



Norton Creek

Parent Teacher Organization

PTO Meeting Minutes **August 23 2022 5:30 PM**

Meeting called to order by Elisa Ignash @ 5:34pm

In Attendance (In-Person) Elisa Ignash, Stephanie McCubbin, Jennifer Reyes, Elizabeth Doren, Tony White, Jessica Denk, Karen Morici, Hannah Mesick, Murisa Dogic-Mustafa, Marla Wanner, Erica Moeser, Kari Olech, Leena Deshpande (Vajaria), Joy Krelle, Megan Kuczora, Cyndie Ruhstorfer, Katie Nanek, Alyson Zimmerman, Jessica Klepacki, John Michalisko, Amy Maritote & Shannon Ring.

In Attendance (ZOOM)
Kristin Berry, Rose Klippel

President's Report – Elisa Ignash

- Welcome from the new board. Reminder to all to register on PTO website. Don't forget to download the convenient app. Reminder to all that when a motion is made everyone present must vote.

Approval of Minutes - Jennifer Reyes

- May 2022 minutes ([Found Here](#)) have been sent out via multifacet communications. A motion to approve the PTO board minutes was made by Tony White, seconded by Amy Maritote, and passed with a unanimous vote from all in attendance.

Principal's Report - Tony White

- EXCELLENT VIBE! Great start to the school year with an amazing vibe from all students, parents, teachers & staff.
- Why does school start so early? D303 is K-12 and highschool wanted to take exams before break.
- New superintendent Paul Gordon. Brings great energy to D303 and is extremely approachable.
- Norton Creek needs help! We are in need of a teaching assistant for the RISE program as well as an enrollment teaching assistant. 27 students is the CAP which then requires an assistant in the room for 3 hours. Pay is not great but it is a great way to get involved.
- I-Ready initial testing completed for grades 1-5. Kindergarten will take complete testing in September around Labor Day. Never worry about I-Ready testing, everyone works at a different level. "School is not a competitive sport and neither is parenting".
- Mr. M chimed in to point out that the feeling/vibe of the students is GREAT! Covid generated fear for many students and in the few short weeks so far kids are smiling and feeling good. There is less fear.

- Lockdown drill and fire drill scheduled 8/25/22. Parents still have time to opt out if desired.
- Finley Ring won the basket raffle prize of a police ride to school and has decided to cash in his prize on Friday, 8/26/22. Do not be alarmed when you see a police vehicle at drop off. There is no emergency.

Teachers Report –Kristin Berry

- A big thank you for the sweet & salty snack in the teachers lounge. All teachers in agreement that it makes them feel good and brightens their day. Lindy Lorenz asked to mention our large need for book fair volunteers. Please consider volunteering.

Treasurer's Report – Elizabeth Doren

- Elizabeth discussed the [Budget vs. Actuals August 2022](#)
- We have a healthy bank account and plan to spend big and fundraise big.
- Each month we will discuss expenses in and out from the previous month. Nothing much to report for July because school was not in session. Next month we will have numbers on Popsicles in the park and Spirit wear.
- Card readers are up and running but cash and checks are always preferred.
- Cheddar Up overview given. Site used to make donations & payments. Processing fees paid by purchaser instead of taken from the PTO funds raised.
- Cyndie Ruhstorfer asked if a check was received from school supply kit sales. No check received as of yet.

Committee Reports

- **Welcome Committee**- Shannon Dahlem & Susan Brewster not present to provide a report. Elisa Ignash provided a brief overview of the committee. Welcome signs & packets to new students, popsicles in the park.
 - As you may have noticed, popsicles in the park has expanded. With increased size comes a greater need for volunteers. We will NEED more volunteers to keep the expanded event going.
 - Some popsicles in the park feedback was provided. Many suggested food in the future. Many Eagle families were having to leave for food and come back. Name tags were a huge help. Weather prevented the use of the microphone so a megaphone in the future might be something to look into having on hand.
- **Loop The Lake**-Megan Kuczora, Jessica Klepacki, Alyson Zimmerman, & Katie Nanek (all present tonight).
 - Previously, loop the lake was sign up and attend. We are now going back to it being a fundraiser. Details going out in backpacks 8/25/22. There is a pledge goal of \$50 per family. The more you raise the more raffle tickets each family will receive. There will be around 20 raffle prizes (giftcards) to many different local establishments. Loops will be given to the kids with each loop around the lake. We are using cheddar up to collect sponsorship funds <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/loop-the-lake-2022>. The event will also have music and food! The committee has asked for VOLUNTEERS! With the expanded fun we need

more helping hands. Check out membership toolkit under the volunteer tab to see what volunteer stations are available.

