

North Cross School
Parents' Association Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2016

Attendance: Sara Bartlett, Donna Batzel, Tonya Benson, Michelle Bibby, Molly Burns, Kathy Callis, Susan Card, Marcie Charles, Cheryl Glose, Pam Haskins, Deena Lugar, Ellen McGimsey, Linda Morgan, Marlo Pearson, Ashley Phelps, Gay Pollock, Karen Pruitt, Kristina Sommer, Heather Taylor, and Fiona Tower.

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

President's Report: Susan Card- Susan had a meeting yesterday with the Academic Affairs Committee. Information that came out at this meeting was how successful our school in China is and how well it is doing. The student numbers are increasing exponentially. This is a fantastic addition to our bottom line. Success is currently being measured by the number of students enrolled. This is for the current NCS for Chinese students. The future school is for Americans living in China. Next year they are going to have over 200 students, currently there are 40. There are approx. 6 schools in the US that are doing this and NCS is one. Some of the Chinese students are coming to the US in May. They are asking families to host them for about 3 weeks. These students will be preparing for and taking the SAT's. Contact Admissions if you are interested.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Pruitt- Last time there was a discrepancy with Boosters, about \$90. That has been straightened out. We paid for the flowers that are on campus now including the pansies that are in the planters for \$318. We paid Ann Akers for Symposium and the last teacher's lunch which were \$2167. We also paid for a set of corn hole boards that we had made for us for \$125. Currently we have \$10,823.81 in our account. We are expecting a Kroger check in April.

Ellis Hall: Fiona Tower- The lower school students participated in a box top drive organized by the Ellis Hall SCA and their faculty sponsor, Wendy Lawrence. The students collected over 10,000 box tops (valued at 10 cents each) during a drive that ended on February 19. The SCA will use the funds to support their community service projects and Ellis Hall. Students in grades 1-5 participated in the American Heart Association's "Jump Rope for Heart". Organized by the PE department on Thursday afternoon, February 25, the event followed a unit of study on the benefits of developing heart healthy habits. The students and teachers in ECP celebrated the second annual Dr. Seuss Day on Wednesday, March 2. Costumes, decorated halls, fun activities, as well as Dr. Seuss himself were all a part of the special day! Audrey Osborne, teacher in our second grade, is serving as a consulting teacher for a Liberty University student who will be with us through April. Spring planting has begun in the Lower School Garden and the students look forward to sharing the fruits of their labor with the NCS community. Over a two-week period, which began Tuesday, March 15, all lower school students are participating 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. Representatives from ICAT and the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech will present a program for parents on Monday, March 21, at 5:00 in the Cartledge Multipurpose Room outlining the project and how to discuss SEAD with students. Childcare will be provided for current students. This is the first time a project like this has been attempted using elementary-aged students and will be recognized at the ICAT Day at the Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech on May 2.

Eaton Hall: Marlo Pearson-We are very proud that several MS students were able to participate for the first time in the Virginia American Choral Director's Association Middle School All-State Choir. Mariah Eakin and Ryan Huddleston were selected after a three part audition process that required two prepared pieces and a scale sung in solfège. Jacob Wadstrom also auditioned and scored well, but missed the cut off by only two points. On Wednesday, February 24, Heather Slaughter and Ryan Cook organized a 6th-grade trip to the Taubman Museum to take advantage of the George Washington exhibit that was on display. The students attended an instructional program and viewed the Washington exhibit between 9:30-11:30 AM and then had lunch in the Market building before returning to campus. We hope to offer a similar trip to the 7th-grade students to view the Norman Rockwell exhibit later in the spring. The winter sports Pep Rally took place on February 24 in the game gym of the Carter Center. Susan Wenk and Susan Card once again did a remarkable job organizing an event that was fun and inclusive for students from all three divisions. Our 8th-grade students attended Symposium in the Upper School on Friday, February 26. This is always a wonderful event for the 8th-graders as they get to experience the range of Symposium speakers with the Upper School students for the first time. Many of our 7th and 8th grade Middle School students will be taking the National French or Spanish Exams during the next two weeks. In recent years, the results on these exams have been exceptionally strong, and we always recognize the State and National-level award winners at the end of the term. Next week, Paul Ross, NCS Class of 2012, will be distributing an Internet survey to students at several grade levels as part of a research project at Hampden-Sydney College. I have read over the document and felt it was an appropriate and well-considered survey about student Internet usage. We will be sending a permission form home to parents so they have the information concerning this survey and why it is being done. This survey is similar to the one we often have students complete in their sixth-grade Health class to review their Internet/electronic device usage as a whole. We are currently planning for the April 27 Middle School Community Service Day. Alex Hash has communicated with eleven different organizations who are very interested in welcoming our Eaton Hall students for a day of community service work. We will begin connecting individual advisory groups with specific organizations during the next two weeks. There will be a series of training sessions for administration, faculty, and staff taking place over the next ten weeks as we begin the process of moving to a new Blackbaud software system. The roll-out for the new system should take place in July. We believe the parents will find this system much more user-friendly in terms of accessing grades, daily assignments, and teacher websites. Thanks for the wonderful support we receive from the Parents' Association!

