

**North Cross School
Parents' Association Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2015**

Attendance: Donna Batzel, Sara Bartlett, Tonya Benson, Bettye Bohon, Neil Bohon, Molly Burns, Susan Card, Elise DeMoss, Cheryl Glose, Maggie Lenkowski. Ellen McGimsey, Linda Morgan, Karen Pruitt, Kristina Sommer, Tammy Snyder, Heather Taylor, Fiona Tower, Susie Wagoner, Susan Wenk, Susan Wenk, and Sharon Williams.

Welcome: Susan Card called the meeting to order at 12:05

President's Report: Susan Card explained that she, Karen Pruitt and Linda Morgan had a meeting with Dr. Proctor this week. The discussion was concerning what the school's goals for the PA are for this year. Dr. Proctor would like us to do what we did last year including the bonfires, teacher appreciation lunches, Education forum, Homecoming, Prom, Red and White Day. Founder's Day won't be as big of a deal this year since the school is 71 years this year. Kroger isn't giving us as much money as they did in the past. Our concern is funding all we have to do. We spoke about it with Dr. Proctor. They explained that they allowed us the running of the big flea. We are expecting about \$13,000-\$15,000 from that. The contract with Kroger gets renegotiated by the end of the year so we don't know what's going to happen with that until later. We explained that we spent about \$29,000 on all the things PA did for the school last year. We tried to come up with alternate means for fundraising. The school has asked us to approach them if we want to spend money on something for the school. They don't want us doing specific fundraising for the school. They want the fundraisers to be Annual Fund, Gala and Big Flea. They don't want us nickel and diming the families. Right now our fundraising is on hold until we know what is going on with Kroger. The department heads aren't supposed to ask us for money any longer. Everything has to go through the division heads. They are supposed to put what they want in their budgets.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Pruitt- Bill for the donuts came to \$500. We only owed Southern Concessions for the chips and that came to \$136.86. We received a Kroger check yesterday and it was \$3966.36. Our current balance is \$15,205.57.

New Business: Susan Card- Something that is coming up that we need to vote on is Homecoming. Homecoming is a week of fun activities for the kids. It starts 10/20/2015. There is a powder puff game that Tuesday, Juniors and Seniors vs. Freshman and Sophomores. It will be on the football field at 2PM. At halftime of this game there is a halftime extravaganza. Spirit Days and being reviewed for approval. Homecoming Dance will be in the White Room of Blue 5. Spirit Days are Tuesday through Friday. Friday is the pep rally. Games follow. On Saturday there are field hockey games and the football game. Saturday night is the dance at 8PM. The night before Halloween is a football game at Salem Stadium. The little kids are getting some Leis and pom-poms to pass out to the game the following day. Maybe the Raider can pass these out to the ECP children. These grade levels haven't attended in the past as the kids have felt it was too loud for them. It was suggested that this was delivered to them before 1PM. We need to vote on this. Last year we voted to have \$3,000 available and what wasn't needed was returned to the account. SCA pays for the dance. Tickets are \$20. This will cover the venue. Blue 5 can

accommodate 160 people. We will also have a Homecoming Court that will be announced at the Pep Rally. The King and Queen will be crowned at halftime of the football game on Saturday. They will also be presented at the dance. We need to vote if we want to put \$3,000 aside again this year. Motion made to put \$3,000 aside for Homecoming expenses, motion was seconded and all were in favor. Last year we voted bring an unwrapped toy to the Holiday Bonfire to donate to charities at Christmastime. We can look into this next month. Let's be aware of what other asks are being done during the holidays. Dr. Proctor's new assistant, Rebekah Bradley, has asked how she can be of help to us. She is also the social media person for the school.

Ellis Hall: Fiona Tower- Amy Holley hosted the first, "Tuesdays with a Teacher", on Tuesday, October 6th. Betsy Cook will host the second on Tuesday, October 13, in the Lower School Garden's outdoor classroom at 3:00pm. Rehearsals for the Lower School musical, Cinderella, continue. Performances will be November 20 and 21, 2015. School picture make-up day is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27th. Lower School Halloween Parade will be on Thursday, October 29th at 10:00 am. The Ellis Hall parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for Friday, October 30. No school - Holiday Care will be available.

Eaton Hall- Susan Wenk On September 25, Sandy Patterson 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 day turned out to be cool and rainy, but the students seemed to have a great time despite the weather. The date of the fall Middle School dance had to be changed back to October 23 due to the inclement weather last week. However, this change will make the dance a part of the Homecoming Weekend, which should be fun. The students already seem excited about Homecoming Spirit Week, and we appreciate the time and enthusiasm provided by the Parents' Association to make this week a special one. The Middle School students are taking the ERB tests from October 7 – 12. We have spread the tests over four days in order to keep the daily testing times to 90 minutes or less each day. All the testing will also take place during the morning to facilitate student focus. On October 13, Decca Knight will be speaking during a Break assembly about Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She is on the Board of the Susan B. Komen Foundation, and we will also have a Dress-in-Pink Day as a fundraiser for the Komen Foundation. The trout tank in Mrs. Patterson's classroom has been prepared by members of Trout Unlimited for the 2015-16 Trout-in-the-Classroom Program, and the new eggs have now arrived. In the next week, we should begin to see the trout start hatching. Lauren Daniel is currently applying for a position as a Senate or House Page during the winter term. For the past five years, we have had at least one student selected for the Page program in Richmond, and we wish Lauren great luck in the application process. Students who serve as Pages always give a presentation to the Eaton Hall student body upon their return to school in the spring term to detail their experiences in Richmond. Thanks for your support! You are the best!

