

**North Cross School
Parents' Association Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2016**

Attendance: Donna Batzel, Tonya Benson, Molly Burns, Kathy Callis, Susan Card, Cheryl Glose, Janine Kess, Deena Lugar, Ellen McGimsey, Linda Morgan, Marlo Pearson, Ashley Phelps, Karen Pruitt, Kristina Sommer, Tammy Snyder, Heather Taylor, Angela Thomas, Fiona Tower, and Susan Wenk.

Welcome: Susan Card called the meeting to order at 12:00.

President's Report: Susan Card- we received several nice thank you notes from teachers for the holiday gifts. We also received a thank you card from CHIP for the gifts we collected and donated. The NCS calendar has an event listed for January 29th, Founder's Day Dinner. We aren't having a dinner this year. There will be a teacher recognition event and they are doing this at the end of the day this year so that the teachers can attend. The times of the basketball games that night, together with the fact that there are several students in the upper school that will be away at the Harvard Model UN trip led us with the decision not to have a dinner this year.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Pruitt- We received our Kroger check today and it was \$4,512.74. The holiday teacher money we sent out was \$3,460.00 and we paid \$300 for the workers in maintenance. Our balance is \$13,484.67. The Willis Hall Teachers each received \$300, Eaton Hall Teachers received \$350-375 apiece and Ellis Hall parents received the most and the amount varied by grade with the minimum being \$300. Administrative people were also included, receiving \$300. NCS this year gave a small bonus this year to their administrative staff separately. Susan Card wrote a letter that will appear in Crossties this week, outlining all that the PA does for NCS. It lists the events, money donated, etc..

Ellis Hall: Fiona Tower- Students in first and third grades attended Roanoke Children's Theatre's production of SHREK during December. The lower school students, ECP through third grade, presented an excellent holiday program on Friday, December 18, at 10:30 in the CAC. Many thanks to PA for their support of the lower school's global music series. Grandparents and special friends were also welcomed to campus on the morning of the December 18th. They visited Ellis Hall classrooms and attended the music program. Students in Sra. Hermosilla's Spanish classes are enjoying the opportunity to practice their conversational Spanish when the exchange students from Argentina visit their classes. Kindergarten student will have the opportunity to interact with students from Roanoke's sister city, Wonju, on Thursday, January 21st. Ellis Hall teachers will host a Lower School Open House (grades ECP-5) on January 28, 2016 from 5:00-6:30. This event is an opportunity to visit classrooms, meet next year's teachers, and see class materials. Childcare will be provided for current students in the multi-purpose room. As part of the Tuesday with a Teacher series, an ERB follow-up session will be offered on Tuesday, January 19 at 4:00 p.m. in Lisa Cone's room. Lisa Cone and Dr. Proctor will present. Happy New Year!! In March, the Lower School will be participating in a program with Virginia Tech on technology combining an English component. It is a STEAM week. Zach DeMoss and

Deborah Jessee have been working hard on this. Something new and different for the Lower School.

Eaton Hall: Susan Wenk During the week before winter break, the sixth-grade students completed their Mock Business Projects, and it was wonderful to see the creative variety of items including lego gummies; iron-on photos; handmade scarves, headbands, and Christmas ornaments; and lots of different candies, cookies, and cupcakes. Many of the students gave me their business cards, and I was impressed by their thoughtful slogans and creative designs. On January 7, the seventh-grade students started their Stock Market Competition where they invest an imaginary \$10,000 in the market using their own personal strategies and plot their gains/losses over a seven-week period. On Wednesday, January 13, Joe Curran, NCS Class of 2007, will speak to the seventh-grade students during a special assembly to discuss the stock market and the work that a stock broker does. On January 14, the Middle and Upper School will have a joint assembly in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Dr. Joseph Keaton from the Central Baptist Church in Roanoke will be talking about the Civil Rights movement, and then the students will watch the award-winning film *Selma* about the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965. Alex Hash and I held a special assembly with the Middle School students to discuss the details of this march, the tragic events at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and the impact that this march had on passing the Voting Rights Act. We were delighted to welcome Argentinian student Federico Almiron to Eaton Hall for the rest of the winter term. He is the youngest member of the visiting group of Argentinian students, and the students have enjoyed having him in their classes. On Thursday, January 21, the Middle and Upper School students will have a joint assembly at 12:45 PM to watch the student production of *Inherit the Wind*. We will have a special assembly to discuss the plot and major themes of this play in advance of the production to make sure the students understand the nuances of the play. We are already planning for the 5th-grade Introduction to the Middle School that will be taking place on January 25. It is always nice to meet the students who will be moving to Eaton Hall next year, and this is a nice occasion to present both parents and students with information about Middle School life. The SCA is planning several events for the next month including a door decorating contest, a February Valentine's Day gift sale, and a guest speaker from the Children's Miracle Network. If you visit the Middle School office, you will notice that we have some newly-donated furniture from Norfolk and Southern that gives the office a slightly different look. We appreciate the generosity of Norfolk and Southern and the work of our maintenance department and Reed McGinn in selecting, moving, and arranging the furniture items. Our Trout-in-the-Classroom program has been going well, and we appreciate the parents and students who helped with the tank maintenance during winter break. We will soon select a release date in March or early-April to transport the trout to Roaring Run and release them into the creek. We are hoping to plan a special assembly on January 25 for a visiting group of Korean students from Wonju. I would like to have an assembly where we can welcome them and allow them to share some information about their school system and daily routine in Korea. Thank you for all your wonderful work and your support! ☺ Ed