Willis Hall: Donna Batzel- We had a great winter term overall. Very good results from boys and girls swimming and strong performances from boys and girls basketball. Throw is a winter play,

Model UN, symposium, and numerous other activities and assemblies - it was a full term. College Update: 37 seniors in the Class of 2016 (45 seniors total) have been admitted to college. Nineteen seniors have applied to VT and those decisions will likely be out by the end of March. A month ago we had our annual Junior Class College Night on February 17, Mr. Barry Bradbury, Assistant Dean of Admission and Financial Aid from Elon University, spoke about navigating the college process as well as the new SAT and what it means. Global Studies: On April 7, we have our final GS speaker. Ms. Crystal Bright, a recent Artist on the Rise award winner from FloydFest, will share her music and educational background in anthropology and ethnomusicology as she shares her experience playing and singing in various musical styles including: Mariachi, Ugandan, Balinese Gamelan, Chinese, Samba, and more. Mr. Robillard spent spring break traveling to China with four current upper school students as they explored our Xinhe campus, Shanghai, and Nanjing. Symposium: Our annual symposium event was a big success with an opening key note address from Mr. Joe Boucher (current parent). Mr. Boucher was a producer of both the Simpsons and King of the Hill. He spoke of his work in the entertainment industry as well as finding his passion in working with young people since he is back at his alma mater, Roanoke College. His message of following your dreams and working hard resonated with the students. There were approximately 35 other speakers and presenters during the rest of the program that engaged students in conversation, exploration, and possibilities they may encounter in the future. Thanks to PA for their support of symposium and helping with lunch in particular! The winter pep rally and Sadie Hawkins Dance were very spirited and fun events! Lots of participation and fun had by all! The Blood Drive, organized by junior Helen Schmedtje and SCA will be next Wednesday March 23 in the CAC. This is through Virginia Blood Services - a representative spoke to the upper school at assembly this past Tuesday. In teaming up with Roanoke Mountain Adventure to offer outdoor opportunities/experiences for middle school and upper school students we have our first opportunity on Monday March 28 - not a school day - mountain biking. More details will be out next week - but these are fully supervised by RMA, have room for about 10 students per trip, and cost depends on activity (Stand-Up Paddle Board will be offered later this spring!) Thanks for all PA does for the upper school and NCS!

Ways and Means: No report

Community- Kathy Callis- Kathy thanked everyone for their help with Symposium and the faculty and staff luncheon. Community is considering having the last faculty and staff appreciation day around Memorial Day. Field Day and Bonfire committees will be set up in the beginning of April. We will need help on Field Day to supervise the kids. With the evening portion, we have a DJ. We will discuss this further in April.

Development: Pam Haskins- Crossties went out with a development department update on the Thursday before Spring Break. We're sending it again this week (only had 26 opens).

Here is the summary from the Crossties email:

Fundraiser	YTD Results	Goal	Chairs
Annual Fund	\$226,720	\$350,000	Donna and John Batzel
Gala	\$89,509	\$85,000	Robin and Bob Sells
Big Flea*	\$0	\$30,000	Elise and Zack DeMoss
Total	\$316,229	\$465,000	

* Big Flea revenues and expenses will be shared 50/50 with Parents' Association this year.

