

**North Cross School
Parents' Association Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2017**

Attendance: Tonya Benson, Molly Burns, Susan Card, Julie Carey, Kirsten Erwin, Cheryl Glose, Ashley Harlow, Kim Hansen, Maggie Lenkowski, Deena Lugar, Victoria McDade, Linda Morgan, Kate Parker, Marlo Pearson, Ashley Phelps, Gay Pollock, Karen Pruitt, Kristina Sommer, Heather Taylor, Angela Thomas, Fiona Tower, Susan Wenk.

Welcome: Susan Card called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Dr. Proctor opened our meeting thanking Susan Card for her three years of service with the PA in the President's position. She has supported the school and the students thru bonfires, Homecoming, Prom, Teacher Appreciation Days, Big Flea and many other activities. A lot of activities have shifted over the last three years under her guidance. Dr. Proctor also welcomed Marlo Pearson as the new upcoming PA President for this next school year.

President's Report: Susan Card – Last month we voted on the end of year gifts for the divisions. We will give those monies out closer to the end of school.

We haven't received a check from Big Flea for our half of the proceeds yet. Rebecca explained the PA will receive our portion of the revenues that are in right now which will be about \$14,925.00. Development is waiting on a few revenues to come in and will divide the remaining money as it is collected.

The Day of Giving was very successful. Much to thanks to the PA for sending out emails, talking about it with others and for their support. It was a great day for everyone. We are thankful for Rebecca who worked so hard on this event and happy that we were able to support the Day of Giving.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Morgan – Our balance now is \$2,864.21 We have some expenses yet to pay: the teacher appreciation lunch, the end of the year parties, etc. We were not able to have the bonfire so we saved on that expenditure. Susan explained that it was a tough decision to cancel the bonfire activities. We did not want to mess up the playing field so we cancelled the pep rally. There was standing water on Hooper Field in the morning. We based that cancellation on a small number of people who might attend due to weather, so it was a monetary and economic decision to cancel. The PA contributed \$1,500.00 to the annual fund during the Day of Giving. That was matched very quickly and we were glad to be a part of that success.

Ellis Hall: Fiona Tower- The year is coming to an end, but we are finishing at a sprint! We are in the midst of 'crazy time' in the Lower School. Here are several items of note:

- Thank you to the Parents Association for your generosity! The donated funds were spent on the cost of paying for our collaboration with Virginia Tech last March. Over a two-week period, which began Tuesday, March 15, all lower school students participated in an eight-day Science, Engineering, Arts, and Design (SEAD) project in collaboration with the Virginia Tech Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) and the

Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech. This was the first time a project like this had been attempted with elementary-aged students. Every student and teacher was a part of the project and materials and professional development for the teachers was included.

- The Spanish Festival on April 28th was a big success. Mariana Hermosilla and Jennifer Boush worked very hard, with the help and flexibility of classroom teachers and parent volunteers, to pull off this big undertaking.
- Additionally, the third grade's trip to Monticello went well, as did the fourth grade Power Point presentations, and the ECP programs. Thank you for attending these events and for your volunteer help as well.
- Our Liberty University student teachers have completed their practicums. Thank you for your kindness towards them. They were a big help to our teachers this year, primarily with small group work, and they impressed us with their hard work and their passion. We have established a good relationship with Liberty University in this area and will continue to foster that relationship.
- The Lower School completed another fire drill on the 20th of April and will conduct our last one in May. The drills were unannounced yet the building emptied again in under 80 seconds. Additionally, an unannounced lock-down drill was conducted on May 4th. It went well.
- Many things remain: the reenactment on Thursday, May 18th, the Marimba Monkeys concert on the 16th, the fifth grade author's breakfast on the 26th.
- I want to thank you all personally for making my first year as director so enjoyable. Thank you for your support of us and our mission!

Eaton Hall: Kristin Erwin - On May 3, the seventh-grade students traveled to the Catawba Sustainability Center for a day-long watershed study, accompanied by Sandy Patterson and Ed Dickenson. The students focused on best land use practices, explored native and non-native species, and did a lengthy macro-invertebrate collection and identification lab. The students concluded from the chemical tests of the water and the number of more pollution sensitive macro-invertebrates that Catawba Creek has improved in quality from recent years. (They were also delighted by the exceptionally large hellgrammites and crayfish that were collected!)

-Today (May 11), the MS and US will attend a presentation by Sarah Hazlegrove reflecting her experiences in Cuba, Brazil, Indonesia, and Africa photographing the people involved in tobacco farming and harvesting. Many of the students have seen Ms. Hazlegrove around campus taking photos of various events over the past several weeks. Her presentation ***Tobacco People*** reflects a four-year exploration of the tobacco industry and farming both nationally and internationally.

-On Friday, May 12, we are scheduled to have our SCA and Honor Council speeches for next year's offices. I have spoken to the student body about this process and my expectations for

speeches and voting. We have a nice group of individuals running for various offices, and I am very proud of the work that the SCA has done this year to add new events during the school year.

