

**Northside PTA  
General Membership Meeting  
October 23, 2012**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Linda Pereira. Pledge.

**President's Report:** Please review last month's minutes. Are there any corrections? There is one correction regarding Reflections. The theme is "Magic of a Moment." We would like to welcome Mr. Pappas from the Board of Ed. Superintendent/Presidents meeting was held on October 1st. Dr. Grossane discussed how they are looking into the cost of putting more screens on windows in classrooms instead of just the mandatory one. Wisdom Lane's late bus was changed to 4:45. Early Parent/Teacher conference dates are on a trial basis. Had some complaints that November was too late if a problem exists with a child. The schools are looking into text messaging alerts for things such as lockdown or lockout. Dr. Grossane is giving the Phys Ed rubric in HS level one more quarter to see if it works. I also attended this past council meeting on 10/18. The Adopt a Family program is currently going on. Wisdom currently has an 18% poverty rate. I will be passing around an envelope to start a contribution to be made by the Northside PTA. Council Budget needs a representative. There will be a common core workshop held in late November at Memorial. Information will be sent out regarding the date and time. Nominating Committee, a motion was made by Marie Reid to have Jill Meyerowitz, Donna Pappa and Kim Sullivan as an alternate for the nominating committee. Christine Eckberg seconded. All in favor? Approved.

**Principal's Report:** Thank you all for coming today. I am floored by the turnout. Thank you teachers for coming. One of our new programs we are implementing will be Northside students caught being good. Still filling buckets. This year will be a rainbow on the main office doors and windows to show the class winners. And same as last year, the kids will win ice cream parties. Parent teacher conferences are coming up. Some parents feel the conferences need to be held earlier in October. The teachers should be contacting you if there is a problem and not waiting until the conference. If you have questions, don't wait for conference. The Kona Ice Truck will be outside at dismissal for the 5th grade fundraiser.

At this time a neighbor of the school spoke about parents not following the rules regarding parking. Cars are blocking her driveway, leaving their car. Mr. Mortillaro said he would try to be out front more. He will try his best to improve the situation. He doesn't want his staff to get into confrontations. He has asked the police to be called a few times, but hasn't seen their presence. This led to a discussion regarding children at drop off should not be in the front seat if they are under 12. Parents need to slow down on the property. Chris Eckberg spoke about getting a stop sign put in at the 5th grade drop off door.

Report cards correlate with the common core. Parents, don't worry, 4 is a place you visit, you don't live there. Some will get 4s but don't worry if they get a 3+. Standards are much harder. Kids and teachers are doing an amazing job. We are utilizing rating programs to help any child that doesn't receive extra help already.

**Guest Speaker:** Robin Cammarata President of SEPTA came to speak to us. She talked about how SEPTA branches across the entire district and is not just for Special Ed. They have a bunch of wonderful speakers, one each month. Always looking for new members. There is a Facebook page and they are on the website. Maybe the PTA can put a link on their page.

**Michael Pappas - President of Board of Education:** Responded to the request about putting up a stop sign near the 5th grade drop off door. Said that it wouldn't be a Nassau County stop sign but it would be looked into. Also will look into a speed bump. There is currently 40 million dollars worth of work that needs to be done at various schools. Regarding tax bills, Levittown scored zero which is very good. 1.85 % levy went up. There has been a rumor going around about no more all day kindergarten. It is just a rumor.

**1st VP:** We still have open committees. Pelican, Council Budget, Food Service, Hospitality, Audit Committee, Healthy Snack, Dollars for Scholars and High School Liason. I will pass around the PTA share folder.

**2nd VP:** Currently we have 248 paid members. And I just picked one more up in the office. The PTA offers awards throughout the year. My goal is to try to get all six awards. Now we will pick the winners of the raffle items. Items won included school apparel, gift cards for Division Deli, Champion Burger, Two Brother's Pizza and an IPad.

**3rd VP:** Fall Fundraiser is done. We made around \$6,100. Wrapping will go to classrooms on 11/9. Pies and cookies to be picked up 11/19 at school between 2:30 and 6:00. Must be picked up. All items not picked up will be sent to the Wisdom Lane Food Pantry. Volunteers are needed to help hand items out. Smelly pencils brought in a \$342 profit. We have a little over a hundred pencils left. Not sure what we will do with them. Maybe they will go on the cart. Motion to add income line to raise additional fundraising \$400. Marianne seconded. We need a line to put the money we made on the smelly pencil fundraising. Discussion? Approved.

