

Minutes of the Northview High School PTSA  
Executive Board Meeting  
Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Sandi Rose, Co President, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

Members in attendance were: Sandi, Rose, Julie Pitman, Martha Bernstein, Ruth Petrillo, Andrea Lutz, Julie Meinert, Jeri Colton, Sharyl Dawes, Kathy Elwell, Scarlett Thompson, Deb Powell, Molly Ruttle, Susanne Warren, Kathy Samoline, Arlene Jerome, Becky Beaver

Introductions were made to start the meeting.

A motion was made by Julie Meinert to approve the August 15 (board meeting) and the August 28 (general membership meeting) minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Jeri Colton reported that we should be providing cash receipts when we take in cash in the future. (This doesn't affect our good standing and the auditor doesn't look for this.) Cash receipt books will be put in committee chairs mailboxes to use in the future. (Senior treats and Project graduation may use them the most.) In addition, Jeri reported that she is supposed to report each month the checkbook balance which is currently \$78,972.95. She acknowledged the membership committee (Molly Ruttle and Helen Eng) for all of their hard work and at this time we have raised \$5161.00 over budget. We still owe state and national dues which will be at the most \$2000.00. Molly reported that we need 60 more faculty memberships to hit 100%. We will give Mr. Zervakos a list of those who have joined. The Senior Treat committee has changed the way they are collecting money this year. Kim McNaron has sent a letter to all parents of seniors up front and the money is coming in.

**Principal's Report**

Sandi Rose reported that Mr. Zervakos is ill this evening. All is going well at the school. Mr. Zervakos has been meeting with Carol in the lunch room to discuss cafeteria concerns. Due to all of the new Fulton County nutritional rules and new cafeteria cashiers and trainees, there were some issues with long lines and running out of food. There will be an LSAC meeting on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. According to the Johns Creek Herald we have a count of 2554 total enrollment. Sandi also mentioned that Mr. Peterson passed away on September 11<sup>th</sup>. He had been fighting cancer for awhile. Mr. Peterson was the advisor of The Messenger. Northview's website had a tribute to him.

**Co-President's Report**

Sandi Rose reminded people to check their mailboxes as the front office has been placing things in the wrong mailboxes. Jeri Colton reminded everyone again that all of the necessary forms are in the mailbox above hers. Julie Pitman brought up that there needs to be a solution for working parents to pick up the contents of their mailboxes. If you feel

comfortable with your child picking the information up, that would be a workable solution.

## **Communications Report**

### **Newsletter**

Martha Bernstein reported that the newsletter committee (headed up by Tracey Slauer and Julie Wang) held a transition meeting between the new and old members. The focus for the first newsletter will be to produce a smaller, high quality with important information newsletter. Martha reported that Suzi DiPietro will be in charge of mailing preparation (bulk mail). October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline to get Tracey and Julie information for the first newsletter. Martha will re-send an e-mail outlining all of the requirements and details for articles, pictures, etc. Martha asked for articles from the PTSA committees. She indicated that the freshman parents are the target audience. Gracie Staples will write a cover story as soon as Mr. Zervakos gives her a topic. The Poinsettia order form should be included in the first issue as should the Forum coupon book information due to timing of the next newsletter. Jeri mentioned that perhaps in the next newsletter there should be a write up on the eagles scouts, particularly those who are graduating.

### **Website**

Martha expressed how grateful she is for Kathy Samoline's website talents. Although she is new to our area, she is very technically oriented and will be meeting with Mr. Zervakos to put a translation feature onto the website as well as the TRAXX system. Kathy Samoline reported that there is a lot of information on the website including forms and the budget. She is also working on getting the TRAXX system (volunteer hours) link enabling the ability to record hours from home. Kathy requested anything for the website be sent to her and she would turn it around in 24 hours. Her email address is [kathy@samoline.com](mailto:kathy@samoline.com). She also requested that we "proof" the information for errors. Sharyl Dawes reported that the legislative information needs to be refreshed. There was also more discussion about the DIRECTV offer and issues and the need that the form should be on the website as well.

### **Legislative**

Sharyl Dawes reported that legislative information is off the PTSA portion of the website. She requested everyone to respond to an e-mail survey which is requesting people to choose the top 6 issues (off a list) we feel are most important to fund. For example the state says that a child has to stay in school until they are 16 years old. The PTSA organization feels that kids should be required to stay in school until they are 18 years old. (GA has a 40% drop out rate.) The survey also addresses teen driving, alcohol, obesity among other topics. This is the place to have your voice heard. Please pass this request/survey to your committee chair people or anyone else.