-On Monday, May 15, the 6th-grade students will travel to Appomattox Courthouse as part of their Civil War studies.

-The next three weeks will involve a number of important year-end events: course sign-ups for next year, the 8th-grade trip to Washington, D.C., the Yearbook dedication, and our end-of-the-year award and closing ceremonies. We are excited that the end of the term is approaching, and we want to make the last three weeks of school as valuable as possible.

Thanks so much for your energy and support.

Ed

Willis Hall: Gay Pollock - A great season for the arts!

Aida! the spring musical, the student art show in Logan Gallery, the Choral Concert last night, and the anticipate great band concert on May 23rd - all have been excellent - a testament to our student talent and committed members of the art department.

8 Students participated in code-quest - a computer science competition up at Lockheed Martin in Maryland with Mrs. Bagliani. This is the second year that NCS students have participated in this event.

After numerous Bojangles sales in the US and MS the NC logo has been planted in the side of the tennis court hill. Thanks to all parents that helped with this project.

The trip to France and Italy with Mr. Brandon and Mrs. Jackson for June 2018 has very strong interest and will likely include 10 or more students.

Global Studies Events

NCS Alum Ms. Sarah Hazelgrove will present to US and MS students during Activity Period today about her travels and global experience in Brazil, Indonesia, and Malawi.

Also tonight - the second annual fundraiser for girls' education in India will be held at Nawab restaurant tonight. This was organized by Shermeen Imam NCS 2016 and her sister Yazmeen NCS 2020.

Upper School Spring Academic Awards will be on Wednesday May 24th (not Monday May 22). 8:30am at Fishburn Auditorium.

Thanks to PA for all the support all year long with teacher luncheons, volunteer hours, support for on and off campus activities, day of giving, field trips, athletics, arts, etc - your support is critical to all we do and aim to do at NCS. Thank you!

Mark W. Thompson
Director of the Upper School

Community: Kristina Sommer – The Community Events overview will be short since we didn't have the Friday night event. The last Faculty & Staff Appreciation Lunch on April 13th went well and the teachers were extremely appreciative of the PA. A big thank you to all who came and helped with the lower school kids while the teachers ate lunch!

On May 5th, the lower school kids participated in the Red and White games and had a fun time! The middle school kids participated in their intramural games and then both schools were treated to ice cream, courtesy of the PA! A HUGE THANK YOU to all who helped us with the kids during the Red and White games!!

Development: - Cheryl Glose – Report from Rebekah: **Day of Giving:** The Day of Giving was a huge success, raising \$70,050 (against an initial goal of \$20,000) and significantly increasing parent participation in the Annual Fund from 32% to 52%. 153 donors contributed to our grand total for the Day of Giving. Of those donors, there were 88 parents and 36 new parent gifts. The video series and the option for directed giving were important in highlighting how the Annual Fund impacts the school.

A special thank you to the Parents' Association for offering matching funds—this really demonstrated strong support for the campaign from our parent community. Parents also seemed to respond to the PA reps' emails showing the breakdown of each class's participation, so thank you for helping spread the word that way.

There are significant increases in every class. This is a major success from the Day of Giving.

Admissions: Deena Lugar –

It's aMAYzing. May has always been so full of activity and the school is buzzing and this May is no exception. Presentations, performances, play-offs, exams, SATs, ACTs, class trips and everyone is gearing up for their next grade level and our seniors' graduation. The kids are a combination of electricity, high energy, and some are exhausted with this high paced, activity rich environment.

As I watched the wonderful video clips Development and Jessica Schindhelm put out for the Day of Giving (and they were exceptional pieces!) I truly felt they confirmed the things I say every day to people inquiring about North Cross - More does happen here. As always, I am thankful for the people who make up our community - our students, our parents, our staff, our faculty, our alumni and the many friends of North Cross. I'm also thankful that we are an independent school, able to do the things that will continue to grow our students and provide them an exceptional educational experience. Your kids are fantastic and I love seeing them when I wander out of my office and conduct tours. It is a joy to do what I do as I try to get more fantastic kids and families to come join our community.

Thank you, PA, for all you do to help our school and help our students. Spirits are high and we have a lot to celebrate as we come to the close of the 2016-17 academic year!

Here's where we are we now with regard to re-enrollment and admission:

Grade	Current total	Returning	New	Repeating	Total	Not yet enrolled	Grade	Inquired	Applied	Accepted
ECP 1	0	0	11		11	0	ECP1	20	19	12
ECP 2	25	17	4		21	8	ECP2	16	11	6
ECP 3	25	16	4		20	9	ECP3	22	15	9
1	26	22			22	4	1	4	3	3
2	24	21			21	3	2	7	4	0
3	20	15			15	5	3	3	1	0
4	36	31	1		32	5	4	8	4	2
5	27	22	2		24	5	5	8	2	3
6	33	22			22	11	6	8	3	0
7	36	31			31	5	7	2	0	0
8	27	23	2		25	4	8	9	5	2
9	46	38			38	8	9	10	3	0
10	33	26			26	7	10	15	6	2
11	44	33	1		34	11	11	7	3	1
12	42	32	1		33	10	12	5	2	1
	444	349	26		375	95	All	144	81	41

Re-enrollment:

We are about where we were last year at this time. We have been actively reaching out to the families who have not yet re-enrolled. Of those not yet re-enrolled we are aware that there are 13 who have indicated they are not likely to return. Some are leaving town and some are staying in town, going to another school. There are not any trends in what we are seeing and hearing that are alarming in any way.

