



# Naperville North High School Home & School Meeting Minutes April 20, 2021

**Call to order at 9:04 am by Christine Simonson**

**Board Members present:** Christine Simonson, Diana McClaurin, Deneen Robert, Carrie Meikle, Tara Rester, Caitlin Denker, Kelly O'Malley, Kim Henderson, Denise Petty, Patti Schroeder, Pam Biederman, Tara Rester, Nancy Matambo, Patti Schlecht, Gail Micheau

**Administrators present:** Jay Wachtel, Jen Baumgartner, Brian LaPorte

## **Executive Board Reports**

### **President Report: Christine Simonson**

Good News:

- Congrats to ESports & Girls Badminton both State Champs! Esports will be going to Nationals!
- 94% of all staff fully/partially vaccinated!

Thank you's:

- Staff Appreciation -Denise Petty & Pam Biederman for putting together St. Patty's day lunch for 340 staff. Special thanks to Denise Petty for researching caterers and working out details with Belgio's. Thanks to Belgio's for a great meal & Principal Wachtel for helping fund the luncheon.
- Senior Mailings-Carrie Meikle & Heather Fields for organizing volunteers and coordinating Senior Mailers. Also, thank you to all parent volunteers who helped stuff and seal over 630 envelopes.!
- Congrats to Kristen Fitzgerald on her re-election to District 203 BOE
- SFCP - Reminder of Harlan Cohen event April 21st - "17 things you need to do before college." Need to register for free event

General Announcements:

- The General Exec Board was approved. Start July 1, 2021
  - Dani Bourgeios - President
  - Tammy Schultz - Vice President
  - Melanie Lucero - Treasurer
  - Emily Kozlowski - Secretary
- NO PSAT for sophomores this year. Next opportunity for sophomores will be in October
- Surveillance testing Phase 2 began yesterday. All vaccinated students encouraged to continue testing.
- Since Return to Learn is well underway, District focus is on bridging academic gaps and SEL

- Summer: Free course will be offered for summer of 2021 or 2022. Bridge courses, Jumpstart courses and Algebra Essentials courses offered along with AP Boot Camps.
- School Year: Increase number of specialists, provide intensive tutoring and additional SEL support in place, focus on specific skills to help students meet essential standards.
- Community Events
  - NEF Fundraiser: looking for walkers/runners for annual Half Marathon on Sunday Oct. 17 (virtual version as well)
  - NEF - Give Teachers a High Five - parents/students can make a donation on behalf of a teacher that has gone above and beyond the call of duty.
  - 360 Youth Services has volunteer opportunities available and information on Operation Snowball, a leadership development program taking place on April 30 and May 1
  - Alive Center has posted a lot of their free teen programs on their website.

#### **Vice President Report: Diana McClaurin**

- Board transitions need to be complete by June 30. July 1 is the official start. Current Board members will reach out to the new Board members shortly.
- Posted vaccine locations and in the area. District has a new dashboard on vaccination postings.
- Appreciation luncheon will not happen this year. Board is super thankful for everyone's hard work!

#### **Secretary Report: Marni Springer (absent) / Christine Simonson**

- Approval of March 2021 Minutes
  - Motion: Tara Rester. Second by Caitlin Denker. No discussion. Motion approved.

#### **Treasurer Report: Deneen Roberts**

- Approval of March 2021 Financials
  - Motion: Tara Rester. Second by Caitlin Denker. No discussion. Motion approved
- H&S Balance:
  - March: \$10,805.31
- Senior Celebration
  - March Balance: \$22,350.95
- Bylaws Amendment - Outstanding Check Write-off Policy approval. Void after 180 days Motion to approve: Tara Rester. 2nd Caitlin Denker. Motion passed.

