

North Cross School
Parents' Association Meeting Minutes
December 08, 2016

Attendance: Tonya Benson, Allison Bloomfield, Molly Burns, Susan Card, Elise DeMoss, Kirsten Erwin, Cheryl Glose, Ashley Harlow, Maggie Lenkowski, Deena Lugar, Ellen McGimsey, Linda Morgan, Marlo Pearson, Ashley Phelps, Karen Pruitt, Kristina Sommer, Heather Taylor, Fiona Tower, Susan Wenk, Victoria McDade, Kate Parker

Welcome: Susan Card called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

President's Report: Susan Card- Looking at our current checkbook balance, adding in future Kroger checks and the PA portion of The Big Flea proceeds, we can conservatively say we will have \$27,000 in our bank account this year before any other expenses. Our mission is to raise money and then use those funds to give back to the school.

One of those ways is helping Malcolm Douglas as he continually does an amazing job to make our campus beautiful. He recently asked for help in purchasing trees for the bank on 419. They will be planting 7 trees, which PA purchased 2 of them for that project. We recently found tubs of greenery, bows, and wreaths for holiday decorating that Malcolm can use on campus.

Thank you to the PA board for the flowers sent to Susan and her family at the time of her fathers' passing. Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated during that time.

The Teacher appreciation luncheon was yesterday. Some of the lunches did not have volunteers to cover for the teachers during that time. Kristina was able to remedy those situations. Please look at all PA emails for information you may need to address. David Lake sent a thank you note concerning the luncheon. This was a chance for the teachers to eat a peaceful lunch and it was much appreciated. David volunteered to watch an ECP class during lunch and realized how nice it was for the teachers to take a break! We have the luncheons three times a year. The Lower School always needs volunteers to stay in the cafeteria with the children.

Hockey night will be on January 6th, so mark your calendar! Our choir will be singing and the cub scouts will have a banner and skating on the ice! Based on Marlo Pearson's idea last month, we will purchase discounted tickets, donating the price difference back to the school.

Today we need to vote on the holiday monetary collection for the teachers. Money is collected by classrooms in the Lower School. Since the Middle and Upper School students have 6-7 teachers, the grade reps collect for the divisions and split the monies between the teachers. This is a voluntary contribution and a way to say thank you to the teachers at this time of year for all they do for our kids. We also have many other teachers involved with the students that teach a language, music, and band. We also have a librarian and PE teachers. These teachers do not have a classroom and at times miss out on these collections. The PA supplements these funds

and brings some equality between classrooms and other teachers. We also include the maintenance crew who help out in many different ways. All of these people deserve some recognition. Some of us will be meeting afterward this meeting to discuss the distribution of funds. The Crosswalk program will have a parent to coordinate a collection for those teachers. The Extended Day parents take care of their own collection. Senior staff is not part of this collection unless they teach a class. Letters will go out to each grade from the grade reps explaining the holiday collection. Last year we asked for \$3,500 and used \$3,300. This year we are asking for \$4,000 as a cushion for this years' supplement for the holiday collection fund. Kirsten Erwin made the motion to put aside up to \$4,000; Cheryl Glose seconded that motion; the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Morgan – Homecoming expenses came to around \$1,570. We paid Malcolm Douglas \$300 for two trees that will be planted along the 419 bank. The current balance is \$ 7,218.11.

Ellis Hall: Fiona Tower-

Here are several items of note:

- The Lower School can always use tennis balls for its desks' and chairs' legs. Donations of used tennis balls can be dropped off in Mr. Lamas's office.
- The Lower School musical, *Alice in Wonderland*, will be performed on November 11th and 12th.
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- The Lower School P.E. has adopted a new sportsmanship code. After the first annual Sportsmanship Assembly on November 8th, all lower school students in grades one through five signed a banner that was then hung in the game gym.
 - The Sportsmanship Code is:
 - I will play fair.
 - I will try my best.
 - I will be kind to everyone.
- The Lower School sent its math teachers for additional Singapore Math training in Greensboro, NC, on October 25th.
- Fourth and fifth grade students are working with members of the Mill Mountain Garden Club to plant a butterfly garden outside of the Lower School. This garden theme supports a science unit on the importance of pollinators.
 - Also, a Cub Scout troop, which includes many North Cross students and scout leaders, has donated four apple trees and planted them on campus.
- October was National Bullying Prevention Month. Leigh Ann Hamlin spent the month discussing with LS students the following topics:
 - definition of bullying
 - what bullying is not
 - teasing versus bullying
 - being an "upstander"
 - ways to help prevent and stop bullying through role playing & discussion

Eaton Hall: Kirsten Erwin – 6th graders are working on Lewis and Clark presentations in Mr. Cook and Ms. Slaughters' classes. The projects involve video and power point for their presentations. The students were on a field trip last week. 7th graders are on a field trip today about the Industrial Revolution. The Middle School is busy working on grades, teachers busy working on comments and upcoming exams. Students are collecting items for the Thanksgiving Meal drive. We are also trying to figure out our annual field trip to see a film on December 16th. In the past we were able to see The Hobbit and Star War movies.

