



Northwood Elementary PTA Meeting  
Monday, December 12, 2011  
7:00 p.m. Cafeteria



## Minutes

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### Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance

7:05

### President's Report – Monique Sajan

- Melissa O'Brien and Kathleen Vance – thanks for a great book fair.
- Cheryl Fossano – thanks to you and all your volunteers for a great Donuts for Dads.
- PTA has a new mailbox in the office – coming after break.
- PTA is a member of the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce, and we have access to the digital sign on Woodward & Fourth St. Let Monique know if you want to use it for events, announcements, etc.
- Founders Day is Feb 6 @ Red Run - PTA will pay half your ticket. Make reservations now!
- Bowl-a-thon is coming soon. Let Monique know if you want to put a team together Feb 26 (?).

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report – Juli Russ

No report.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report – Lisa Robinson

- Square 1 Art - anticipated profit \$2500.
- Motion: Lisa moves to get \$300 from the general fund to reserve a 2 hour block at Skate World. This will be a fundraiser as a part of Fit for Funds. Date: first part of Feb (?). Any attendance over 60 people is profit for us. Second: Linda Hasley. Discussion: weeknights are tough; can we get that many kids? Motion passes.
- Blood drive coming up: Jan 31 at the Berkley Center (Catalpa and Woodward) 1 to 7pm.

### Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Solecki

No report.

### Treasurer's Report – Tiffani Gagne (Monique reporting for Tiffani)

- Thanks to Leslie Pitlantish for her hard work on Square 1 Art.
- Scrip sales for November are up - \$387 for the month profit. It has been helpful to have the order forms in the classroom. Visit [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) for easy shopping. Maybe people can help with handing out purchased scrip right after school ? because Caroline is not available until after work.
- The Budget and the treasure's report are available on the PTA website. Remember, though, that Square 1 and scrip have not been paid out yet. That is approximately \$15,000 that we still owe.

### Principal's Report – Angela Ashburn

- Blessings in a Backpack – distribution is tricky; we want to be discreet. These backpacks are full of food for the weekend and went to people who are on free and reduced lunch (Northwood has 67 families on free & reduced lunch). There is a fundraiser on Saturday at Emagine Theater in Royal Oak. Notes went home today to reserve your tickets. Question: Do they need help with stuffing the backpacks? I would like my kids to help. Answer: Assembling is done at the board office – Angela will find out if help is needed, but it is generally done during the school day. So far, this program is only at the elementary schools.
- Dec 14 –Parents will begin to receive links to a survey regarding school/district improvement plans. The district is also planning a student component for grades 3-5. This will probably be done at school. Can PTA help us promote the survey ? Monique: Yes, we will add the information to our website.

### Teacher Vice President's Report – Betty Ann Garlak

- Thanks for the \$100 classroom gifts to the teachers. Thanks also for the anti-bullying assembly: It was appropriate, entertaining, and sincere. One of the best ever. Jen Armstrong.: yes, we have had good feedback overall, thanks to Julie Cameron for doing the research, etc. and setting it all up.

- Birthday treat situation: Teachers have a few concerns: allergies, time away from curriculum, a little bit of one-upsmanship. Teachers are discussing alternatives and will be looking for parent input.
- Thanks to the PTA for the Book Fair – overall, it is fun and valuable for students. But, are there too many toys? We want students to have books, not toys. Brainstorm ideas for next time – book fair committee and teachers will decide a way to maybe limit toy access to students shopping without their parents.

### **School Board Liaison Report – Jeff Brinker**

- Properties for sale: We have significant offers on a couple of properties. Sales would be great - \$\$ into the district that we can use!
- Enrollment projections: presented at the past Board meeting, the prediction is stable. Yeah!
- Oak Ridge and Oakland are requesting some work on the buildings: the district is looking at the costs of that. They did not have any improvements at the time that Northwood was built and Dondero was renovated.
- Discussion: the district's Finance and Bldg. and Site committees are discussing levying a sinking fund for building maintenance. No new costs to the taxpayer – some funds are being retired. This is still in the discussion stages, but it could raise money for our buildings with no new costs to taxpayers.
- Question: How much is in the equity fund? Answer: I don't know exactly, but I would say 6-8 million \$ in the equity fund. It is recommended that we have 15% of our budget in our "rainy day" fund. SEE ATTACHED FOR UPDATED GENERAL FUND INFORMATION PROVIDED 12/13/12.
- All day kindergarten: state may say that you have to offer it at every bldg. to receive full foundation allowance. The Board should be making the final decisions as far as what choices will be offered at what buildings.

### **Approval of Minutes – Cindy Stanley**

- First, thanks to Juli Russ for filling in for me last month. The ROMS Orchestra concert was great.
- Motion: to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Second: Jen Armstrong. No discussion. Motion passes.
- Don't forget to sign in – the sign in sheet is over on the table by the cookies.

### ***Committee Reports***

#### **Book Fair – Kathleen Vance**

- Success: sales totaled \$7700. Kathleen and Melissa O'Brien are going to the book fair warehouse sale to buy books for the teachers and the media center. More fairs are coming in Feb and May.
- Question: when do you have to decide to take rewards or cash? Answer: December. Question: Are we roped in for the year? Answer: no; each fair is independent as far as taking the cash or the Scholastic \$\$.

#### **Reflections – Kristin Lenz**

- Deadline was today. It was a difficult theme this year – Mrs. Sebastian's class and a handful of other entries – about 30. Idea: draw and announce winners of prizes for entering on NBS.

#### **Fun Run – Stephanie Zielinski – no report**

#### **Health & Wellness – Stephanie Gerwolls – no report**

#### **Website – Julie Cameron**

- There is a lot on line for all to see; Julie is working on adding and updating info. Send her your stuff.

#### **Green Schools – Monique reporting.**

- Nike is launching their reuse a shoe campaign. See this week's eFolder for information.

#### **Grounds – Linda Hasley**

- Trying to make it as effortless as possible to maintain individual plots and the big garden in front. We are hiring an outside firm and using plants we already have. We are trying to come up with a maintenance-free plan. The plan must be approved by the Board of Ed.
- Look for possible fundraising opportunities.
- Boy scouts will be taking over the big garden in front. They are committed in the spring.

### ***Old Business***

#### **Cultural Arts -Jen Armstrong**

- A lot of positive feedback regarding the anti-bullying assembly. It also tied in nicely to the professional development that the teachers had recently. Angela will be conducting anti-cyberbullying with the 4<sup>th</sup> and

5<sup>th</sup> graders. Regarding PBIS: Oakland Schools training for teachers; transitioning from bucket fillers; new OAKS display in the media center. Our next event/assembly is the musical group Gemini – Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Science Enrichment – Monique reporting for Bonnie McDonough  
Kids enjoyed that.

***New Business***

***Announcements***

- The next Battle of the Books is January 18.
- Basketball Jan 9 – 5<sup>th</sup> graders at ROMS watch 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade game.
- Comment: 8<sup>th</sup> graders need orientation events for the High School. Jeff: They are working on that. Monique: We heard about that at the council meeting.
- Jodi Tillander will be presenting information for parents on the new core curriculum at the next meeting.
- The next PTA meeting will be Jan 9, 2012 at 7pm in the Cafetorium.

***Meeting Adjourns – 8:10pm***