New students and families:

Activity is increasing and we have 16 students to test this Saturday. Though it might be surprising, summertime is very, very busy in admission and the number of inquiries we will receive will yield a significant number of new students after June.

Inquiries are important and we want to move those to application and ultimately enroll students who are a fit for North Cross. It takes time and conversation - about our school, about affordability, and about making decisions.

As you are probably aware, before a student is offered admission, there are several steps. We gather paperwork (testing and grades, letters of recommendation, disciplinary records) from their current school, we conduct interviews and do testing (standardized tests, spelling, math, and writing sample) here, and we conduct tours. When families apply for Tailored Tuition, we process those requests, follow up for missing information, and present the Tailored Tuition offer. As you can imagine, it is a time-consuming process - both what we need to make our decision on an offer of admission and their decision to accept it and then enroll. We have accepted about 50% of those who have applied so far, and we are in conversation to help accepted families decide to enroll.

How you might help us - I would welcome any family who wishes to host an admission event at their home this summer to let me know. I promise to keep any remarks you'd like me to make positive, upbeat, and brief. I also welcome any input you may have to help us be a more effective admission office.

The Dorm:

The dorm is in its final stages of becoming ready - and it will truly be impressive space, nicer than any dorm you will visit in any boarding school - to receive students in August and we are pursuing both international and domestic student residents. Students have been visiting the dorm with Stephen Alexander so they can see the location and suites and several students have already indicated their excitement to live there. This week, we are sending current families information and contracts for the dorm.

Our goal is to have consistent and enriched residential experiences for our international students. To reach that goal we signed a contract with a dormitory in downtown Roanoke. This agreement requires that all of our non-scholarship international students reside in the dormitory and we will comply and move all current non-scholarship international students to our new dormitory beginning in August 2017. Though initially we thought there may be some flexibility to allow students to remain with host families, per our contract we do not have that flexibility.

Again, thank you for all you do each and every day to support us! Have a wonderful summer and thank you for speaking highly of our school to others. Let us know of any families we should contact!

David and Lauren

Education: Angela Thomas – **Deborah Jessee: Assistant Head of School for Academics** –

- Completing classroom visits and faculty observations and evaluations.
- Working with Department Chairs to look at offerings and transitions across divisions.
- Continuing work with division directors on scheduling, curriculum and staffing needs for fall of 2017.
- Finalizing divisional IT needs and opportunities for fall 2017.
- Scheduling faculty professional development offerings for June and the '17-'18 school year.

Boosters: Marlo Pearson – Boosters is winding down for this year and getting ready for next year.

FOTA: Ellen McGimsey- Student art show is currently in Logan Gallery. A reception was held for the show on May 3rd. Great work! Check it out! Choral concert was last night. The spring

band concert is Tuesday, May 23rd. Thank you to PA and everyone who has supported FOTA and the Arts department this year!

Kimberly Eakin will be taking over as President of FOTA for next year.

CrossWalk: We are wrapping up this year and getting ready for students transitioning to their new grades next year. The Crosswalk program received monies for the Day of Giving which was very exciting.

New Business: Susan Card- It has been my privilege and honor to have worked with everyone these past three years on the PA board. Everyone works hard and does so much for the school. Thank each and every one of you. It's been a nice ride! I appreciate all your help, good humor and good spirit throughout our meetings this year. The new board will do a great job next year! Thank you also to Kristina and Heather for heading the community committee. It is a hard job with a lot of work throughout the year.

We are transitioning to our new Executive Committee today. This committee is actually voted on by the PA board. The new board members will be: Marlo Pearson, President; Cheryl Glose, Vice President; Maggie Lenkowski as Secretary; Fiona Tower as Treasurer. Vote was passed to elect the new Executive Committee.

Marlo Pearson presented a flower arrangement to Susan Card from the PA for all her hard work. Thanks to Susan's dedication, time commitment, and great ideas she has created school spirit between students, parents and teachers. We aim to keep with that spirit and expand upon it next year. Our focus right now is how to proceed with Big Flea. I will be meeting and talking with you on how to move forward. I have been mulling around the idea of bringing back Field Day for a Fall Festival which will involve more parents. We will need to work closely with the administration and I will be in contact over the summer concerning these ideas. If you are on your second year as a grade rep, you are rolling off. But if you want to participate in a different way or have another position in mind, please send me an email. I would like to get a confirmation from everyone on their positions for next year.

Old Business:

The minutes from the April 13th meeting were approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.