### **Hospitality**

Kathy Elwell reported that the first new student breakfast was held. Out of the 25 who were invited, 17 attended. The students who did not attend will be invited to the next breakfast. The breakfast is held in the senior section serving donuts, fruit, juices and

water. The invitations go to students who have enrolled at Northview after the 10 day count. Jeri Colton suggested we reach out to all new students by expanding the invitation list to those who moved into the Northview district during the summer. If Martha Smith is interested in doing this, she could include them in next month's breakfast. Mr. Zervakos, counselors, and various speakers attend. Kathy reported that for staff appreciation, the back to school luncheon was held in August. This month, a bowl of candy was put in the teacher's lounge and gone by noon. They are planning some sort of recognition in October and will provide homemade pies in November.

### **Membership Report**

Molly Ruttle reported the following membership information:

284 - Platinum

539 - Bronze

55 - Silver

21 - Gold

131 - Single

We have to try to get 100% faculty participation (we need 60 more!). Helen will get the list of participants to Mr. Zervakos. Memberships are still trickling in – around 10/week. Discussion was held regarding the different award levels and how they are achieved. The 100% formula = 10 day count + # certified teachers = goal. To earn the platinum award we need to have 100% by the end of September. Molly also reported that the school directory will be out mid-October. The school crest will be the cover page. The cover needs to be approved by Mr. Zervakos.

### **School Services**

#### **Media Center**

Andrea Lutz reported that the media center volunteers have stepped up and are ready to go. Cynthia Weston has not made contact with Ms. Sharp, our current BELIEVED contact point. (She e-mailed Ms. Sharp and sent her a handwritten note.) Sandi Rose reported that the media center is supported by PTSA volunteers. Julie Pitman volunteered to follow-up to see if Ms. Sharp is the real contact point.

#### **Campus Beautification**

Ron Menze e-mailed that his committee is just about formed and he will be e-mailing Mr. Zervakos to find out the next steps. We typically provide volunteers, check in services, and refreshments.

#### **Office Volunteers**

Carol Stuenkel has enough volunteers and everything is going well.

#### **Career Center**

Janet Pratt had a training session last week. There were 15 people who attended (the need is at least 2/week). We are in need of veteran volunteers to help the new volunteers. Northpoint Mall had a college fair. Lots of material was brought back for our career center.

### **Parent to Parent**

There are currently five people enrolled for a Tuesday morning class which will begin October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Student Enrichment**

#### **Reflections**

Ruth Petrillo reported that Molly Ruttle and Eloise Chon are co-chairing the Reflections program. Molly reported that they were currently running a theme search for next year. The winning entry will receive \$100. All entries are e-mail to the state with the deadline being October 16<sup>th</sup>. Sandi Rose suggested enlisting the support of Eric Stern, president of the Student Council to make an announcement.

#### **Mini Grants**

Scarlett reported for Kim Renner that a meeting time is being set up for the committee. Last years budget was \$7000 and this years is \$3500. Sandi suggested that more money will be allocated as memberships come in. Her guesstimate was at least an additional \$1000. It was reported that last year 18 out of 22 applications were funded. The teachers have six weeks to turn in requests. The committee will meet two weeks after that time period. Scarlett expressed that the committee tries to fund requests that "hit" the most people. Jeri Colton reported that a firmer budget number will be available by the end of October.

#### **VIP and Honors Nights**

Deb Powell reported that Sharyl Dawes is serving as the VIP chair. Deb has also indicated that Joy Mejias will chair Honor's night.

#### **Health & Safety**

Deb Powell reported that Anita Houde will serve as the chair. Anita asked for a general volunteer list. Sandi reported that she can e-mail her the list of every PTSA volunteer.

Deb reported that a blood drive will be held in a week. She is looking for 6-8 volunteers for a few hours. Hopefully in the next few days there will be an e-mail coming out. Sandi reported that if she would like to send a blanket e-mail to the school, the message should be forwarded to her and Mr. Zervakos will approve and it will go out. Deb attended the soft opening of Whole Foods and they would like to be involved with Johns Creek. Sandi will e-mail Mr. Williams (Business Partner coordinator) this information.

