



NORTH DAVIS ELEMENTARY
PTA GENERAL MEETING MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2017 AT 7:00PM
NORTH DAVIS ELEMENTARY MPR

Meeting called to order 7:06pm.

In attendance: Sophie Javers, Sarah Roseen, Sarah Eich, Bobbi Avery, Renee Adams, Brenna Hughes, Katharine Desjarlias, Vicki Quinn, Paula Reaves, Jen Roach, Sam King, Renee Hoch, Xiaodan Zhao, Camille Stephenson, Andrea Luttringer, Kristen Gong, Channa Roe, Roberta Savage, Haiping Liu, Hongjin Chen, Diana Zhang.

- **Welcome and Introductions**

Sophie invited parents who were new to the meetings to share their motivation for attending tonight and what they are interested in gaining from the meetings. Many new parents introduced themselves with the common goal of learning what is going on at NDE and meeting new people.

- **Approve Agenda**

Sophie motioned to approve the agenda. Bobbi seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Approve May 2017 and September 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Sophie motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Brenna seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

- **Counseling Presentation-Alicia Perry**

Alicia introduced herself and the counseling program at NDE. She first asked for questions from parents attending. Questions included; Where are safe spaces at NDE? Will there be groups targeted for bullying prevention? Who sees bullying on campus and where? How do kids get access to a counselor? What do school counselors do besides bullying prevention? How do you help students understand what bullying is?

Alicia shared that it is her 12th year as an elementary school counselor and that she just moved her from Atlanta. She is half of a 90% counseling position and Cristina Escareno is the other school counselor. Over the last several years, there has been a shift in the role of a school counselor, from a schedule coordinator to someone who helps children with their social emotional well being.

Alicia explained that Cristina wrote a grant last year to develop a counseling center on campus in a classroom. The space will allow them to possibly see two students at once, support

counseling interns finishing their graduate program, and service more small groups of students. They will also be providing whole class instruction in the counseling room, so that students see counseling as a place for all kids. Alicia shared that they are currently going into classrooms presenting lessons on conflict resolution and anti-bullying, depending on the grade level. Sophie asked when the space will be ready, and Alicia said that the furniture is ordered and that they are hoping to have it up and running by the end of November. In the meantime, the counselors are still occupying the space and are available to the students.

Kids can access the counselor through teacher referral, parent referral, or self referral. The counseling room is also open at recess to play games. The counselors' goal is to make themselves accessible for all students. If a parent wants to refer their child, they can talk to their child's teacher, or email the school counselor. Alicia noted that school counselors are different from therapists and they do not provide therapy on campus. What kids need is very individualized and what the counseling looks like will vary depending on student needs. For example, there have been "divorce" groups and "grief" groups in the past.

A school counselor is for a variety of things because they are educators with mental health training. They can help with issues around anger, anxiety, attendance, bullying, career exploration, community referrals, coping skills, digital citizenship, diversity, inclusion, family changes, friendship, goal setting, grief, perfectionism, perseverance, personal safety skills, resolving conflicts, sadness, self-control, self-concept/esteem, school adjustment/phobia, test taking strategies or anxiety, teamwork, and work habits.

Sarah Roseen announced that the school is in the middle of their "Youth Truth" Survey that measures students' feelings about school. As a climate committee, the school team uses the anonymous data to drive interventions around NDE.

The younger grades have been participating in lessons on Kelso's Choices and conflict prevention.

Alicia shared the goals of the bullying prevention lessons in the upper grades. The anti bullying program has been focused at 5th and 6th grade. The lessons have centered around building empathy and assertiveness. Sarah Roseen shared that she does not believe that we have a pervasive bullying problem at North Davis Elementary. The school has been dealing with "roasting," which is where kids play a teasing game and try to see who can hurt each other more. Sarah, the counselors, and teachers at NDE have been working to change this behavior and learn from it.

Alicia added that they are also talking about sarcasm and how it can hurt people. The technical definition of bullying is that it involves a power imbalance, it is purposeful, and it is ongoing. The counselors have been working with students to be able to distinguish between bullying and a conflict. They are supporting students who feel like they may not want to "tell" when they are being bullied. Sarah Roseen explained that discipline around bullying is specific to each incident, but that the district does have a progressive discipline plan for students having repeated issues at school.

The counselors will be holding a parent information night on November 29th at 7pm to speak to parents about bullying and bullying prevention at NDE. Alicia and Cristina hope to hold the event in the new counseling center. Alicia shared that the best way to get ahold of her is via email aperry@djud.net

Roberta asked if there will be a parent library as part of their counseling center. Alicia will check with the school library and see if that is a possibility. She also noted that there will be a handout for parents who cannot make the meeting on the 29th.