How you can make a difference:

- **Annual Fund**—If you have not made your tax-deductible gift to the 2015-2016 Annual Fund, please **make an online gift** or call **Jennifer Burch** at **540-989-6641, ext. 284**. Every gift of any size matters to every student's education.

Online Giving

Please note that the North Cross School tax ID number is: 54-0699572.

- **Big Flea Sale on April 9, 2016**--Make a **donation to our Big Flea Sale**, and/or volunteer to help make it happen. **Elise and Zack DeMoss** are chairs this year and will direct you to duties and times that fit what you are able to give. Elise can also coordinate the pickup of items too large for you to bring to our storage building. Contact Elise by email at elisedemoss@gmail.com to arrange a pick up.

Current Parent Annual Fund giving:

- 12/28 (43%) PA members have made their gift to the 2015-16 Annual Fund
- 96/340 (28%) parents have made gifts to the 2015-16 Annual Fund
- Parent Participation By Class:

North Cross Class	Parents' Association Class Representative	Parent Participation
ECP1	<i>Maggie Lenkowski</i>	30%
ECP2 Full Day	<i>Heather Taylor</i>	18%
ECP2 1/2 Day	<i>Heather Taylor</i>	20%
ECP 3	<i>Elise DeMoss</i>	33%
1	<i>Meschelle Bibby</i>	35%
2	<i>Cheryl Glose</i>	24%
3	<i>Ashley Boone</i>	31%
4	<i>Molly Burns</i>	35%
5	<i>Tammy Snyder</i>	42%
6	<i>Sara Bartlett</i>	21%
7	<i>Sharon Williams</i>	26%
8	<i>Marlo Pearson</i>	34%
9	<i>Tonya Benson</i>	26%
10	<i>Gay Pollock</i>	27%
11	<i>Trista Farrell</i>	32%
12	<i>Laura Arnold</i>	24%

Big Flea - Boosters Unload Day: April 2nd - Boosters is gathering parents and students for an "Unload" day for Big Flea, from 9-2 (Saturday) They are going to unload the trailer and storage building, both located at the Bus lot, across from Porterfield Field (baseball field). **Big Flea Work Week:** April 4 - 8 - Day of Sale is the 9th from 7 - 1 p.m. (2 hours shorter than in the past). Last year we took it from 2 weeks to 1 week of preparation. We did this to ease the strain on volunteers and to make the gym more available to the school. There will be no outside carnival or vendors (similar to last year). Please sign up to help - speak with Elise about spots available. Molly Burns is going to re-send from Elise the Sign up genius link. Molly feels it might be helpful if when the class reps send out the link to perhaps suggest a time that the class parents could all meet and work together. She will forward it to Linda to distribute to class reps and asks that people personalize and explain Big Flea to those parents who might not be familiar. Last year we had 3,000 shoppers. The Boosters are going to sell Krispy Kreme Doughnuts to the people standing in line. There will also be a man who makes great coffee and he will be there selling that and kettle corn. If people volunteer 6 hours they are eligible for the presale, Fri. Free childcare available for current NCS families, after school, while you work. Thank you to Elise and Zach for all they have done for the Big Flea! Huge mailer of about 5,000 letters needs to be done next Wednesday, March 23 at 9AM in the Development Office. If you are unable to help that day, you can stop in and see Jennifer Burtch and she can give you a stack to work on. Donna Batzel asked for us to either participate or increase our annual fund donation. You can make a pledge now and send in your donation in by June 30th. Pam Haskins suggested that we send out requests to classes if there are PA positions open next year. Molly Burns suggested that we add additional representatives per class to the PA. Meschelle Bibby suggested that we utilize social media as a way to communicate with the NCS families. She suggested we could possibly look into the App. Periscope and perhaps live feed the PA meetings. This might be helpful for those who have work conflicts. A suggestion was made to do a PA newsletter. There is a PA FB page that was brought to our attention today. It was started by Mary Lynn Wright and it was formerly administered by past PA President, Elizabeth Cranwell. Ellen McGimsey suggested that Grade Reps send out reminders to their classes about PA meetings with an invitation.

