



NBS PTO MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2019

Meeting Attendees: Ilana Forbes, *President*; Amy Vandenberg, *1st VP Fundraising*; Betsy Thalheimer, *3rd VP Special Programs*; Jackie Kardesh, *4th VP Family Outreach*; Sara Roach, *Secretary*; Courtney Olson, *Treasurer*; Austin Johnson, *Principal*; Beth Christensen; Melissa Gerberg; Angela Gordon; Katie Grimm; Kelly Gunderson; Mary Kate Harazin; Kalin Lomas; Crystal McConnell; Stacey McGinn; Krista Reilly; Megan Reiting; Nikki Schriever; Stacey Smith; Ann Stohl; Julie Watts.

- I. **Call to Order and Welcome:** President Ilana Forbes called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m.
- II. **Principal's Report:** (*Austin Johnson*)
 - A. **Gender-Neutral Activities:** NBS has received great feedback about the newly gender-neutral Breakfast With a Buddy (formerly Donuts With Dads). The rebranding was part of a district-wide effort for all events to be more inclusive to single parents, as well as students who are figuring out their gender identity.
 - B. **Attendance Week (September 9-13):** iPad distribution on September 9-10 was a very successful tactic to get students to attend school! Other activities during the week included sports day, crazy hair day, pajama day & Colt Pride day. Stay tuned to find out whether NBS won the attendance contest in Lake County.
 - C. **Safety Week (September 23-27):** Drills planned include a fire drill, a tornado drill, a bus evacuation drill, and a run-hide-fight drill. The children will view videos to accompany each of these drills, and links to these videos will be made available to parents. Principal Johnson screened the run-hide-fight video for meeting attendees, and asked for feedback as to whether the subject matter was appropriate for grades K-3. Attendees decided it might be too disturbing for K-3 and should be limited to grades 4-5. Betsy Thalheimer wondered whether NBS addressed stranger danger around the busses as part of safety week. Mr. Johnson said that it is not addressed, but he will work on doing so. He also detailed additional NBS safety procedures, including lockdown keys in the possession of every teacher and substitute, and room numbers prominently posted in each room.
 - D. **Polling Location Update:** Mr. Johnson met with Lake County Clerk Robin O'Connor, as well as Lake County Board Member Michael Danforth and Village of North Barrington President Eleanor McDonnell. Clerk O'Connor decided that the North Barrington Village Hall was not a suitable polling location. The only in-precinct options are NBS and the Biltmore Country Club. The March 2020 election will be held at NBS. Hopefully Biltmore will vote to host the November 2020 election at its October meeting. Another option that Clerk O'Connor is

exploring is to allow NBS to have a day off on Election Day, with students doing e-learning/distance learning from home. Mr. Johnson outlined the Election Day safety measures that are in place. Elections are held in the gym, and voters may only enter and exit through the side door. People cannot get in the building, with the exception of authorized election workers for purposes of using the bathroom. Students will not have P.E. on Election Day, and a Lake County Sheriff will be on site. If students want to take the day off, it also will not count as an absence.

E. Different Club Times: Due to the earlier elementary-school start times, all school clubs are required to meet in the afternoon except for band and orchestra. This is creating scheduling and space constraints, and children may have to choose among activities due to overlap. Mr. Johnson is looking into obtaining waivers from the District for certain clubs, and exploring ways to alleviate space constraints.

III. Teacher Liaison Report: (*Nikki Krumm*): No report.

IV. President's Report: (*Ilana Forbes*)

A. District News

1. Major improvements over the summer included the New Main Entrance at BHS, BHS Stadium Turf Replaced, Sunny Hill Library Renovations, and the new Administration Building on Lake-Cook Road. You can stop and tour the new administration building on **October 5th** during the Homecoming Parade.
2. 36 East Dundee: The District now owns this property. They will demolish the home for safety reasons, and they hope to develop plans to make the property part of ELC/ Prairie Campus. We will keep you updated.
3. Referendum: A \$147M referendum will be including on the March 17, 2020 primary election ballot. District parent turnout was very low last year, so please encourage your neighbors and friends to vote. This year, the election is before spring break, which will hopefully help with turnout.

B. Playground Update: The playground is in, with the exception of 4 new swings. The equipment company ordered the wrong components. The District is in the process of re-ordering, and we will hopefully have an installation date soon. We are also working on completing the donor wall. Make sure to take a peek at the front corner of the building; the 2019 fifth-grade gift (a horse statue) has been installed.

C. Open Slate Positions:

1. Almost all second chairs are available on PTO Committees. Ilana requested that attendees talk to the listed VP on the distributed PTO contact sheet for more information about a committee or its responsibilities.



2. We need at least 2 Chairs for the **2021 Adult Social** (our major biennial fundraiser). Please contact Amy Vandenberg and/or Ilana Forbes if you are interested or know someone who might make a fabulous chair.

D. B-Strong: Upcoming Programs (*Julie Watts*)

1. FREE All-Ages Game Day on Sunday, September 22nd from 2:00 - 4:30 at the Campus Life Center on Lageschulte. Register through the library.
2. "Anxiety in Children and Teens: Symptoms & Interventions" Parent Coffee on Wednesday, September 25th from 9:30 - 11:00 am at the Campus Life Center on Lageschulte.
3. The BStrong Together Conversation Circles are starting in October. Registration required.

