

**North Cross School
Parents' Association Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2016**

Attendance: Donna Batzel, Tonya Benson, Meschelle Bibby, Allison Bloomfield, Molly Burns, Susan Card, Julie Carey, Elise DeMoss, Kirsten Erwin, Cheryl Glose, Ashley Harlow, Kim Hansen, Maggie Lenkowski, Ellen McGimsey, Linda Morgan, Marlo Pearson, Karen Pruitt, Gay Pollock, Kristina Sommer, Angela Thomas, Fiona Tower, Susan Wenk, Victoria McDade

Welcome: Susan Card called the meeting to order at 12:05. Susan welcomed a parent guest, attending the meeting and welcomed back Victoria McDade who is the class representative for ECP-1.

President's Report: Susan Card- This is Homecoming week! The Powder Puff game was Wed. where the Freshmen/Sophomores play the Junior/Seniors. As usual, the Junior/Senior team won. Much thanks to Susan Wenk for her work this week. The Pep Rally is Friday at 1:15 in the Game Gym. Many students will be participating in the Rally. Ice cream will be provided for everyone after the Rally between 2:15 and 2:30 as the students leave. The Football game is at 4:00. The Homecoming court will be announced at halftime. There is a Volleyball game at 6:00. On Saturday, the Field Hockey game begins at 12:00 and the Cook Field dedication will begin at 1:30 or at the end of the game. A soccer game is scheduled after the dedication at 2:15. The Homecoming dance is at the Taubman Museum from 8:00-12:00. The Middle School is also having their dance Friday night at 7:00 in the cafeteria. There are many festivities this weekend!

PA supports a lot of the Homecoming activities. A vote is needed to authorize payment of Homecoming expenses. Last year we voted on an amount up to \$2,500.00. We did not go over that amount last year and do not believe we will this year either. Susan asked for a vote from the PA to pay for the Homecoming expenses, not exceeding \$2,500.00. The vote was passed by a majority show of hands.

Deborah Jessee and Leigh Ann Hamlin came to Susan with the idea of hosting a guest speaker. Devorah Heitner is a psychologist out of Chicago and is the author of "Screenwise: Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) in their Digital World." The proposal is a two-day seminar focusing on 4th-8th grades. Dr. Heitner would have sessions with the students, the parents and the faculty at different times concerning issues on growing up in a digital world with texting, emailing, etc. Dr. Proctor has agreed to pay half the costs and PA is being asked to raise the other half. The total cost would be \$6,000. The timeframe that is being looked at would be April, 2017. There is a possibility of February, but there are concerns about the weather and traveling at that time of the year. There was much discussion concerning the timing of the event: many thought a discussion on this topic would be better in the early months of the school year and not near the end. The amount of money being asked was concerning. Also the fact that in the past we have not had a significant number of parents attend these speaker events. An idea was presented that

Leigh Ann Hamlin could encourage parents to read the book, watch the TED talk and then lead a discussion on the subject. After much consideration and discussion, Marlo Pearson made the motion that the PA will not contribute the \$3,000 for the speaker. All were in favor. Linda Morgan seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

There is a new Ice Hockey team at the Berglund Center - the Rail Yard Dawgs. Mr. Miller has signed up the North Cross choir to sing the National Anthem before the hockey game on January 6, 2017. The cub scouts are also scheduled to present the flags. This would be a great day to have a North Cross hockey night. North Cross would be promoted in the event and included in their advertising. The event would be sponsored by the Parents' Association and FOTA. Tickets are \$15 per person. One idea is to have a portion of the ticket sales (\$2.50 or \$ 3.00) donated to a cause of our choosing. We can also just offer a discounted ticket of \$12.00 or \$12.50. Marlo Pearson presented an idea that we offer the discounted ticket with the PA paying the price difference. The PA then donates that portion to a cause of our choosing. The board was all in agreement. There will be future discussions on how the money will be donated. The PA can choose an outside organization or we can choose something tangible that is needed at our school that will benefit the majority of our students.

The Stocked Market, sponsored by the Junior League is coming soon. They are offering schools to buy tickets that would have their individual school name on the ticket. Those tickets will be collected at the Stocked Market event during admission. A random drawing will occur at the end of the weekend and the school name on the winning ticket will be presented with \$500. Rebecca Bradley has tickets for sale. Sara Boxley is on the committee and sent a letter to ask if the PA was interested in participating. There are 4-5 schools that have opted to be a part of this program. There was some discussion about our chances of winning being a smaller percentage since we are a smaller school than most in the valley. We would be responsible for placing signs around the school to advertise the Stocked Market. No one was opposed to the idea of advertising for this event.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Morgan – We received a check from Kroger in the amount of \$3,034.76 for this past quarter. A check was written to Development in the amount of \$88.45 to help pay for the Kroger signs placed around campus encouraging parents to re-link their account information to Kroger for this new year. Our balance is \$ 9,203.16.

