North Cross School  
Parents’ Association Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2015


**Welcome:** President Susan Card called the meeting to order at 12:04.

**President’s Report:** Mr. Miller is not here today so we are not going to discuss the sound system at this time, maybe at a later date. Founder’s Day was a success, kids loved it and teachers were able to celebrate with Mrs. Farley, who was the recipient of the NCS Morris Award for Excellence in teaching. There was a pep rally the other day. Thank you to Susan Wenk for all of her assistance. It was amazing, the kids had a great time. The pep rallies are great to have, they promote school spirit. It brings the entire school together, which is unusual. There will also be one held during the spring semester. Go on Facebook to see the performance. Mr. Kennard is working on a final version and Mr. Robillard posted a YouTube video on Facebook. Next event we will do will be held in May. It will be an event similar to field day. It will not be a fundraiser, it will be a fun day. We will set up a committee to help organize this. In the past it was a fun day outside to celebrate the school community.

**Community:** **Kathy Callis**- Jill Woltz and Kathy Callis wish to thank everyone for their help with Founder’s Day. It turned out very nice. Lots of balloons! Having all the volunteers and having the US students work with the younger kids was very helpful. Next is Symposium on 2/20. Macado’s is catering and Kathy has a sheet going around for baking and a sign up for setup/clean up. There will be a teachers appreciation luncheon on 2/26, the Thursday before spring break. It is the Middle School’s turn for desserts this time. She plans to send out an email to the Lower School because that works well to have the parents come and sit with the kids during lunch. Linda Morgan identified that 2/26 is a testing day. Kathy will check into this for us. Ann Akers will be doing the catering for the luncheon. Please bring the desserts to the CAC by 10:30 on 2/20. Molly Burns inquired if they were still in need of speakers for Symposium. Angela Thomas has been told by Jennifer Landry, that it is covered. Susan Card states that is you know someone for Symposium, contact Jennifer Landry or Emma Greenwell.

**Treasurer’s Report:** **Karen Pruitt**- Flowers were sent when Polly Jones husband passed away. We also plan to make a contribution for about $100, to one of the facilities they mentioned in his honor. We settled up with SCA for homecoming which was $706, so our balance is $18,056.82. Karen asked Community if they had any receipts from Founder’s Day. Kathy Callis believes there weren’t any, but would check with Jill.
Ellis Hall: Molly Burns- The lower school will attend a performance by the Tom Teasley on Thursday morning, February 19, at 8:30 in Fishburn auditorium. Mr. Teasley is a Washington, DC based world percussionist, multi-instrumentalist, educator, composer and sound designer. He will also be visiting some LS social studies and music classes in addition to meeting with the MS and US. The lower school students, ECP through fifth grade, were wonderful supporters of the SCA sponsored “Soup for Seniors” and enjoyed a silly socks and jeans day on Friday, February 6, to celebrate their efforts. A Singapore Math follow-up session was offered on Monday, January 12 at 5:30 p.m. in Cartledge Multi-purpose room. It was well attended. Deborah is working with the admission office to schedule a general open house event in March for returning and prospective parents.

Eaton Hall: Susan Wenk- On January 22, the Middle School attended the student winter theatric production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The students enjoyed this lighthearted play, and the major themes of the play were used in many of our advisory groups to spark discussions concerning character, integrity, and individual identity (being true to who you are). On January 10, eleven of our Middle School students auditioned for the All-District Band. I have listed the outstanding results below. These students will attend the All-District Band Weekend on February 20-21, and we are very proud of their success.

- Nalin Jha ’19—4th Chair, alto saxophone, Symphonic Band
- Brian Bao ’20—17th Chair, soprano clarinet, Symphonic Band
- Michael Habib ’20—1st Chair, trumpet, Concert Band***
- Lauren Daniel ’20—4th chair, soprano clarinet, Concert Band
- Davin Hansen ’19—4th chair, tuba, Concert Band
- Patrick Daly ’20—4th chair, trombone, Concert Band
- Caroline Lystash ’20—9th chair, flute, Concert Band
- Alternate positions were awarded to Aaron Richardson ’20, Nathalie Lemon ’20, Natalie Lorens ’21, and Mashall Rasul ’21.