Willis Hall: Donna Batzel- The Second Annual Bowling event, organized by SCA and the Susans, was a big success. About 40 students participated in this event on Sat. Dec 12 at Lee-Hi Lanes. The adult team included Mrs. Card, Mr. Belderer, Mr. Wenk, Mr. Clagett, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Kier, and Mr. Cook. The ski club is off to the slopes next Thursday and the following four Thursdays. The math and history clubs are meeting regularly with significant student participation in both clubs. A new 3D printer was purchased and currently being assembled by Mr. Belderer with the assistance of Charie Card - some assembly required cut the cost of the machine in half. We had a special guest speaker in early January at morning assembly. Yadav Sapkota was refugee immigrant that arrived to the US in 2011 from Nepal. He attended Patrick Henry, VA Western, and now is a third year student at UVA. He spoke about his life as a refugee, his transition to Roanoke and the US, and the importance of working hard, and reading everything that teachers/professors assign. Mrs. Leigh Ann Hamlin helped arranged this event. This afternoon students are watching the feature length film SELMA in recognition of MLK Day. Prior to the film we will have a brief presentation from Rev. Keaton about the civil rights time period here in Roanoke. Advisories will have a post-movie discussion at advisory lunch on Tuesday. Inherit The Wind - next Thursday is the in-school theatre performance for MS and US students. Next Friday and Saturday, Jan 22 and 23 are evening performances in Fishburn at 7:30pm. Model UN students, 40 in total are heading to Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania Jan 28-Thanks for all parental support with all we are doing at NCS - and special thanks to Susan and Susan for all their ideas, time, efforts, and resources! Winter Pep Rally will be held 2/17, 2-3PM. There is a Sadie Hawkins Dance on 2/26 which has never been done before.

Ways and Means: Susie Wagoner- no report except to continue to support Kroger Cares.

Community: Kathy Callis- Thank you to everyone for helping with the setup and hotdog wrapping. Everyone seemed to have fun. Santa was a hit and the toy donation box was overflowing. All of the food we purchased was used except for a few boxes of chips which we can use at our next event. The cost was \$336. Kathy would like PA to give a token of appreciation to Anne Akers in the dining Hall. Karen Pruitt will send her \$50 and a thank you card. Upcoming Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon. One possible date is 3/2, the Wednesday before Spring Break. We are going to ask the Middle School to provide desserts and drinks for this event. She will send out more information as the date gets closer. Susan Card asked Anne Akers in the Dining hall to organize and provide food for the upcoming Symposium, 2/26.