E. Thank You and Preview of Next PTO Meeting: Huge thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with Breakfast with a Buddy! The next PTO meeting is our first evening meeting. We are working on securing babysitters for the event.

V. Treasurer's Report: (*Courtney Olson*)

A. Budget for the 2019-2020 School Year: The new budget was approved at the May 2019 PTO Meeting. The PTO is also working on teacher and staff grants, and they will be distributed by October 1.

VI. Secretary's Report: (*Sara Roach*)

- A. Approval of Minutes from the May 20, 2019 PTO Meeting:** Courtney Olson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2019 PTO Meeting. Megan Reitingier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Gaps in Classroom Volunteer Sign-Ups:** Now that all families have had the chance to view the Sign Up Genius for Special PTO Programs and Holiday Parties, feel free to fill in any available slots. Some classroom signups are almost full, but others need attention.
- C. Follow NBS on Social Media:** Nikki Schriever is constantly posting new content on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Make sure to "like" and "follow."
- D. Post-October-Meeting Party Options:** Sara took an informal poll of the meeting attendees to gauge interest in a post-meeting party at either Zin or ZaZa's. There appeared to be a healthy interest, and most attendees would prefer drinks rather than appetizers. Stay tuned for further details about the post-party plans.

VII. 1st VP Fundraising: (*Amy Vandenberg*)

A. Box Tops: The first Box Top deadline is November 1st. Box Tops is now processing their top collections through a mobile phone app; don't forget to scan your receipts! Because of this change, we cannot facilitate a classroom contest this year.

- B. **Fall Fundraiser:** Mary-Kate Harazin reported that we are still weighing possible fundraiser options, and we are looking for something fresh and fun. Courtney Olson suggested gift card sales, and attendees agreed that gift cards would be great for teacher gifts, bus driver gifts, and other holiday gifts. Please contact Amy or Mary-Kate with any other fundraiser ideas.
 - C. **Simple Fundraising through Heinen's and Amazon Smile:** Don't forget to choose the NBS PTO as your preferred charity when you shop on Amazon. Make sure to register NBS as your Heinen's beneficiary, as it has to be renewed each year.
 - D. **Luxe Warehouse:** NBS will be hosting a Shopping Event/Fundraiser on Thursday, October 3 from 10am-8pm; Party & Cocktails from 6-8pm. 15% of each sale goes back to the PTO.
 - E. **NBS Dines Out:** Save the Date for Culver's on **Tuesday, 10/29** from **4:30-7:30pm**. The popular costume contest will be back for another year.
 - F. **Adult Social:** Not only are we looking for chairs, but we are also looking for ideas for our big fundraising project. Please contact Amy if you have any ideas.
- VIII. 2nd VP Service:** (*Ilana Forbes for Kimberly Saunders*)
- A. **NBS Green Team:** Make sure to sign up to help out with lunchtime recycling. We are continuing the Harvest Basket this year, which collects fruits and other uneaten items from kids' lunches and distributes the food to the Cuba Township Food Pantry. Betsy Thalheimer added that Blessings in a Backpack also utilizes the Harvest Basket when packing the bags of food for NBS children each week.
 - B. **Garden Update:** Stay tuned for a contest to name the Garden. Students will vote from 3 names on their iPads.
- IX. 3rd VP Special Programs:** (*Betsy Thalheimer*)
- A. **First Assembly:** Dr. Cool & Pride will be the first NBS assembly of the year, October 8 at 9:45am and 12:30pm. Mr. Johnson asked meeting attendees to let him know if they have any fresh and fun ideas for assemblies.
 - B. **Staff Hospitality:** The PTO will be looking for volunteers for the Fall Conference Dinners on **Wednesday, October 16th and Thursday, October 17th (4-8pm)**.
 - C. **Mini Courses:** Betsy Thalheimer is in need of assistance with this great PTO program, traditionally held in February. We also need volunteers to run the mini courses, so start thinking about any skills you would be willing to share.
- X. 4th VP Family Outreach:** (*Jackie Kardesh*)
- A. **Fall Family Flick: Thursday, September 26th from 5:30-7:30pm.** The movie will be the new *Aladdin* with Will Smith. Popcorn and apple cider will be served.
 - B. **NBS Block Party:** Jackie is exploring the idea of hosting a block party on a Saturday during the school year, with community groups coming to run activities. Please let Jackie know of any ideas for businesses to contact.
 - C. **Holiday Boutique:** This year, the Boutique will not take place during lunch, but it will take the form of a kiosk that will travel from pod to pod. Room



NORTH BARRINGTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Coordinators will assist the children with their purchases. New this year will be NBS-branded items..

- D. **Book Fair:** Ilana confirmed that this year's Fall Scholastic Book Fair will take place in the gym and will include the ever-popular Lunch With a Loved One. Megan Reitingner wondered whether the practice of letting the kids preview the fair and make a wishlist can make a comeback. Ilana promised to pass the request along to Book Fair Chair Maria Palumbo.
- XI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.