- **Eagles Eat Out** -Elisa Ignash
 - A reminder to everyone that our kick off is tomorrow evening, 8/24/22 @ Colonial Cafe. Total for last school year funds raised about \$3,605!!
- **Spirit Wear** -Kaisa Davis (not present)
 - As you may have seen our spirit wear styles have been revamped! We also have several new items. (bows, blanket, bags, water bottle)
- **Art Club**-Kari Olech
 - Kari Olech-founder of the art club (yay & thank you) detailed the plan for the current school year. Instead of 1 group of kids there will be 3 groups of 25 divided by grade level. K&1, 2&3, and 4&5 will be the 3 groups. With the increase in students we will need VOLUNTEERS! Volunteers do NOT need to have art skills. Visit Membership Toolkit to complete your volunteer signup.
- **Room Parent Committee**-Joy Krelle & Jessica Klepacki (both present)
 - This year room parent and party signup will be done through Membership Toolkit. We are going back to pre-covid party structure of 2 room parents, a lead-parent and a co-parent. These 2 parents will be present for all classroom parties and they will have 2 volunteers for each party. Parties are Halloween (10/28), Winter (12/21) & End of Year (5/26). Parent volunteers are allowed to sign up for only 1 party. Signup will go live on MTK Friday, 8/26 @ 9am. ALL parents who will be volunteering in the school this year MUST have the D303 volunteer liability form and Norton Creek code of conduct form completed and on file with the office (Dena) by 10/1/22.
 - There will be a room parent meeting held on 9/7 @ 6pm.
- **Yearbook Committee**-Shelly Atienza (not present)
 - This will be Shelly's last year and is looking for a shadow. If you are interested in yearbook signup can be found under the volunteer tab on Membership Toolkit.
- **School Supply Committee**-Cyndie Ruhstorfer (Present)
 - Kits were a huge hit this year with 170 kits purchased. This generated a total of \$553 to the PTO! There were no issues with the company and everything was very smooth. Plan to use the same company next year.
- **Assemblies**-Executive Board (present)
 - Assembly plan for the school year is as follows.
 - Story teller-Jim May is planned for September. He will give 4 performances, K-2, 3-4, 5, and RISE. Total for Jim is \$1000.
 - South Paw with the Chicago White Sox in mid November with anti bullying assembly. There will be 2 shows. There is no charge for this assembly.

- Wheel of Wisdom-game show. Questions in game show format based on current classroom lessons. \$1495
- Veteran's Day Assembly-11/11/22-This year back to original format. Veterans come for student singing and speaking presentations. The girl and boy scouts come too. Very beautiful assembly, happy to have it back.
- Science Night- Mad Science family night-(March) gathering information for many different stations with different activities/experiments for families to do together. Confirmed details to come.

New Business -Elisa Ignash & Elizabeth Doren

- Gaga Ball
 - Discussed gaga ball and heard from Mr. M the benefits of having the arena vs using the gym mats as has in the past. Cost is \$1488 with freight. Pros of gaga ball were given. Help kids with dodging, fleeing, striking and hand eye coordination. Cons were also discussed. Glorified dodgeball? Limitations with how many can play?
 - A motion was made by Tony White to approve the purchase of the gaga pit and seconded by Joy Krelle. 21 in favor 1 opposed. Motion passes.
- Norton Creek Golf Outing
 - 1st NC adult only fundraiser. Planned for 10/16/22 at Pottawatomie 9 hole golf course. No cost to the PTO for the event. Will gather sponsorships for the holes.
 - A motion to hold the golf outing was made by Jennifer Reyes and seconded by Jessica Denk. All in favor. Motion passes.
- Room Parent Stipend
 - Classroom parties have been paid by the classroom parents in the past. PTO would like to provide each lead room parent a \$100 stipend to share in the costs. Parents must complete a reimbursement form along with receipts.
 - A motion was made to approve the room parent stipends by Jennifer Reyes and seconded by Amy Maritote. All in favor. Motion passes.
- Book Fair
 - Book fair is going back in person! Book fair will be held the week of parent teacher conferences 10/3/22-10/7/22. We are in need of a parent volunteer to chair this committee. The chair will work with Lindy Lorenz and Anderson Books. We use Anderson Books so that we can have access to the author visits they provide. Along with a chair, we NEED volunteers to run the book fair all week. Without volunteers there can be no book fair.

Open Discussion/Comments-ALL

- Jessica Denk inquired about the trampolines that were going to be purchased last year. Jessica Klepacki explained that the items were continuously back ordered and then discontinued so no purchase could be made.

- Many asked if AVIC would be returning this year. Yes, it is provided by the district and we will receive more information at the 1st DPTO meeting. Our program is chaired and co-chaired by Kelly Charlson & Lauren Marica. Parent sign up will be on MTK.
- Erica Moeser asked if Chess Club would be returning this year. It was explained that we lost our parent volunteer and can only bring it back if we get someone to run it. It was explained that the chess club is operated by a company that brings EVERYTHING. The parent volunteer doesn't need to know how to play chess. Their responsibilities are to take attendance and monitor the children while present. If you are interested, reach out to the PTO board.
- Erica Moeser asked where are the gaps between PTO parents & the teachers? Elisa explained that teachers are invited and welcome at our PTO meetings. PTO has created an information board in the staff lounge to inform them of the PTO events. We saw MANY teachers at the popsicles event. We have a new teacher appreciation chair who is doing it a little differently this year. We will be working hard to support our teachers all year long.

Next Meeting will be Friday, September 9, 2022 at 9:30am

Tony White motioned to end the meeting, Elizabeth Doren seconded, all in attendance in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM

Elisa Ignash PTO President

Jennifer Reyes, PTO Secretary

Stephanie McCubbin, PTO Vice President

Elizabeth Doren, PTO Treasurer