On February 5, Mrs. Garrett’s Creative Writing class traveled to the Roanoke-Times building to tour the facility and to hear from local columnist Dan Casey. Mr. Casey spoke to the students about his career in journalism, how he finds and develops new stories, and several of his stories that he believed had a particularly strong impact, including one story that was a catalyst for an innocent man to be released from prison after twelve years of wrongful imprisonment based on perjured evidence. On February 9, Miss Virginia, Courtney Garrett, spoke to the Middle School about her experiences in the Miss Virginia and Miss America pageants. Her platform was the empowerment and support of individuals with disabilities, and she shared how her younger brother had cerebral palsy and struggled just to communicate and walk. Her speech was powerful and very personal, and she reminded the students not to forget how lucky we are to be able to do basic things that many individuals with disabilities struggle to achieve. On February 6, we had a Jeans Day to promote the Soup for Seniors program. Although this was a quick drive, it generated six boxes of canned goods and other food items for this program. We
appreciate the help of Stephen Conrad (Kody Whitlock’s grandfather) in helping us transport the food to the appropriate facility after the collection. On February 10, the Middle School attended the fantastic (and first) winter Pep Rally. I was proud to see our winter athletes and coaches being recognized, and the entire event was well organized and great fun for all three divisions. The Eaton Hall SCA is promoting awareness of American Heart Month. This week, the SCA is raising funds through a Valentine candy bag sale and a Jeans Day to help the family of Bentley Page, a ten-month-old child from Roanoke who was born with several congenital heart defects. Bentley’s grandfather, Mark Page, will be speaking to the students on Friday at 10:00 AM about the journey the family has faced since Bentley’s birth. The students have also signed a large Hallmark card and created several posters to offer warm support to the family. On Thursday, February 19, renowned percussionist Tom Teasley will be visiting the school and speaking to the Middle and Upper Schools about his career as a percussionist and teacher. Mr. Teasley has been Artist in Residence at the Kennedy Center and has performed widely both in the United States and abroad. Finally, we had a great turnout at our 5th-Grade Introduction to the Middle School night where Susan Wenk stole the show with a passionate and energizing speech about the Middle School experience and its faculty. Maverick Helmer delivered the student speech, and Mrs. Farley, Ms. Patterson, Mrs. Slaughter, Mr. Lawrence, and Zack DeMoss gave talks about different areas of Middle School life. Thanks for your wonderful support of Eaton Hall! You are the best.

Willis Hall: Traci Robinson-Update from Willis Hall for February PA Meeting (lots of stuff...edit as necessary). We were fortunate to have a speaker from Doctors Without Borders (MSF) speak to the entire upper school at assembly on Jan 12 and then have lunch with Global Studies students later that week. Mr. Damien Moloney is from Melbourne Australia and is a logistician that assists in ordering materials, arranging transport and security, and sets up temporary as well as in one case a permanent hospital in Haiti. He has worked throughout Africa, in Syria, Haiti, and the Philippines. His message of service and understanding the wider world was powerful. The Middle School joined the Upper School for a Martin Luther King Jr. assembly on Jan 15. Our featured speaker was Ms. Brenda Hale who is president of the Roanoke branch of the NAACP. Other speakers included Mr. Thompson, Mr. Alex Hash, and Dr. Proctor. The theatrical production, The Importance of Being Earnest was a great success. The cast and crew and faculty rallied in support after the sudden passing of Dr. Jones, Ms. Polly Jones husband, just days before production. It was impressive display of leadership and student strength - and the show was a big hit at the in-school performance as well as an almost packed house on Saturday night. The recent winter athletic pep rally was a huge success. Very entertaining, spirited, and fun. Thanks to Susan W and Susan C and others for all their time and energy towards this event. The Harvard Model UN trip was a big success - sandwiched in-between some big snow storms up north. Our students contributed significantly to all their committees and represented NCS very well. Thanks to Bruce Farrell’s uncle who gave them a special tour of the Mapperium and connected the group with Christian Science Monitor editors and correspondents. World renowned percussionist will be at NCS (again, he has been here twice in the last 6 years) for presentations and concerts next Thursday (one performance for LS and a
combined MS and US performance at about 2:15pm). He will also visit music classes and some history and global studies classes. A final schedule will be shared for any interested parents next week. The senior class pancake breakfast is tomorrow! It is a fundraiser for the senior class gift to NCS - starts at 7am in Lemon Dining Hall and goes till 8:15. Thanks to all at PA that have helped or will help with Symposium - next Friday Feb 20. It is a great day and tradition at NCS with dozens of outside speakers and workshops that engage our students in possible careers, hobbies and unique interests/experiences, and provide students the opportunity to think about new ideas and possibilities.

**Ways and Means:** Jeanne Fishwick- We are anticipating another check from Kroger during the middle of March. This quarter will close out 2/28/2015 and Kroger says to allow 2 weeks to receive the check. It will be interesting to see how December will impact the amount of this check. Now that Gala has passed, Mr. Lake and Jeanne would like to do a last push for the registration of Kroger Cards. We want a big push after spring break so people will continue using their numbers during the summer, allowing us to continue to receive money for the school. If you have any ideas about what catch people’s attention let Mr. Lake or Jeanne Fishwick know. Mr. Lake is very fond of people on PA remaking music videos. A clever suggestion is welcomed. We can send out an Email blast or make a mention in Crossties. Please provide feedback as to what would speak to you. It won’t go out until the week after spring break. A question was raised concerning if we have the amount of people participating with the cards vs. those NCS families who are not. Jeanne explained that she did not have this information and that it was her understanding that Kroger wouldn’t actually share this information. Jeanne is curious if we have lost any people from earlier in the year, who perhaps have reassigned their individual cards donations, for instance to the Girl Scouts, as an example. At the end of the year, our individual accounts will no longer link to NCS. At that time we will need to re-link with NCS, so the school will continue to receive funds. Each year we will have to campaign for people to re-link. This will happen on August 31. Email any ideas to David Lake or Jeanne Fishwick.

