



NORTH BARRINGTON  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

## PTO Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2018

Attendees: Angela Toscas Gordon, *President*; Amy Vandenberg, *1st VP Fundraising*; Ilana Forbes, *2nd VP Service*; Julie Kircher, *4th VP Family Outreach*; Sara Roach, *Secretary*; Courtney Olsen, *Treasurer*; Austin Johnson, *Principal*; Jody Carroll, *Secretary to Principal Johnson*; Dr. Brian Harris, *Barrington 220 Superintendent of Schools*; Emily Bowker; Angie Burns; Laura Dominiak; Katie Grimm; Mary-Kate Harazin; Tracy Kihnke; Rosanna Klusmeyer; Stacey Laschen; Stacey McGinn; Kelly Niese; Maria Palumbo; Rebecca Patchak; Megan Reiting; Kimberly Saunders; Nikki Schriever.

1. **Welcome/Call to Order:** *Angela Gordon*. The meeting was called to order at 9:21 a.m.
2. **Special Guest Dr. Brian Harris, Barrington 220 Superintendent of Schools:**
  - a. *Blueprint 220:* The District sold bonds in the late 1990s that resulted in improvements for all Barrington 220 schools, as well as the building of Barbara Rose, Roslyn Road, Countryside and North Barrington schools. These bonds are being paid off, and the District has highlighted \$600 million worth of improvements in its Master Facility Plan that it would like to complete over the next 10 to 15 years. The District formed a Referendum Advisory Committee to advise the Board about which aspects of the Master Facility Plan to pursue via referendum in April 2019. The Advisory Committee identified renovations amounting to \$160 million. At this price point there would be no net tax increase for area residents. The fact that there would be no tax increase was very important for District residents with no children in the schools, according to a phone survey conducted by the Board. Among the renovations considered in the Board's Master Facility Plan, the most pressing concerns the Advisory Committee identified are: (1) the mobile classrooms at the middle schools, which have been in place since 2007; (2) the High School – the core was built in 1948 and has been renovated six times since then, but 3500 people pass through the building every day and its wear is showing; and (3) the older elementary schools like Sunny Hill, Hough Street, Grove and Lines. For the latest information, keep an eye on [blueprint220.com](http://blueprint220.com).
  - b. *NBS as a Polling Place:* The District has tried in the past to get NBS replaced as a polling place due to safety concerns. There was a security officer stationed at NBS during Election Day, but 25 NBS students were still absent from school due to security concerns. Dr. Harris is uncomfortable with the situation, and has petitioned local officials to remove NBS as a polling place, but he has been told the law is clear: the school has to provide accommodation to voters. The problem NBS faces is that there are not a lot of alternative polling places nearby. Lake County has approved the North Barrington Village Hall as a polling place, but they have refused. Dr. Harris suggested that NBS parents lobby North Barrington Village Board members to try to make inroads. NBS could also ask Lake Barrington Shores, as they sometimes serve as a polling place for their residents, and they have helped NBS with other ventures in the past. Another option is the Church of the Holy Apostles on Route 59 in Wauconda. Dr. Harris will lobby the new Lake County Clerk, Robin O'Connor, who takes office on December 1; the outgoing Clerk Carla Wyckoff was not receptive and was worried about disenfranchising voters.

He will also continue to lobby Michael Danforth, our Lake County Board member, but he has not been receptive to date. The polling location will probably not be changed by the April 2019 election, but perhaps for the April 2020 election. Grove Elementary successfully lobbied to get their school replaced as a polling location, but it took 2 ½ years to do so. The NBS PTO circulated a petition (drafted by Ilana Forbes) in support of moving the polling place, and it has received 150-160 signatures to date. Tracey Kihnke asked whether it would help if NBS parents offered to make signage informing voters of the new location, but Dr. Harris said that is Lake County's responsibility.

c. *Arming Teachers:* Maria Palumbo asked why the Barrington 220 School Board voted to authorize individual school districts to arm teachers at the recent Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) conference. Dr. Harris replied that the School Board did not vote to arm teachers per se, but voted to put the decision to arm teachers into local district hands. The Board voted for local control of this issue after hearing the argument of rural school districts downstate urging for this reform because they cannot count on a rapid-enough law enforcement response in the event of a school shooting. It often takes up to twenty minutes for police to arrive. Dr. Harris stressed that Barrington 220 teachers are not interested in being armed, and the Barrington 220 School Board has not discussed the issue, but would probably be against it if the issue was raised. There is an armed School Resource Officer at Barrington High School every day for security purposes.