**4th VP:** Levittown Island Trees Fire Safety Prevention contest. Jake Freeman was the district winner. Will there be any Fundraiser on Election Day? We will speak to Mr. Mortillaro about it.

**Recording Secretary:** Minutes will stand as recorded with the exception of the correction on Reflections.

**Treasurer:** The Treasure's report for September 15, 2012 through October 22, 2012 had an opening checkbook balance of \$16,050.26, total expenses were \$4,355.88 and with a closing checkbook balance of \$30,696.10. Audit for September by Donna Pappa this morning. All in order. Treasury report will be filed for audit. Year to date, any questions? Let me know.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Sadly, Ms. Weissleder's mother passed away. A card was sent. Diane Shapiro, a past school board member and long time Levittown PTA member was recently in the hospital and is now recovering at home. A card was sent. Sadly, Valerie Bergen in the front office, her sister passed away. A card was sent.

**Historian:** No report.

**Council Delegates:** There was a meeting October 18th. As of September 20, 2012 the Scholarship fund has changed its name to Senior Award. Dollars for Scholars is still looking for representatives in many PTA units. November meeting has been cancelled. Volunteers are needed for the Adopt a Family program. There will be a

blood drive on 10/23 at Summit Lane. Each donor will receive a happy meal. Wisdom Lane Food Drive, gift cards are welcome. Please send all donated items to the main office or two other drop off locations which are 40 Meander Lane and 276 Gardiners Avenue.

**Cultural Arts:** October 30 will be the assembly.

**Council Budget:** No report.

**Elementary Curriculum:** There were two meetings held. First one was on 9/25. New report card is based on common core standards. Children grades 2-5 are graded on performance levels from 1 to 4. Report card workshops will be planned for parents to gain a better understanding of the process. New teacher evaluation system. Based on student assessment, measuring growth throughout the year. Includes all subjects. Second meeting was on 10/17. There was a presentation about mathematical common core standards. There are useful websites with common core tools. Wordpress.com. [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org), [engage.ny.org](http://engage.ny.org). The district website has links to those sites. Parent workshop will be scheduled for November.

**Health, Safety & Environment:** First meeting was held on 10/9. Dignity for All Act is active and continues to be trained. There will be an upcoming parent training for DFAA. Next year, cyber bullying will be addressed at the school level. Plans are in the works for a mentoring program if a student is bullied. Get a Voice program will kick off at Wisdom Lane. High school and middle school students will work with teachers and with younger kids. Skate park proposed. Parents will be asked to re-register their 5th graders to make sure they are still residents. Cameras on buses. Discussion regarding air conditioning in cafeterias. High school cafeterias to be re-done next summer. Parenting program here at Northside will be starting 10/24.

**Family Fun:** Movie night was awesome! Slingo will be on 11/30. Sending out memos. Teachers signed up for baskets. Asking for donation of baskets.

**Food Service:** Open Committee. Need committee chair

**Hospitality:** Open Committee. Need committee chair. Thank you all who brought something.

**Legislation & Advocacy:** New York State Committee coming up 11/16. There are retentions that are presented at convention. Every year we ask all members to browse through and fill out whether you agree or disagree. There are two new resolutions.

**Pelican Supply Boutique:** Cart went around on the 19th. The kids were excited to see new and different items. \$564.72 were expenses. The cart made \$473.85. The cart will be coming around again in November.

**Secondary Curriculum:** The District hired Curriculum Associates. There will no longer be chair people for each school. Phys Ed grading rubric is still being reviewed. Jim Morris, Math Curriculum Associate was present to discuss the changes in the Math Curriculum due to Common Core. Debbie Rifkin shared the district goals with regard to common core. It can be found on the district website.

**SEPTA:** First meeting of the school year was held on September 25. Executive Board members were intalled. Traci Von Eschon in the new Director of Special Education. Dr. Susan Farber is the new Assistand Director of Special Ed for Levittown. Barbara Wasserman the CPSE chairperson retired as of October 1st. A new person was being interviewed for that position. They have a Facebook page which will provide information on upcoming speakers and events.

