

Northwood PTSA General Meeting March 19, 2019

Meeting was opened at 7:54 pm by Ms Robyn Watts, PTSA President.

In attendance: Ms Watts; Andrea Verbrugge, PTSA Vice President; Cathy Shrestha, PTSA Treasurer; Jenn Sawin, PTSA Secretary; Ms. Charley-Greene, Principal; Jenny Espinoza, PTSA Membership Chair; Michele Moller, Northwood Cluster Coordinator; Jillian Newby, After Prom Chair; and Ashley Marchionini, Staff Appreciation Chair. Approximately 8 other persons were in attendance. Amarilis Lugo de Fabritz, MCCPTA Delegate and Tamara Overby, NAACP Liaison were unable to attend.

Presentation by Ms. Nadine Hecht, Internship/College Prep Coordinator

Ms. Hecht explained that 12th grade internships can be 1-3 periods, usually afternoons, to a total of 12 hours a week. Students are coached but find their own paid/unpaid positions. Positions in local elementary schools and hospitals are common, business jobs are scarcer. Students are interested in law, real estate, accounting and office management, and dental offices. A parent suggested flip the initiative to some degree and invite businesses to apply to host interns.

Presentation by Dr Maureen Ponce, Resource Counselor, and Mr Kyle Potter, School Psychologist

“Signs of Suicide” program began county-wide last year when all students received the 9th grade lesson; students now receive grade-level differentiated lessons. SOS is classroom training, not therapy, and was rolled out to middle and high schools this year. “ACT” strategy is Acknowledge (that you see an issue with a friend), Care (show the friend), and Tell (a trusted adult). ACT is intended to teach students to identify signs of depression in selves and others. (Students in 12th grade are taught Connect/Treat rather than Care/Tell.)

- 20% of children and adolescents experience some mental health issue during school years, chiefly anxiety or depression, which are the most common reason students see counselors.
- NIH data show suicide the 2nd leading cause of death in 10-24 year olds, up 28% from 1999-2016, and 3rd leading cause for all ages in Maryland.
- In Montgomery County, in 2014, 248 children ages 6-18 were in an ER for self-inflicted injury, and in FY 2017, 1300 students were referred to the crisis center.

Northwood students will have SOS training in homeroom after spring break; going forward, training will move to earlier in the year. A parent letter will go out before spring break.

SGA (Cole Peavy, Ms Reazer)

- Value Village drive for clothing and household goods will be right after spring break and benefit the class of 2022. Proceeds received are based on weight (donate books!).
- Movie Night Thursday, April 4. High School Musical at 2:45 pm, Jurassic Park at 4:30, Hidden Figures at 6:30. Tickets \$1, family of 4 for \$3. Each class has concessions tables.
- Ms Reazer is looking for 2020 Prom sites; AMP by Strathmore was suggested. Ms Newby noted sites are getting harder to find and if After Prom is separate, transport is an issue.

Ms. Charley-Greene, Principal

Students don't self-brag. Ms Charley-Greene wants more detail, specific information about accomplishments in order to give new students and families something to aspire to.

Northwood wins:

- Eldad Mulugeta in Washington Post for All-Met Track, Obsaa Feda also mentioned.
- A slide show on Northwood celebrations will go on the website

- Students receiving Seal of Biliteracy
- “BtheOne” winning PSAs on suicide prevention
- Red and Black took 1st place award from National Scholastic Press Association
- Northwood is applying for Green School status
- Gabrielle Cramer NAACP Image Award, ACT-SO program, full ride to UMD
- Kobina Orleans Pobee (Drumline) to NSO
- Minority Scholars’ Black History Showcase was all-student choreography
- HBCU Fair – several students offered admission on the spot
- Science Olympiad going to state competition because placed 5th
- Collaborative dance project with Goucher
- Brian Kramer serving as a General Assembly page

Staffing Allocations - some increases including 0.5 FTE clerical for dual enrollment, some reductions for next year. Enrollments don’t support FT position for Band, and AMTAD does not protect Northwood; if music slot opens she can revisit. Be mindful staff benefit from FT positions.

Attendance policy – E3 has been around a long time but students were unaware. Covered in recent student Town Hall and behavior already shifted. Parents are contacted if there’s a pattern. Students can lose credit, but an intervention is tried first. Students who miss over 10% of classes are not learning. Attendance errors – students should try to resolve themselves by going first to teacher, then office if needed. If it’s a substitute, contact the office immediately. Teachers should take attendance at start of class because knowing who to account for in an emergency is a safety issue.

Minutes

Copies of the February 19, 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.

Treasurer’s Report

Was distributed with a note from Ms Shrestha that this is prior to Silent Auction proceeds.

After Prom (Ms Newby)

Silent Auction raised \$6560, still selling the summer camps through elementary and middle schools. Total raised to date is \$9270. Sales are easier now that we can do credit cards.

Scholarships (Ms Watts)

Looking for committee candidates to evaluate applications. We have 4 at \$500 each.

Coming up

- Yard sale and Test Drive event in late April
- Teacher Appreciation breakfast – Maryse Mills-Apenteng will lead (1st week in May)
- Billboard show May 16-17 (community show May 15)
- Year-end teacher lunch – Ms Watts and Ms Charley-Greene will discuss
- Summer courses for MC2 students – availability of grant money for tuition has been concern because stretched thinner as program grows. Ms Charley-Greene reports it is under discussion, some money coming in; unclear how much but this summer is covered.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 pm
Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Sawin, PTSA Secretary