Development: Susan Card read report from Pam Haskins- The Annual Fund as of 1/04/16 was \$212,584 vs. \$230,881 last year, with gifts still coming in, if they are postmarked 12/31/15 we will accept them for 2015 tax purposes. We have 296 donors vs. a total of 342 last year. Current Parent giving is at 24% vs. 26% last year as of 12/31. *Gala:* Invitations for the Gala, a James Bond themed, *From Roanoke with Love*, should be in everyone's mailboxes this week, we already have commitments for over half the tables, so get your friends together and reserve a

table, as in prior years if you don't have the energy to organize 10 people who want to sit together, the committee will organize tables so just come. The CAC will look great, we have a really fun band, Groove Town, and different auction items than in previous years, with a lot of Bond inspired items. Ask Robin to speak, or Pam you can talk about what it will look like as a teaser. Cook Athletic Field. As of this writing we have 132 donors who have made gifts or pledges of \$176,938, and will be reaching out to everyone this spring. The Development Office would like to thank PA for running the Holiday Tree lighting again this year, it is a wonderful community event, and was so much fun and well organized. Big Flea is on the horizon, April 9th, We are receiving donations on Mondays at 3 in "Meet Me Mondays", and the storage building is filling up. Our chairs are Elise and Zack DeMoss.

Education: Angela Thomas- The Upper School update will be the second Tuesday in February. Mrs. Jessee is going to reschedule the update that we missed in November and it looks like it will be held in March, but this hasn't been finalized yet. The Middle School update was this past Tuesday.

Boosters: Tammy Snyder- winter sports include basketball and swimming. Admission collections and concessions sales are going well. Team liaisons have done well coordinating coverage for the games. They also want to remind people that admission costs only applies to those people that attend games that are non NCS families. Boosters would also like to thank PA for splitting the cost of the large white tent for Homecoming and for supporting and helping out at Raider Joes.

FOTA: Ellen McGimsey- The Winter Play, *Inherit the Wind*, will be presented 1/22 & 1/23, about the Scopes Monkey Trial. Middle and Upper School will have a daytime performance on 1/21. Encourage students to come again to the evening shows. Mrs. Jones and the students have worked very hard and put in a lot of time. Middle School district band tryouts were held 1/9 and she believes that 16 students tried out. 11 made it. The piano fund is raising money for 4 "new to us" refurbished Yamaha pianos. We have had some contributions so far and it looks like we will be getting at least 1 new piano by the end of the year. This is a multiyear endeavor. Price of each piano may vary based upon what is available at the time. Currently 1 piano is about \$4,500. Mrs. Donnini would like to get the same pianos. Current plans are for the pianos to be located in the auditorium, band room, chorus room and practice room. Last week the Upper School held Muses at Bay, which is a talent showcase. It was fantastic. The acts included several piano performances and one of the teachers sang in French.

Admissions: Deena Lugar- Admission Update for PA – Amy Jackson Total enrollment is 487, 3 new students have enrolled since last meeting (2nd and two in 10th grade). 4 student withdrew (three moved and one changed schools – one in ECP-1 and three in ninth grade). Several additional families are currently considering a mid-year move (We are working with these

families right now for a pretty immediate transition, if all works out...we typically do not admit families much later unless there is a move to the area.)

Admission Events -- Visit Days (those with ECP tours on the same day are noted

- Tuesday, January 19 (registration by January 15)
- Thursday, January 21 – ECP Tour only (registration by January 20)
- Monday, February 8 – ECP tour also
- Thursday, March 24 – ECP tour also
- Wednesday, March 30
- Thursday, March 31
- Friday, April 1
- Friday, April 26 – ECP tour also

Please encourage everyone to forward these events and/or share/like on Facebook.

Reenrollment

- Begins Wednesday, January 27, and is due by February 10
- Will do incentive again – drawing for one student’s tuition at the previous year’s rate – must be fully enrolled by the deadline (with contract and deposit complete) – children of faculty, staff, and board are not eligible
- Question for Susan: I’d like to do the drawing at the February 11 PA meeting, but with that quick turnaround, it may not work. I want to make sure we have an accurate list, of course! Could we be penciled in on the agenda for that day?
- Please encourage everyone to reenroll within the window.

Inquiries

- Comparable number to last year
- Visit Days, ECP tours, and testing dates are seeing lots of activity!

The Roanoker- Please encourage everyone to participate in *The Roanoker’s* “Best of” voting – we want to make sure NCS earns its top award status! The details were in the January 8 CrossTies email.

Old Business- Motion made and minutes from the December meeting were approved. Fiona Tower inquired about us adding a CrossWalk representative to the PA Board. Susan Card said that she would discuss this with Kit Prillaman, CrossWalk Program Director. The CrossWalk teachers as well as the extended day staff were not included with our collection because there are such a small number of students who participate with these programs. Typically the families who utilize extended day and CrossWalk provide gifts at the holidays.

Next member Thursday, Feb 11, 2016.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:41.