If anyone has Homecoming reimbursements please put them in the PA box in Old Slack Hall. We average a little over \$3,000 every quarter from Kroger. That check should increase with the Holidays coming soon.

Ellis Hall: Fiona Tower- Rehearsals for the musical, *Alice in Wonderland* are going well. The dates for the musical are November 11th and 12th and it should be fabulous.

The Lower School is having their Halloween parade at 10 a.m. The Upper School will be hiking that morning, so we are encouraging parents to come and see the parade along with the Middle School.

Conferences will be held on November 1st.

All of Lower School is using Oncampus. Homework should be posted now and work is continuing to be done on the site. If you are not happy with something about the site, please let Mr. Lamas know.

The Lower School still needs tennis balls to replace the old ones on chairs. Mr. Lamas is appreciative of the ones already donated and happy to receive more.

Eaton Hall: Kirsten Erwin – On September 16, Sandy Patterson and Jared Hanson took the sixth-grade students to Camp Roanoke for their fall orientation trip. This excursion is always a great opportunity for students to work in small groups. The weather turned out to be perfect for the trip this year, and the students seemed to enjoy the various group and low-rope activities.

The fall Middle School dance will be held this Friday evening in Lemon Dining Hall. After holding our dances in the Willis Hall Commons for the last several years, we wanted to try a venue that was a little larger and more open. The students have thoroughly embraced our Homecoming Spirit Week, and we appreciate the time and enthusiasm provided by the Parents' Association to make this week a special one. We are looking forward to the dedication of Cook Field on Saturday, along with the other Homecoming games and events.

The Middle School students took the ERB tests from September 28-October 3. We spread the tests over four days in order to keep the daily testing times to 90 minutes or less each day. All the testing also took place during the morning to facilitate student focus. We added the WrAP Essay Writing ERB Test for our 7th grade students this year to garner some additional information about our students' ability to craft quality essays when given a specific prompt.

On October 6, Dr. William Dichtel spoke to the MS students about his research and his time at North Cross School. Dr. Dichtel, NCS Class of 1996, received a MacArthur Fellowship last year and is currently leading a research team at Northwestern University. He spoke about the research process as well as his work with nanoparticles. There was a gathering that evening with a number of Dr. Dichtel's previous North Cross teachers and other members of the class of 1996.

We currently have several 8th grade students applying for the Page positions in Richmond. This is an exciting and challenging opportunity, and the candidates who are applying are well prepared for this experience. We wish them all the best of luck with the selection process!

On November 3, Mrs. Slaughter and Mr. Cook will be taking the 6th grade class to the Lewis and Clark Museum in Charlottesville. This is the second year we have organized this trip, and it provided a good learning experience for the students last year.

Thanks for all your support this fall!

Ed

Willis Hall: Gay Pollock- Two highlights this fall term were presentations by two pre-eminent scientists in their respective fields – Dr. Reed Montague (current NCS parent) spoke of brain imaging and the advances in understanding human behavior, and Dr. Will Dichtel, NCS 1996

and 2015 awardee of a MacArthur Genius Grant. Dr. Dichtel taught a special class to current and former AP Chem students, and addressed the upper school about polymers and how chemistry shapes our world. Both Dr. Montague and Dr. Dichtel, world renowned and leaders in their fields, also had lunch with interested students after their presentations.

Mrs. Jennifer Landry was a presenter at VMI's recent STEM Conference, Mrs. Landry led a presentation and workshop on how robotics can be used to teach aspects of Middle School mathematics.

Several teachers are attending upcoming conferences – one on Singapore Math and others are attending a Coding Conference later this month.

The Chess Team, led by Mr. Clagett, will attend a tournament in Richmond this weekend – 6 students are participating.

Homecoming and Spirit week are off to a great start with several more HUGE events happening in the next two days. Thanks to SCA and Mrs. Card and Mrs. Wenk for all their planning and organizing and energy! And thanks to PA for supporting all aspects of homecoming – for the US, especially the Homecoming Dance at the Taubman Museum.

We have had an excellent fall thus far – great energy and effort from the student body as well as our 4 new faculty members that have been a great addition and made strong contributions already. Ms. Sharnice Mayo is also doing a great job as the new US Division Assistant.

Go Raiders!

Mark W. Thompson

Community- Kristina Sommer – The new date for the Faculty-Staff Appreciation Lunch will be Wednesday, November 9th in the Lemon Dining Hall. We will be setting up the day before. The Upper School will provide desserts, paper goods and drinks.

We were not able to have our fall bonfire again this year! This is the 3rd year in a row that the weather has not cooperated. A lot of work goes into the planning of that event. Even though we had to cancel, all the hard work was much appreciated!

Development: - Cheryl Glose – Rebecca Bradley thanked all those who helped set up for the Homecoming events.