### **Student Services**

Arlene Jerome reported that she would like to incorporate a speaker with the Drive SMART program. She is also looking at a teen driving course for parents and students. She has found a 12 week course that costs \$149.00.

#### **Project Graduation**

Arlene reported there was a Project Graduation meeting held on September 11<sup>th</sup>. There were approximately 25 people attending. Lissa Steioff would like to co-chair with someone. Sandi reported that sub-committee positions are filling up. (Kim Painter has

volunteered to head Security (for Jillians); Bev Miller volunteered to chair the Jr. Parent initiative; Publicity will be chaired by Michelle Baloh.) Sandi put together an e-mail approved by Mr. Zervakos to go to senior parents educating them about what Project Graduation is all about and that a lot of volunteers are needed to make this program successful. Lissa volunteered to be the contact person. Pam Maxwell is getting Sandi a list of senior parents and their e-mail addresses. Scarlett reported that people have signed up to do the “little stuff” but no one wants to head up fundraising. We are in “scamper mode”!

### **Overall Student Activities**

Scarlett Thompson reported that the 9th grade activity will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Each student will receive and have to wear a colored arm band that will allow them free entrance to the freshman football game, and drink and a hot dog. The arm bands will be cut off at the concession stand as they receive their food. All grade level activities will be similar. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade game will be October 12<sup>th</sup> against Milton. The 11<sup>th</sup> grade activity will be a basketball game in November. The advantage to this type of activity is that the assistant principals like the idea and there is already security in place. and teachers set up to chaperone. We will reimburse the school for admission to the game (\$2.00/student) and fine arts for the concessions. The arm bands will be counted out, placed in zip lock bags and distributed during homeroom. A letter is in process of being composed with instructions going out to all homeroom teachers. The suggestion was to tap into Eric Stern and get the Student Council involved.

### **PSAT**

The PSAT's will be held October 18<sup>th</sup>. All volunteers are in place.

### **Old Business**

No old business to discuss.

### **New Business**

#### **Avanti Pizza**

Sandi Rose reported that Avanti Pizza (next to Johns Creek Kroger) wants to offer a certain day that if Northview people purchased a pizza, they would give back to Northview 15%. After discussion it was suggested that this program would be similar to the current Publix, Kroger and DIRECTV initiatives. (As a PTSA we cannot participate in any fundraisers other than our membership drive.) Jeri Colton suggested that maybe they want to become a business partner and/or they could offer something every day. Sandi will go back to Avanti's with suggestions. Martha suggested that if they are good, refer them to Fine Arts (Joe) for concessions, Booster Club, etc. “Pizza, thank goodness didn't come up at the Fine Arts meeting!”

### **Holiday program**

Sandi reported that last year the PTSA sponsored four families at Thanksgiving through North Fulton Charities. We took donations from the board and committee chairs and committed to support four families at \$50/family (\$200 total). Rita Bennett from NFC has contacted Sandi to see if we were interested in participating this year. After discussion,

the commitment to support four families again this November was unanimously agreed upon.

### **Nextel Walkie Talkies**

Sandi Rose presented a request made by Holly Price/Mr. Zervakos to donate money for the purchase of Nextel Walkie Talkie's for the school. These units don't pick up "extra noise" (our current units pick up Wilson Creek's bus dismissal announcement every day). NHS would like to have 17 units. The initial thought was that we might purchase the units. The issue is that the phones are free but the plan costs \$37.50/month for the first unit and \$22.00 for the next five phones. This process is repeated until we accumulate the 17 phones requested. The cost estimate is approximately \$4000/year. The fact that a different PTSA board is in place each year makes it difficult to commit to any part of a plan. Julie Pitman asked if the budget that NHS currently has will be used? Also, is there a Nextel contact at the school? How did the other schools get them? Sandi will ask how or if the county helps and what the leftover amount would be. Molly Ruttle will find out what Alpharetta High School does.

### **NCTE Annual Conference**

Sandi reported that the PTSA was contacted by Jennifer Breaux (Franham) (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher) requesting that we fund her attending the national Council of teachers of English. The deadline for registration is October 23<sup>rd</sup> and the cost would be \$545.00. After discussion, the PTSA agreed that due to limited available funds and not wanting to set a precedent, the teacher's request was denied.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on October 17, 2006 in the PTSA Room 401.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Beaver  
Recording Secretary