#### **Committee/Partner Reports**

- Kim Henderson - Nominations Committee:
  - 2021-22 Executive Board Slate was approved by members via private chat message to Kim Henderson. Had 2/3rds majority.
    - President: Carrie Meikle
    - Vice President: Sarah Gibson-Hoag
    - Treasurer: Tara Rester
    - Secretary: Marni Springer (second term)

- Open Positions for next year:
  - Dance Co-Chair (refreshments)
  - Teacher Breakfast Co-Chair
  - Student Registration Co-Chairs (2)
  - Senior Celebration Co-Chairs (2)
- Kristin Fitzgerald - Board of Education President
  - Main Topics are still Return to Learn Plan for 2021-2022 school year
    - information from the health department is changing daily as well as the state level.
    - 2 new courses approved for next year: American Sign Language and Media Production II
    - 94% are vaccinated

## **Administration Reports:**

### **Guest Speaker: Brian LaPorte - How the pandemic has altered the college admissions**

- Biggest change from pandemic:  $\frac{2}{3}$  (or 1600 colleges) are now test optional. Moving forward, numbers are the same for next year. As a result, colleges are receiving more applicants. Students feel they have better chances of getting in however we are seeing lower admission rates at selective schools. Some colleges are requiring a test score for Merit Based aid.
- Some colleges are adding an extra essay to the application process rather than test score.
- If a student has a strong score Brian strongly recommends sending the scores in with the application.
- Colleges are taking a hard look at student mental health. Having more resources out there for applicants/students.
- Some schools are requiring vaccination to return on campus. Trying to minimize impact on campus.
- Junior Class - Junior Week - helpful doc on where to start...step by step progression.
- Senior Celebration on May 30 kicks off Senior Week, which begins after Memorial Day.
- Letter of recommendations - Important to choose a teacher that has the most connection with your child. And it doesn't have to be a teacher from the current school year. Schools look at growth of students as well as other subjects such as overcoming adversity or how the pandemic impacted this student etc etc.
- Testing: more sites are opening up for ACT and SAT testing

### **Jay Wachtel - Principal**

- An increase in COVID cases since Spring Break but starting to decline to pre-spring break levels. Hoping Pfizer is approved for the 12-15 year old age group soon.
- Currently approx 60% in person and 40% online.
- 2021-22 school year goal is to have a normal school schedule starting in the fall; all students in the building 5 days/wk. full time unless there is a medical condition.
- Students should take advantage of taking one free summer course this summer or next summer.

- Students must be 14 full days after 2nd vaccination to be considered fully vaccinated and to not quarantine through the school with contract tracing. It is not required to show the nurse proof of vaccination but they will keep a record of your students vaccination.
- Acknowledged frustration regarding quarantining with some sports teams being shut down for 2 weeks upon discovering a positive Covid case on the opposing team.

### **Jen Baumgartner - Student Activities**

- Focusing on Seniors!
  - Prom: May 8th at the Abbington - only 30 tickets sold. NCHS same low numbers. If numbers don't improve may have to cancel. We cannot have kids tested and cannot let kids dance. School can't take the risk. It's unfortunate.
  - Air Band: have 4 groups so far and will plan to have the event outdoors on Wed. of Senior Wk. Can move indoors and spread out, if necessary.
  - May 6/7th: Cap and Gown disbursement
  - Pls. fill out the Senior Survey. It is most helpful!
  - Senior Week will be in June. details to follow
  - Graduation: June 6th - 2 parents per student
  - School is working on this day to day. There are groups of kids that are worried to come to school and school activities and others that want a sense of normalcy.
- Planning a Freshman & Sophomore Jamboree for June 7, rain date on June 8th, time to be determined. Sport and club representatives will be there as well. Will also schedule a Freshman Enter with Pride in August for freshman and sophomore classes.
- Planning a School Year kick off outside for our 50 year anniversary.

A motion to adjourn was made by Diana McClaurin and seconded by Deneen Robert. All in favor. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.

### **Next Home & School Meeting:**

- **May 11, 2021 at 9:00am via Zoom.**
- **Guest Speaker:** Stephanie Posey - D203 Update & Transition