Elise DeMoss: Big Flea: Thanks to all for their help on the work day. We were able to make lots of room in the shed. Molly Burns and Ellen McGimsey have helped with Meet Me Mondays. I am begging again for everyone to do just one Monday - it would help a lot. Just one hour to open the unit, take in donations and close up the shed. A sign up genius was sent out once but will be sent again in case you missed that. We made \$15,000 last year and we have the ability to make more this year. We have talked with Virginia Varsity about renting storage from

them due to the fact we are expecting two, 2 full bedroom houses of furniture. This is a very generous donation and we are very thankful. Pickups are on the schedule now. Susan Card reminded the Board that there are 30 representatives and we should be able to cover the Mondays between now and April. On campus can be used to email classes, which is a great way to communicate about these events.

Admissions: - Deena Lugar – There are upcoming open houses for people interested in North Cross next year and tours scheduled at the school. Admission numbers are close to 500 students.

FOTA: Ellen McGimsey-

Coffeehouse – Friday, November 4th, 6-8:30pm, new venue - New Slack Hall Will be utilizing the front lobby and Lemon Dining Hall of New Slack. Excited about roomy, relaxed atmosphere. Looking into some fun decorating ideas and sound and lighting help from Stage & Sound.

Highlighting a new Coffeehouse sponsorship level – Platinum Star for \$1,000. There are two available. Beyond some perks at the Coffeehouse including FOTA mugs and front row seats for four, sponsors also receive special invitation for 4 to the final dress rehearsal on Thursday along with a guided backstage tour and front row seats for 4 on Friday or Saturday.

Baking – Sign-up Genius has been sent out. The yummy desserts give the Coffee House a warm, cozy atmosphere and they are just plain delicious! We ask that you please provide desserts that are finger friendly (no utensils needed) and that you pre slice any bar cookies, brownies, etc in order to minimize food handling for when we prep the platters. Also try to send in your treats in disposable wrapping---and if you need your container, plate, etc returned, please label. If you are not able to bake treats, there are sign up slots for donating bottled water and apple cider. We would like to have your **goodies dropped off at the Lemon Dining Hall/ Cafeteria on Friday November 4 any time between 7:30 am and 9:30 am. Someone from FOTA will be there to assist you with taking the goods.** Thank you for your donation in helping to make the FOTA Coffee House a success.

Piano Fund

Bring Home the Baby (Grand, that is!) Exciting news: We have found a lightly used Yamaha GH-1 baby grand piano locally and entered into an agreement to purchase it!! But we need your help!! We are still a few dollars short of the price and then need a couple things to go with it. Help us bring home this baby grand by donating to one of the following!!

Yamaha baby grand piano - still needed: \$1,400

Quilted piano cover: \$475

Heavy duty piano dolly: \$750

You can write a check to "NCS Friends of the Arts" and drop off at Old Slack Hall or contact Ellen McGimsey at remcgimsey@cox.net.

Make your mark on the music at North Cross for many years to come by donating today!

Eaton Hall Art Wall

Check out Eaton Hall's new art wall - a place for any Middle Schooler to display their fabulous works of art!

Thanks to the craftsmanship of Mr. Garrett and Mr. Greer, Eaton Hall now has a professional looking space for the Middle School students to display their art work! Check it out! And coming next week - Halloween-themed art! Oooh, spooky!

Way to go Eaton Hall for promoting the visual arts!!!

Boosters: Marlo Pearson – Boosters is set for this weekend. We will be selling \$2.00 pizza slices, and a marinated chicken plate with sides and a drink for \$8.00. We will have pompoms for \$1.00 and flags for \$2.00. If you have little kids, this will be a fun event. The football game is at 4:00. Grade reps can send the information to your classes. The weather should be beautiful weather and we are expecting to have a good crowd. This is the 3rd year to have the Homecoming Court. The Court will be escorted onto the field at halftime where the King and Queen will be announced.

Education: Angela Thomas - Angela is now meeting with Deborah Jessee, Assistant Head of School for Academics and will be reporting on events from her office:

We are continuing to work on the VAIS Accreditation Visit and required documents, narratives and campus visit schedule.

We are working with the English department to evaluate ECP-12 curriculum and determine strengths, opportunities and recommendations.

We are working with the Lower and Middle School Spanish faculty to address transitions and curriculum.

We are working with the division directors, math department and IT on opportunities to introduce Coding instruction.

We are working with Leigh Ann Hamlin to develop curriculum, professional development, and speakers on conflict resolution and digital citizenship.

New Business: Susan Card-

The Homecoming dance is being held Saturday night, October 15th at the Taubman Museum from 8-12pm. The dance is for the Upper School, grades 9-12. This will be a weekend of fun and sports, please come and participate.

Old Business:

Unless otherwise notified, future PA meetings will be held in the auditorium. Minutes from September 8, 2016 were approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:00.