was great success, and student performers did a great job. Took in about \$4,000 with some money still to come in from winning bidders.

Important Dates and Upcoming Events:

- 2-22-19: MCPS Dance Showcase. Northwood has strong talent base, including student choreography, and the largest dance program in MCPS; we will host again. All-day Friday classes, evening performance.
- 2-25-19 to 3-1-19: Student Town Halls. By grade level, some info-sharing with students, but primary purpose is to get feedback from students on any topic of interest to them.
- 2-27-19: Black History Month Production (snow date from 2-20) evening performance.
- 3-1-19: Early release day
- 3-6-19: Active Assailant Training

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- 3-14-19: Pi Day. Andrea still needs some volunteers to hand out mini-pies 11am-noon.
- 3-14-19: MoCo Students for Change have announced a walkout re gun violence. Discussion had re issues of support for student civic engagement and concerns for safety. Ms. Charley-Greene noted this is a family decision, and less disruptive if students just don't come to school rather than come and then leave. Northwood tries always to have alternate location on-site for discussion. Board of Education policy under proposal (re expanding civic engagement beyond elections) has been tabled. Important that encouraging engagement be content-neutral. Principals do not want to be in a position of having to approve or disapprove. Also noted that PAL academy has been bringing in outside speakers during lunch.

Other Updates:

Counselors week recently - \$10 Starbucks card given to each as thank-you.

Request for copies of "Invisible Man" for AP Language has been funded.

Students are encouraged to get to class on time, "Walk With Purpose" to avoid hall sweeps.

Reminder that no headgear is permitted unless for religious purposes.

Parent question: Is Northwood collecting donations of dresses and accessories for Prom? Yes.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:03 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Sawin, PTSA Secretary