d. *Middle School Boundaries/Third Middle School:* Parents from Barbara Rose recently asked the school board to consider redrawing middle school boundaries, as the number of students attending Station Middle School is disproportionately smaller than those attending Prairie Middle School. Dr. Harris said that the Board decided not to redraw boundaries because Rose is an outlier – the other elementary schools have roughly a 50/50 split between Prairie and Station Middle Schools. The current boundaries are drawn in order to mirror the demographics of Barrington High School. The District may ask for money to build a third middle school in a future referendum. If the new middle school is built, the boundaries for the third school would be more traditionally aligned to geography. The current referendum's focus is raising enough money to add on to the current middle schools. The middle school enrollment is also currently predicted to be flat, which would not necessitate the construction of a new middle school; if circumstances change (such as new subdivisions being built), this calculus will also change.

e. *Timing of Referendum Construction:* Tracey Kihnke asked whether any students currently in elementary school will see the benefits of the renovations considered for the April referendum. Dr. Harris pointed out that the renovations considered for the middle schools and high school will likely be realized when our children attend. He recognized that some of the improvements, nevertheless, may not be seen by our children. Dr. Harris agreed with comments from the group that we should, nevertheless, still vote for the referendum as it will keep the quality of our schools high. More improvements will also attract better teachers and keep our property values high.

f. *Potential Curriculum Changes:* Julie Kircher asked whether we can anticipate any curriculum changes from Blueprint 220. Dr. Harris said that curriculum changes occur separately from the Blueprint 220 process, but that the Blueprint 220 improvements will allow more instructional freedom with flexible classroom design. The anticipated improvements flow from curriculum needs.

g. *Focus of Barrington 220 Renovations:* Tracey Kihnke asked whether there will be a big athletic component to the improvements requested on the referendum. Dr. Harris agreed that the referendum has a big athletic component, with a new high school gymnasium and renovations to the Field of Dreams. But the referendum also proposes that the high school auditorium be renovated, as many items there are very old, including the lighting. It was also pointed out that during the last referendum, significant athletic space was converted to science laboratories.

h. *Space Constraints:* Dr. Harris stated that Barrington 220 is not considering mandating full-day Kindergarten. One of the reasons is space constraints, especially at schools other than NBS. Space constraints also prevent District 220 schools from offering more after-school enrichment classes.

**3. Principal's Report: Austin Johnson.**

a. *Exemplary Rating Shows the Importance of School Attendance:* NBS, Roslyn Road & Grove Schools all received Exemplary Ratings from the Illinois State Board of Education. This was based on growth percentage, PARCC test scores, the percentage of students proficient in the English language, chronic absenteeism (defined as nine days, or 5% of the school year), and a school climate survey. Make sure to keep sending your students to school!

b. *5 Essentials Survey:* The Illinois 5 Essentials Survey says that the five factors critical for school success are: effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environment and ambitious instruction. Fourth and fifth graders will be taking this survey, as well as staff. Parents can take the survey, as well.

c. *Panorama Survey:* Third through fifth graders will be taking this survey, which measures social-emotional health. Topics covered will include bullying, grit and perseverance.

d. *Teacher's College:* Developers of the Lucy Calkins curriculum (the NBS reading curriculum) have chosen to work with NBS' staff – this is a great honor! The K-2 teachers will meet with the Lucy Calkins representatives on November 26, with the 3-5 teachers meeting December 19-20, as well as three days to be determined in the spring. NBS hopes to bring the Lucy Calkins workshop model into other subjects.

e. *Name Tag System Follow Up:* Attendees agreed that printing out name tags in advance worked out great for the Halloween Parties and Lunch with a Loved One. There were some last-minute wrinkles, but we will use the system again for the Winter Parties.

f. *Gym Class Frequency:* In response to a parent question, Mr. Johnson hopes to increase the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade P.E. classes back to five days per week next year. K-3 classes currently have 25 minutes of P.E. each day, whereas 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders receive three days of 50 minutes of P.E. and one day of 25 minutes. The shift was made in order to allow the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team teachers to receive adequate planning time, but perhaps they will not need as much planning time in their second year of team teaching.

**4. President Report: Angela Gordon at [leinadeneg@aol.com](mailto:leinadeneg@aol.com).**

a. *Petition to Remove NBS as an Election Polling Place:* Thanks again to Ilana Forbes for drafting the petition that parents received this past week. The PTO is also pursuing other avenues to help Principal Johnson remove our school as an open polling place.