Willis Hall: Gay Pollock- No Report

Community- Kristina Sommer – The first Faculty/Staff Appreciation Lunch was held yesterday, November 9th and it was a huge success! Everyone was very appreciative of the PA and repeatedly thanked us for our support.

The annual Holiday Bonfire will be held on Friday, December 2nd at Hooper Field. As it stands, with the lack of rain, we aren't sure if we will be able to have a bonfire. Heather and I have come up with two scenarios and are working with Shawn and the maintenance gang to make this bonfire happen! We will know more on November 28th-29th.

There was a discussion about having a toy drive again this year and to make sure we coordinate with the other divisions about having the same plans. Last year we collected toys and donated them to two groups.

Development: - Cheryl Glose –

1. The Annual Fund currently is at \$105,956 or 33% of our goal of \$330,000. 23% of the members of PA have given or pledged. I have a list of giving by class if anyone would like to know the percentage of gifts/pledges for each class. We are encouraging people to pledge and once we reach our goal, we will stop asking people to give to the annual fund. There is an drawing for two free gala tickets and to be eligible all you need to do is pledge or make an annual fund gift by 12/31/16. Please make your gift or pledge by 12/31/16.
2. Big Flea-PA volunteerism has been up at Meet Me Mondays. Elise will continue to periodically send out the sign-up form.
3. Gala planning is well underway. All of you should have received a save-the-date card and magnet. We are asking for the PA's help in building tables. We'd love to see a table for each grade. Please encourage new families in your grades to attend by inviting them to be part of your table. Gala is a great community event, and we want all our new families to feel welcome at the school.

Development is looking for volunteers on Grandparents' Day. Cheryl will send out an email with the specifics. Grandparents' Day is December 16th from 8-10 a.m.



North Cross School

Annual Fund Participation By Class

Grade	Students	Gifts	Percentage
ECP 1	30	8	27%
ECP 2	26	8	31%
ECP 3	23	1	4%
1st	26	7	27%
2nd	20	3	15%
3rd	37	6	16%
4th	28	5	18%
5th	33	6	18%
6th	37	7	19%
7th	27	5	19%
8th	48	11	23%
9th	33	5	15%
10th	43	10	23%
11th	42	3	7%
12th	44	7	16%

Current Parents' Association giving is 23%.

Admissions: - Deena Lugar –

1. Thank you, all parents, for speaking well of our school.

Already we have had 31 inquiries for the 2017-18 school year, and the most common response when I ask each family why they are here, their answer is that a current North Cross family has encouraged them to visit. Your words carry weight, and your experiences and the impressions you share are important to our growth and health.

2. Our Two 2017-18 goals

First, we want to have between 92% and 100% of our students return. This past year we had 91% of our students return. We observe all the positive things happening here and we thank our parents for their help in so many things including all that PA, FOTA, and Boosters are doing, combined with the elevation of the school spirit that continues to run high - thank you to all of you who help make this happen. It is making a difference because people are hearing a buzz about North Cross.

Second, we want to enroll 94 new students (we enrolled 93 for this school year). The majority of the new students will be in the Lower School, with 28 as our ECP1 target.

When we hit these 2 goals, we will be a school with over 500 students and we will need little new resources to continue to provide the exceptionally well-rounded experience our children receive here.

3. Open House dates and Walk in Wednesdays

On our NCS website, we've published our Open Houses (just had one this Tuesday). Several families came to tour and I believe will yield at least 4 new students for next year.

We also will open our doors every Wednesday morning, each week, for parents who wish to visit. We're imitating the success of Big Flea's "Meet Me Mondays" and will use a "Walk in Wednesday" rhythm to get folks on campus. Don't worry, we'll still open our doors at other times, but it does help everyone to remember it and will make advertising easier, as well.