Development- Deena Lugar- Current enrollment – 488

- 1 student withdrew (ECP-3, moved out of the area)
- 1 student attending during the third trimester for a seven-week exchange (Colombia)

Reenrollment

- Current reenrollment = 68%
- An additional 16 returning students have partially completed the reenrollment process.
- All families not reenrolled have been contacted at least once by the admission office; the admission office and division directors continue to follow up.

Admission Activity

- Inquiries are up a bit from previous years, especially for Lower School (testing dates are very full!)
- Nine new students have enrolled (comparable to previous three years), with an additional student partially enrolled

Admission Events

- Thursday, March 24 – ECP tour
- Wednesday through Friday, March 30-April 1 – Visit Days for grades 1 through 11
- Tuesday, April 26 – ECP tour and Grades 1-11 Visit Day

Tailored Tuition

- Deadline for returning families is April 1
- A few prospective families have inquired about North Cross directly through Tailored Tuition
- A few returning families have expressed first-time interest (comparable numbers to previous years)
- Google Analytics continue to show strong interest in the “Affording” webpage – still top three! (behind Home page and Teacher Websites)

Founders’ Scholarships

- First deadline is Friday, April 1. External applications continue to be considered as funding allows.

FOTA: Ellen McGimsey-Upcoming FOTA event. There is an art reception for the Studio School Art Show on Sunday April 3 from 2-4PM. There will be concessions sold at the upcoming musical of Oklahoma on April 15 & 16th. Combined band day will be April 22. Funds raised by FOTA are typically released by Mrs. Donnini in January. The Lower School has purchased drums and Xylophones, Mr. Miller purchased a Yamaha Keyboard. He no longer has to rent one for the musicals. Ellen believes that they are ordering a pottery wheel. Some of the upper school art students are at a glass blowing workshop today in Rocky Mount. We do have a new piano and she would like to get a photo of Albert Newberry playing it for the website. FOTA is meeting soon to discuss plans for the Coffeehouse for next year.

Boosters: Tammy Snyder sent an email stating that Boosters will be meeting next week to discuss Volksmarch. Marlo Pearson explained that a Volksmarch is a German family walk through the woods. NCS Boosters is hoping to have this as a 5K fundraiser. They are hoping to involve NCS and the surrounding communities. People will select a walking stick and then every year you will get a brand on it showing that you participated. It is a great collector’s item. There will be an entrance fee to participate, maybe \$25-\$30 (hasn’t been decided yet). You will get a t-shirt. They are hoping to have food trucks and have it sponsored through athletic businesses in the area. They are hoping this will grow into something very big. This could potentially help us raise money for the Cook Field, the new athletic field planned or provide bathrooms by the football field. The hope is that it can be done next fall. It will be on the cross country course. It isn’t a race it, it won’t be competitive.

Education: Angela Thomas sent an email to Linda Morgan with an education update. Mr. Thompson held the Upper School Update on February 24th. There was not a large turnout, but, she did receive positive feedback from some that attended. Angela is hoping to re-schedule the Lower School Update and she will pass on that information once she receives it.

New Business: Susan Card- PA supports the after prom and part of the prom. Last year we approved \$3500 but only used \$3250. Ticket sales will pay for part of the prom. Tickets are \$40 apiece. It is only for juniors and seniors. Usually only 80 students attend. Trista Farrell, 11th Grade Representative, has planned the prom and after prom. She secured the rooftop of Center in the Square which has a butterfly garden. There are inside and an outside rooms. Students are excited. Most kids go out to eat beforehand so there will only be a small amount of food available. Trista has secured a professional photographer to be there and he will download all his pictures on drop box, for the students to access for free. He will take candid pictures. There will also be dessert and mocktails. The after prom is at Thunder Valley because it is only approx. \$800 to reserve the venue for the night. There will be pizza and drinks. There will be a money machine and raffles for prizes (that are donated.) After prom is from 12-2AM and it is an effort to keep students safe. Request made for PA to contribute \$3,500, and whatever isn't used, will be returned to our account. Motion made to approve \$3,500 contribution from PA for Prom and After Prom expenses. Vote taken, all present approved the motion.

Old Business: Motion made and minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Meeting adjourned 12:59.