- b. *Barrington Giving Day Through December 4:* The BGD collection box is in the school lobby through December 4. It has been chock full, so please continue to donate new or gently used hats, gloves, mittens, and any other warm weather gear!
5. **Secretary Report:** Sara Roach at [s-roach@att.net](mailto:s-roach@att.net).
- a. *Approval of Minutes of the October 15, 2018 PTO Meeting:* Kimberly Saunders made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 15, 2018 PTO Meeting. Amy Vandenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. *December 17 PTO Meeting:* For our December meeting, everyone is invited out to a lunch and our traditional ornament exchange at Za Za's Tavola Italiana in Lake Barrington. Please mark your calendars, and a Sign Up Genius will be forthcoming.
6. **1st VP Fundraising Report:** Amy Vandenberg at [amykballet@gmail.com](mailto:amykballet@gmail.com).
- a. *Adult Social Update:* Amy Vandenberg and Ilana Forbes reported that playground vote renderings were posted in the Lobby during the Book Fair, and the NBS community had the opportunity to vote on which version they liked best. So far, Option 2 is winning the race, and students will vote on their iPads for color choices. Stay tuned for information on a December Holiday Boutique in the lunchroom. The kids will be able to stop for holiday gifts to give to family and friends, and all proceeds will go toward the playground. Remember to work with your Room Coordinators to make your class basket a hit, and if your RC is having difficulties, please tell them to get in touch with Amy. Don't forget to help us build our silent and live auctions with goods and experiences. We also need individuals and companies who would like to donate directly to and sponsor the playground. On the night of the Social, we are in need of photo booth, raffle & setup help, as well as wine & bourbon bottles. Stay tuned for an Adult Social meeting after Thanksgiving Break!
- b. *Book Fair & Lunch with a Loved One (11/12-11/16):* Maria Palumbo reported that her team forecasts a profit of about \$4,400! Thank you to Maria Palumbo, Kelly Niese and Jenny Brauch for planning and organizing, as well as all the volunteers who made it happen.
- c. *NBS Dines Out:* The Culver's Dine Out on October 30 brought in \$504.16. Last October's total was \$419.20. Great job, Rebecca Patchak and team!
- d. *PTO Fall Fundraiser – Genevieve's:* The online link is still open for making purchases, so keep shopping, but we are pretty sure that we made our \$3,000 fundraising goal!
7. **2nd VP Service Report:** Ilana Forbes at [ilanamorgan@gmail.com](mailto:ilanamorgan@gmail.com). Ilana reported that the recycling program is still going strong, and several of our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders have taken part in the Harvest Basket Program.
8. **3rd VP Special Programs Report:** Angela Gordon for the absent Kristie Rogers at [rogers.kristie@gmail.com](mailto:rogers.kristie@gmail.com).
- a. *Author Visit, November 5:* Children's book author Jennifer Nielsen visited 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and we sold out of her books at the book fair!
- b. *Mini Courses:* We need a co-chair for the February mini-courses, to be Betsy Thalheimer's partner-in crime. We also need course instructors – you may have a hidden talent! E-mail Betsy at [bets82@gmail.com](mailto:bets82@gmail.com) to find out more information and volunteer.

c. *Staff Hospitality*: The PTO's annual Great Cookie Take will be held on December 13 from 11am to 2pm in the Conference Room. This is a time-honored PTO tradition; stay tuned for a Sign Up Genius.

**9. 4th VP Family Outreach Report:** Julie Kircher at [tkirjir@aol.com](mailto:tkirjir@aol.com).

a. *Donuts with Dad (February 14)*: A NEW event at NBS, suggested by Courtney Olson. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

b. *Date Night*: The PTO is planning a fun night out in December for NBS adults only...details forthcoming. Contact Julie at the e-mail address above or Courtney Olson at [courtney@p2binc.com](mailto:courtney@p2binc.com) if you would like to help plan the event.

c. *Blessings in a Backpack*: The regular packing event during Thanksgiving week has been cancelled, and replaced by a packing/pizza party on November 27 at 3:30pm at Sunny Hill Elementary. Let Blessings Chair Betsy Thalheimer know whether you can make it.

**10. Adjournment.** Congratulations to Laura Dominiak, who won the Super(intendent) Raffle Basket donated by Angela Gordon. Angela Gordon adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.