**Development:** Pam Haskins- Gala-Thank everyone who came, donated goods or services or who worked on the Gala committee. It was a community event that so many people came together on to make a success. We are north of $150,000 on revenue with expenses still coming in. **Big Flea** is March 28, encourage folks to clean out their houses and bring goods to school whenever it suits them, we are light on donated items, and if they would like to help out this year, we need volunteers. **Annual Fund**-Parent participation is currently at 26% in the Annual fund, and $238,226 through January. The goal is $340,000.

Gay Pollock spoke about the pancake breakfast that is being held tomorrow, 2/13/15 at 7-8 am. It helps raise funds for the senior class gift. There are several gifts that are considering. $20 per family, $8 for adults, and $5 for kids. Meal includes pancakes, sausages, eggs, fruit, hot
chocolate and coffee. Seniors are working the event. If the grade reps can send an email to their classes, that would be helpful.

**Admissions: Deena Lugar**- per Amy Jackson, we are getting two new students starting next week one in Kindergarten and one in ECP-1. From the open house visits on 2/2 and 2/10 we have 16 prospective families representing 20 students. On Monday, March 16, there will be an ECP tour at 8:30 am. The visit day for grades 1-11 is from 10-1:30. There will also be an evening event, a Lower School open house for returning and prospective students and that date will be coming soon. Reenrollment for 2015-2016 is going great. They have a record amount who have reenrolled within the window. A big thank you to everyone who has reenrolled. This helps for the planning process for next school year. We are going to do the drawing today for the 1 student who will receive tuition next year at the current rate. It’s not too late to reenroll and they are glad to answer any questions to help with the process. Keep spreading the word about the admission events.

**Education: Angela Thomas**- The Upper School Coffee will be next Tuesday, 2/17 at 12 pm in the Fishburn Auditorium. Mr. Thompson will be discussing some of the programs in the upper school. What’s new and what’s planned. He will include updates for the New SAT, and what that means. He will address how the college admission process has changed in the recent years. He will discuss STEM-D and what might be appealing for NCS. He will also leave some time at the end for questions. This would be a great event for 8th grade parents to attend. Angela will put all of this info together in an email to be forwarded to the MS and US reps as a reminder. Susan Baker will send this information out as well. Donna Batzel mentioned that during a prior meeting there was some discussion about guest speakers coming to the school. She explained that that was once a role the education committee helped pull that together. Susan Card mentioned that Zach Demoss is very interested in this concept and he might be an excellent resource for topics and people we may wish to invite to speak.

Susan Card mentioned that per Laura Arnold, the after prom has been planned by the 11th grade. It will be at Thunder Valley again this year. Gay Pollock mentioned that last year there was a money machine, a photo booth and a temporary tattoo artist. There will be a meeting tomorrow in the cafeteria to discuss the event. Macado’s has donated sandwiches in the past. Macado’s has already agreed to do Symposium so there is reluctance to ask for an additional event. Macado’s has done both events in the past. Gay will follow up with Laura Arnold with this information.

**Boosters:** no report

**FOTA:** Peggy McDonnell- The tea was held prior to *The Importance of Being Ernest*. Coming up there will need to be a meeting prior to spring break to discuss next year and finalize the FOTA board. There also needs to be discussion about the upcoming musical, *How to Succeed in
**Business Without Really Trying.** FOTA will sell candy bars, with a gimmick inside. Mrs. Donnini has met with Dr. Proctor and they are in the process of purchasing items from the wish list. There was about $8,000 for the teachers to spend. Peggy has seen invoices from Mr. Rudolph, who purchased additional drums for the lower school, as well as from Mr. Miller who is getting a music projector for the chorus.

Minutes from the 1/8/2015 meeting approved by the PA Committee.

Jeanne referenced a video shown at the Gala that was excellent. It is short. Pam Haskins is going to check with David Lake about it. Jeanne felt it was a great marketing tool for the school to send to prospective NCS families as well as a great fundraising tool. Jeff Kennard made the video.

Next meeting is Thursday March 12, 2015 at 12 pm in the multipurpose room.

Amy Jackson came in at the end of the meeting and thanked everyone for reenrolling. Admissions had exponentially better numbers within the window for reenrollment this year, which helps so much in planning for next year. Drawing was performed by Susan Card and the name selected was Walter Mann. His tuition will not increase next year. The winners’ name will be on Crossties after the meeting. Susan Card explained that the reason this was offered this year, and not a penalty for not reenrolling is because it is a positive thing to do, an incentive.

Meeting adjourned at 12:47 pm.