Jen shared that the Davis Parent University had a lecture from the author of the book Unselfie last week and there is an audio file on the DPU website.

- **Treasurer's Report - Call for Auditor**

Not much has changed on the budget. The executive board approved a \$500 line item to support at Makerfaire. Samantha King shared information about Makerfaire. It is a workshop that promotes student design and STEM education at NDE. We will use recycled materials from homes, and the \$500 will supplement by purchasing glue guns, nails, and other materials. Sophie added that it will be a parent night where families can be involved as well.

Camille explained that the PTA is looking for an auditor. The PTA books need to be audited in order to apply for grants. This person does not need to be an accountant, but just follows a checklist to make sure that the books are in order. Sophie added that the CAPTA grants need a current audit. Bobbi explained that the auditor position is part of the PTA board.

Sophie also explained the programs that the PTA hopes to support with additional grant money. The executive board is discussing ways to promote parent engagement with translation services and using the money to hold a Spring Makerfaire as well.

- **Teacher Update**

Sarah Eich reported updates from different grade levels. First Grade just took their Davis Community field trip, by riding the P Line around town and looking for landmarks on a check-off list. They also JUST had their 1st grade social (Tues. before the PTA meeting!).

Third grade has been studying the wetlands, and has completed a unit with a field trip to Cache Creek Nature Preserve in Woodland. They continue to practice self manager skills, and celebrating accomplishments by having monthly awards assemblies, and drawings of self manager bucks for prizes. They have been using the Chromebook cart quite often, and their students are growing quickly in their technology skills in using Google Docs, Google Classroom, Typing Club, and learning some word processing skills. Tying in to their government unit, Robb Davis, our mayor, came and spoke to all the third graders about our city government and why he chose to participate. He did an awesome speaking to the students and answering questions.

This year, Cristina Escareno has been coming weekly to make presentations about anti-bullying. 5th grade shared that their students have had some very meaningful discussions around the topic. The students also created a "NDE is Bully Free" message on the bike racks in honor of the month. 5th grade is also using the Chromebooks daily to support the new ELA curriculum. Becca Yazdani, one of the 5th grade teachers, is teaching theater improv for all the 5th grade classes.

- **Principal's Update**

Sarah thanked staff and parents for all the support with the anti-bullying campaign at the beginning of the year. Sarah reminded attendees of the upcoming auction, and made a call for volunteers. She met with the auction team this week, and there are several jobs that still need to be completed in anticipation of the event. Sophie added that there is a SignUp Genius for volunteers to help with the auction. There is also a volunteer option to do a swap and work at the Willet auction, so that they will send some people to work our auction. Sophie shared the different places where people can find the SignUp Genius. The online auction has already started as well. Visit ndepta.com

There is a group called A Touch of Understanding that comes out to do assemblies. It centers around teaching empathy and helping students learn to walk in each others' shoes. The hope is to have the 5th and 6th grades experience it this year, and going forward the 5th

graders will participate. Sophie added that there is money left over from the fidget grants from last year, that will likely go towards supporting this program.

On the topic of empathy, Jen suggested having a school group showing of the movie *Wonder*, which is based on the book. Katherine D. asked if we have a school license to show movies. Sarah Roseen will check on this.

Kristen asked if there is anything that the school is doing to gather donations for some of the disasters that have occurred recently. Sarah Roseen shared that many groups, specifically in the Santa Rosa fires, have been overwhelmed with donations as the news has been reporting. As the needs become more apparent, there are several groups, including students, that would like to spearhead a donation drive.

Sarah also noted that NDE participates in a STEAC coat drive and that the staff adopts a family each year around the holidays.

Brenna suggested pairing a donation day with the Community Cart. Sophie added the auction committee has found a way to do a "Fund an Item" to support a PTA in Texas as they rebuild after the recent natural disasters.

- **Upcoming Events and Activities**

- **NDE Auction- October 27th 6:30pm**

- **Fall Makerfaire Workshop- Date TBD**

- **Woodstocks- Pizza with a Purpose-November 8th**

- **There was a discussion about the Family Fun Night dinner out at Woodstocks in September. Andrea was wondering what specifically the money is going towards and if teachers are still interested in supplementing the Benchmark Advance ELA program with read alouds, as they previously requested. Sarah Eich will pose this to the staff and get feedback. There will be a follow up discussion about this at the next executive board meeting.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.