4. Testimonials

I've received some very nice notes and calls from parents and students, sharing their thoughts about North Cross. That encouraged me to reach out to folks for their thoughts about their and their children's NCS experiences. Here are a couple I received that I'd like to share with you:

Parent, 2 current students

“To say that North Cross has been like family to us is an understatement. The North Cross family has been there for my family through extreme joy as well as extreme loss. I take great comfort knowing that each day when I drop my kids at school they are surrounded by loving, caring individuals who are completely focused on ensuring they not only receive a solid education, but that they are consistently assured they are loved and supported. We are blessed to have all of you as a part of our family!”

Parent, new student

“I could not have predicted the difference we see in our daughter in just two months at North Cross. She is up, dressed and has eaten breakfast by the time I get out of the shower. Then by the time I get home, she has started her homework on her own, marked the ones that she needs help on and again is waiting for me. She is much more confident and motivated.”

Parent, new student

“Honestly, the change in our son has been amazing. I walk through the door at night now and he’s already getting his homework done, and, in the morning, he’s up and ready to go to school. He loves being somebody at school, and loves having the chance to play on his team this year. He is a changed young man and we couldn’t be happier with what we’ve seen. We should have gotten him there sooner.”

Recent graduate

“Even at a place like UVA that’s so hard to get into, I’m surprised at how many of the other students are not used to how much work we do here; and I can’t believe how many are not prepared to write. Ms. Jones and other teachers prepared me - not only do feel ready and able to write thoughtful papers, but I understand the strategy behind writing in exams, and I thank my teachers for that.”

Recent graduate

“As much as I love my college, I miss North Cross. I know that I’m supposed to graduate and move on, but I cannot forget how special it was being there. It’s like your family and I feel I always will belong there. Yes, it was different coming back to school for a visit because I’ve graduated, but it still has a big place in my heart. I’m a Raider.”

We hope to use these in our marketing efforts, in brochures, in videos, and in our other efforts. If you've got any thoughts to share, I always welcome them.

Thank you all for all you do for our school and for the honor of serving your children.

Respectfully,

David

FOTA: Ellen McGimsey- Thanks to all who supported the Coffeehouse this year! We had close to 300 people attending. Over 130 students participated with 16 acts, plus almost 100 pieces of art displayed. We grossed \$5,800, plus \$630 for the piano fund.

The Lower School Musical is this weekend, 7pm, Friday & Saturday. FOTA is selling Heirloom tea sets on raffle. \$5.00 for one ticket or 3 for \$10.00.

An agreement has been made for a baby grand! A cover and dolly have also been ordered. We hope to have the piano delivered after by Dec. 7th! We are very excited!

Boosters: Marlo Pearson: We just bought a ball machine for tennis. There has been a lot of ongoing work to improve fields and sound equipment for our athletics. We are selling holiday greenery at this time which includes poinsettias and garland to name a couple. The greenery comes from Townside at cost and we sell it for a small profit to help aid athletics. Order forms have been sent out in the Lower School backpacks. Order forms are also available online.

Education: Angela Thomas: From Deborah Jessee, Assistant Head of School for Academics

- Continuing work on the VAIS Accreditation Visit and required documents--narratives and campus visit schedule are complete. Finalizing "Curriculum Fair" to showcase curriculum and programs. Accreditation team arrives on campus Sunday, December 4th.
- Continuing work with English department to evaluate ECP-12 curriculum and determine strengths, opportunities and recommendations.
- Continuing work with lower and middle school Spanish faculty, division directors and World Language department chair to address transitions and curriculum.
- Continuing work with the division directors, math department, and IT on opportunities to introduce Coding instruction.
- Continuing work with Leigh Ann Hamlin to develop curriculum and schedule speakers for faculty professional development on conflict resolution and digital citizenship.

Susan will be sending out an email requesting three parents from each division to come to a VAIS meeting. The visiting group would like to talk with involved parents about North Cross and their experience. This meeting will be Monday, December 5th at 9 a.m.

Crosswalk: Kate Parker: Thank you for bringing Crosswalk into the PA fold. A big thanks to the staff and volunteers who work for this program. Next Thursday night North Cross is hosting a reception for Crosswalk at Kate's home. This is to recognize our donors and increase awareness of the growth of our program. It has grown quite a bit since last year. We currently have around 22 students in the Crosswalk program which began 4-5 years ago. It is a very unique program and is based on the Orton Gillingham program. We are fortunate to have this program funded here at North Cross and to offer this to our community.

New Business: Susan Card- Elise will be sending Meet me Monday emails again as a reminder to help with the collections on Monday afternoons. The shed is packed with donations. The trailer is half full and a school bus is being used as storage for clothing.

Old Business:

Unless otherwise notified, future PA meetings will be held in the auditorium.
Minutes from November 10, 2016 were approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:05.