**Showcase:** Beautiful Krista. Thank you!

**Website/Pelican:** The website is being updated. December 1st the Pelican is coming out, so please email a week before if you have anything to put in. Trying to be green, so it will be on the website. May print one. We will ask Mr. Mortillaro to ask teachers to maybe put it in the HW assignment when it is available on the website.

**Special Committees:**

**Bake Sale:** No report.

**Budget Committee:** No report.

**5th Grade T-Shirts:** We have a t-shirt design. Getting names in order. Will send out by the end of next week.

**5th Grade Yearbook:** Packets went home on how to upload photos for parents if they have trouble or we can help. Also, booster and questionnaires.

**Giving Tree:** Mr. Bob will be emailed regarding a date to set up trees. Putting together a letter with an attached tag to be approved by Mr. Mortillaro.

**Holiday Boutique:** Dates are December 4, 5 and 6th. Need help for set up and clean up. Please volunteer. Clean up is on the 6th.

**Honorary Life:** Letter deadline to nominate someone is 11/2.

**LEADD:** Ribbons were put up.

**Pictures:** Pictures went well. Will get pictures by the 28th. Retake day is November 20th.

**PARP:** Will be in February. Mr. Mortillaro approved the theme, "Reading is Magical" which will be a Harry Potter theme.

**Product Labels:** Letters were sent home and collection envelopes are at each classroom. Response has been great. We will receive a check shortly for \$404.30. Working on assembling the submission to Labels for Education. A display will be put up in the cafeteria so students can see how their class is progressing. Top three classes will receive ice cream parties at the end of the year. Classes in lead are Mrs. Libby, Miss Kirk and Mrs. Trucchio.

**Reflections:** First flyer was sent to parents on 10/10. Second flyer will be sent reminding them of deadlines. Letters inviting judges were sent to Division and Wisdom teachers.

**School Clothes:** Received email for artwork. I will have it printed and start getting clothes. If anyone is interested in seeing the artwork, I have a picture of it on my phone. I can stay a little after the meeting so you can see.

**Tribune:** No report.

**Liaison Reports:**

**Dollars for Scholars:** Open committee.

**High School Liaison:** Open committee.

**Middle School:** Fundraiser deadline past. Elections were held. A seventh grade girl tripped and fell and stabbed herself in the neck and received 60 stitches. She is ok.

**Student Council:** 10/9 was the first meeting. Discussed was information on who can run, what position different grades can run for and what needs to be done in order to do so. 46 children attended. Mrs. Nizinski and Mrs. Heller are in charge, but six other teachers were there for support and to be advisors. Mrs. Heaney is the 3rd grade

advisor, Mrs. Nizinski is the 4th and Ms. Richiusa is the 5th. Posters will soon be up and the run off election will be this week. The first student council meeting with the elected executive board will be on Monday, 11/19.

**Old Business:** Wizards game is cancelled.

**New Business:** Stop and Shop number of cards is down. Please register. If you don't know how to do it, let me know and I will do it for you. Music club, books are in. Flyer will go out for Fifth Grade Fundraiser, Kona truck.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:45 p.m.

**Dates to Remember:**

**11/29** Financial Aid Night @ DAHS 7:00 p.m.  
**12/3** PTA Pres/Supt Meeting @ LMEC 9:30 a.m. & DAHS PTSA Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
**12/7** Elementary marking period ends  
**12/12** BOE Regular Meeting @ LMEC 7:30 p.m.  
**12/13** Food Service Committee Meeting @ LMEC 9:30 a.m.  
**12/24-1/1/13** Winter Recess - No school  
**1/7** PTA Pres/Supt Meeting @ LMEC 9:30 a.m. and DAHS PTSA Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
**1/8** DAHS Winter Concert I 7:30 p.m.  
**1/9** BOE Regular Meeting @ LMEC 7:30pm  
**1/10** DAHS Winter Concert II 7:30 p.m.  
**1/15** Wisdom PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
**1/17** Food Service Committee Mtg. @ LMEC 9:30 a.m. & PTA Council Mtg. @ LMEC 7:30 p.m.  
**1/18-1/19** Wisdom Lane Musical Production 7:30 p.m.  
**1/21** Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No school  
**1/22** Northside PTA Meeting 7:30 p.m