

Northvail School PTA Minutes 11/18/20

President Cindy Collins called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held virtually over Zoom.

Attendance was taken by Corresponding Secretary, Ila Kessler.

Ila Kessler also reported on correspondence that was received:
Thank you to the PTA from Mrs. McDougall for the retirement gift.
Thank you to the PTA from Mrs. Diggle for the retirement gift.

Cards were sent to Ms. Gallagher for her engagement, Ms. Webb for her baby, and Landon Weiss thanking him for collecting school supplies at the beginning of the year.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Susy Golderer, reported by Maureen Dellasala:

Northvail Checking: \$26,886.32
Northvail Money Market Savings: \$5,860.80
Northvail Raffle Account: \$6.32
Northvail Student Council: \$596.32

The books are being finalized to be handed over to new Treasurer Susy Golderer. Teachers should submit receipts for reimbursements if they have not already.

Old Business:

Hope for the Holidays – Cindy Collins: In the past we have donated to Morris County Family Resources, but have received no details from them this year. The Children's Cancer Center at Hackensack Medical Center is being considered as a back-up. They are flexible with coordinating pick-ups.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee:

Dr. Betz – 3rd Vice President, Principal: The Thanksgiving Door Contest will have a winner announced this week, chosen by a third-party judge.

The first Principal's Round Table was successful. Each third through fifth grade class has one representative and one alternate, preferably not on student council. Minutes were taken by Dr. Betz and will be posted to each classroom for review. They discussed hybrid learning and what the students like and do not like. Generally, the students see benefits in hybrid learning, such as having extra time to do assignments. They seem to be struggling with less socialization and too much screen time. Opinions on parent/teacher conferences were also shared, and the students seem to appreciate being able to be a part of them.

In order to help with the struggles, more screen breaks will be encouraged. School-wide and grade-level activities are also being discussed to bring students together. Student Council is working on videos of students reading books on Flip Grid that other students can listen to. Ideas such as primary and intermediate books may be assigned for evening meeting

discussion. They are also planning some STEM activities, a December service project, writing contests, read-aloud guest speakers, as well as other ideas, to bring students together while promoting responsibility, student voices, and leadership.

There will be a security drill in November that will send out an alert through school messenger as a test. The recipients will be cross-checked with the master list to make sure that everyone is receiving the alerts.

Northvail custodian, Ms. Janina's last day will be Thursday, November 19th, so there will be a virtual clap-out held in her honor. They are currently in the process of hiring another custodian to fill her position.

Teacher Representatives - Mrs. Penna: The teachers now have 100% membership in the PTA. Other staff members have also joined. Teachers will be reminded to submit receipts for reimbursement.

Fundraising – President Cindy Collins: The Original Works fundraiser will be held. Children can create artwork and parents can upload them to purchase items featuring the drawings. There will be examples posted on Facebook.

Ila Kessler reported that the Dine-Out at Parsippany's Best made \$50.

Fundraising has been noticeably lower this year compared to previous years.

Cultural Arts/ Reflections - Vice President Desiree Lambo McGhie, reported on by Cindy Collins: Reflections had great participation again this year. Winners have been chosen and will be notified over the weekend. Desiree will make a video to showcase the submissions.

5th Grade - 5th Grade Chair, Cindy Collins: Conversations were held over fun themes and will be voted on tonight. The cost per student to off-set fifth grade activities will also be discussed. The meeting will be held at 8:15 pm, after the PTA meeting.

Standing Committees:

Head Class Parents/ Halloween Crafts – Natalie Chin: Halloween activities went well. Holiday activities are still being worked on. Normally the fifth-grade class would create cards to be sent to Care One, but there is uncertainty if they will be accepted this year. An idea to create cards to be handed out during the Liquid Church food handouts on Fridays. Whatever is decided, guidelines will be given to parents to ensure that everything goes well.

Not a lot of parents picked up the Halloween crafts, so holiday crafts may only be given to those who have paid for them. Excess money may be held to do a larger craft for the end-of-the-year. Payments can still be made through the website.

Hospitality – Tanya Thoutreddy, reported on by Cindy Collins: Tanya is working on a small token of appreciation for teachers staying late for conferences, since food cannot be served as usual.

Holiday Shop – Susy Golderer: The link has been sent out. Teachers are encouraged to help push the sale. Since the sale is online, the PTA will receive 10%. There is a minimum of \$35 for free shipping.

Sportswear – Jane LaPlace: The sale went okay. There were 21 orders and \$67 made, which is less than half of usual.

Par-Troy Council – Cindy Collins: The Par-Troy Council meeting includes all of the Presidents/representatives from each school's PTA as well as the Superintendent Dr. Sargent. The meeting was mostly focused on the high schools with sports and remote learning. PTA membership and fundraising activities are down across the schools. They are trying to think of ways to give back to the students and teachers.

Spirit Days - Cindy Collins: Tomorrow is Disney Day. Starting November 30th, Fridays will no longer be virtual. Spirit Days have been added to include Fridays. The next Spirit Day after Disney is Beach Day, which was suggested by the Student Council last year.

School Directory – Kendra Von Achen: There have only been 50 entries so far, and there are usually more. There is a target of 75 entries before publishing.

New Business:

There will be no PTA meeting held in December. Normally there would be a holiday dinner, but it cannot be held this year.

Read-A-Thon – Cindy Collins: There will be a Read-A-Thon in lieu of the Walk-A-Thon in the spring.

Cookbook Fundraiser – Cindy Collins: International Day cannot be held this year, so instead there will be a Cookbook Fundraiser. People can submit cultural recipes and the books will be for sale. A virtual talent show may also be held to showcase cultural dances, etc.

Nominating Committee – Cindy Collins: There are offices that are held by fifth grade parents. There is a need for President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, as well as several committee positions for next year. Interested parties can shadow the current positions to get an idea of what is needed and ask questions. Please reach out if interested.

Do not forget to attend the BOE meetings. There are very important issues being discussed and it is important to be involved.

Important Dates

11/19 Spirit Day: Disney Day
11/26 Thanksgiving Day
12/4 Spirit Day: Beach Day
12/7 Spirit Day: Beach Day
12/9 NO PTA MEETING
12/11 Spirit Day: Holiday
12/18 Spirit Day: Holiday Spirit
1/8 Spirit Day: Northvail Colors Blue & White Day/ Northvail Sportswear
1/13 PTA Meeting / 5th Grade Parent Meeting

Board of Ed Meeting Dates

Tuesday, November 24, 2020	Dr. Frank A. Calabria Education Center	
Thursday, December 17, 2020	Dr. Frank A. Calabria Education Center	
Thursday, January 7, 2021	Dr. Frank A. Calabria Education Center	Re-organization

All **Virtual Regular Board** meetings start 6:00 PM
Closed Meetings to be announced

*Budget Discussion

**Student and/or Staff Awards

Next scheduled PTA Meeting – January 13, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

5th Grade Committee Meeting to follow @ 8:00 p.m.

Note: All Officers, Executive Board and Committee Members must become members of the PTA and pay a membership fee of \$8.00. Thank you!

Adjournment - Cindy Collins, President: Time End: 7:53 pm