Willis Hall- Donna Batzel- Last night our college counselor, met with parents and students in the upper school (mostly 10th and 11th grade), to begin to navigate the college process. Topics covered included the new SAT, general time lines for preparing and being organized, and some of the basic nuts and bolts for the college process. Mr. Wes Clagget, new math teacher, has started a chess club and chess program in the upper school. This has been very popular in just last couple of weeks, and will become more formalized in the next few months. 33 students were recognized at a recent upper school assembly as AP Scholars for their success and results on AP exams. This represents a significant number of students from the class of 2015 and 2016 and is one measure of the strength of our academic program.

20 students and 5 faculty will be attending the Fowler Series Speaker, Jon Huntsman at Roanoke College on Nov 2. Huntsman is a former Utah governor, US ambassador to Singapore and China, and his presentation is entitled, "Our Future with China." The Horace G. Fralin Program for Global Studies kicked off the year's speaker series with a panel discussion on immigration to the US. It was led by Ms. Christine Lockhart Poarch, an attorney that specializes in immigration and naturalization. The other 3 women included an immigrant from Romania, Venezuela (seeking political asylum), and the daughter of an immigrant from Jamaica and South Africa. Their powerful stories really resonated with many of our students. The panel joined 20 students for lunch in Parrott Conference room for an individual question/answer session. We are gearing up homecoming and spirit week and thank PA and the SCA for all their work in making those events AWESOME - especially the pep rally and homecoming dance. Our annual fall hikes in the upper school are on Friday Oct 30 - fingers crossed for great weather. Again, thanks to all on PA who make significant contributions to NCS!

Ways and Means- Susie Wagoner-no report at this time

Community- Kristina Sommer- our next event is Faculty Staff appreciation day is scheduled for October 28, 2015. Ann Akers will cater the event and will provide lasagna, salad and bread sticks. The committee is requesting desserts, fruit and drinks from the high school. We will send out an email to the high school grade representatives with a detailed list of what is needed from each class. We will also need volunteers from each class to monitor at lunchtime, especially the lower school. Kathy Callis has a family member who makes corn hole boards. He can make them with NCS logo and colors. Total cost is \$250. Boosters has agreed to pay \$125 and she is asking for PA to pay \$125. PA has agreed to pay \$125.

Development- Linda Morgan for Pam Haskins. The annual fund campaign has launched, all of you should have received your pledge cards and a letter from John and Donna Batzel, our chairs. You will notice that we listed your 5 years of giving history on your pledge sheet. It was nice to receive a few comments from people who noticed that thanks to PA input, our tone had changed in the appeal. Our "pledge now, give later" approach is working from what we've seen so far, Faculty Staff giving is at 93% vs. last year's total of 88% for the year, Trustee giving is at 90%, it always ends up at 100% but we are ahead of last years' giving percentage at this time, as our Trustees pledged earlier this year to lead our campaign. We listen to you and see you as leaders, and we would love to see PA lead our parent community by pledging early as well. Of course Bluegrass and BBQ is this weekend, we still have tickets available, come, listen to some great music, visit with fellow parents, and all proceeds benefit the school. Please thank the Arnolds, the H'Doublers, the Sells, the Moskals, the Sommers, the Woltz, and Mary Lynn Wright who are underwriting the event. Big Flea pickups and donations are coming in steadily, the storage unit has plenty of space for all your unwanted items. We have parents coming in, getting the code, and dropping off their goods on the schedule that suits them. Starting Monday, October 12th, each Monday there will be someone there to receive item. The Gala committee has selected a theme, and are working on decorations, a band, and securing sponsorships and auction items. Thank you to the Sells, Vistar, Rutherford Insurance, and Roanoke Cement who have already sponsored this event.

Admissions- No report

Education- Susan Card for Angela Thomas. The next Headmaster Update for October 27th at 12pm. He is planning to discuss his upcoming trip with Mr. Robillard, and a couple students, to China. It was suggested that one of the students attend the update to give their views on the trip.

Elise De Moss gave us an update on the storage shed that is being used for Big Flea. They are taking donations on Mondays from 3-4. She can meet people at other times, as can David Lake. She is trying to sort items as it comes in. She has the tax receipts down there. She wants to keep it organized as they receive items. Shelves were recently built and she made laminated signs for each section for instance housewares. It was brought up that it would be great if there could be some advertising during carpool with Big Flea drop off times. There has been an exterminator at the storage shed, waterproofing has been completed by Shawn and a fan was installed for ventilation. There are 200 desks in there that need to be moved. Chris Nichols, 3rd grade parent will do large item pick up using a trailer donated from the Sells family. There are couches and a piano already down there.

FOTA- Ellen McGimsey- The committee is continuing to work on the coffeehouse which is Friday 11/6/2015 at 6PM. She is passing around a sign up for the refreshment committee. They need bakers. 2 dozen of anything in small bite size pieces. They also need cases of small water bottles. FOTA may want the grade reps to forward this request to their classes but haven't decided yet. There will be advertising in Crossties next week. Don't send along anything that requires refrigeration. It is being held at Virginia Western.

Boosters- No report

Old Business- we still need a VP for PA

New Business – There is a signup sheet for PA committees including Ways and Means, Community, Development, Admissions and Education. These committees need help when there is an event.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00.