

MSHS PTO Meeting – September 16, 2009

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr Freeston

Began the meeting by speaking about three major topics, 1/the critical issues building project, 2/ the new mission statement, 3/ Tuesday Newsday.

1/ There are maintenance issues at both the school buildings that have been deferred over a long period of time, in particular the heating/cooling systems and the water system. The school board is working to address these issues, and there will be a public referendum put out for a December vote. They proposed to fix all critical issues at one time, to take advantage of the economies of the scale of the project. The work begins with architects, then is reviewed by the state, then bid on the approved drawings. Work would commence about 2 years after the referendum passes.

2/ A new mission statement has been created and is posted in the schools, and available on printed cards.

3/ Going green was the impetus for Tuesday Newsday, but it has also had the added benefit of saving a lot of money in copying and mailing costs. If you register your email address, you will be sent a link, but otherwise, go to the web site every Tuesday to see all the most recent information concerning the schools. Critical information will still be sent out to PQ families via backpack mail, but otherwise families should access the web site every Tuesday. Archives of past Newsdays will be available as well. In addition the MSHS Athletic department has inaugurated a new calendar system that keeps track of sports schedules, maps of venues and any scheduling changes and has been assessed as a great tool by many parents. The district is looking into similar software for the general calendar as well.

Schools web site – www.northsalemschools.org

MS/HS Athletic calendar – <http://northsalemcentral.intand.com/>

Parent questions to Dr. Freeston

A parent asked about the Journal News article that listed North Salem as having health inspections issues in the cafeterias. It was explained that the article was using data from previous years, and the schools are no longer employing that vendor. The new food service vendor is Whitson, and they are looking to eliminate the usual operation deficit this year by offering more appealing healthy cafeteria food.

A parent asked about changes in Special Education in the middle school. Dr. Cyganovich said that there was new staff, a new psychologist and teacher and self-contained core class in the 6th grade. Changes in Special Education are dictated by the needs of the school population.

Dr. Cyganovich

Talked about the first full week of school. There are changes to the State testing schedules that have played havoc with the usual school calendar. The 7th grade Boston trip had to be moved to November.

Reminders:

No MS dance on September 18

HS Open House September 24

Parent Meeting 6th Grade Encampment September 29

If you are having problems with your email and Tuesday Newsday, be sure that Jayne Lamana has your correct email. Email her at LamanaJ@northsalem.k12.ny.us

MS Picture Day is in conflict with the 6th grade encampment. Special arrangements are being made for photos for 6th graders. MS 7th and 8th grades will have their photos taken on October 14, from 7:30am to 1:30pm.

MS Picture Retake Day will be November 18 from 10:30am to 1:30pm, and the 6th grade will take individual and homeroom pictures on that day. Retakes for 7th and 8th graders will also be handled on that day. Any 6th grader who needs a retake will have to go to Davis Studios, and complete the photos by February 26 to make the memory book deadline.

Trooper Libretti – School Resource Officer (SRO)

Introduced himself to new parents, and stated that his main goal is safety. If you have any issues to discuss, you can contact him at ext. 2133, email LibrettiT@northsalem.k12.ny.us, or contact the PTO to discuss your issue at the next PTO meeting. He mentioned that he does go on all Middle School trips, Encampment, Boston and Washington.

Traffic issues —

Parking lot at the high school has numbered spots for Seniors. Parents should not park in any spot with a number.

Door C is not the proper area for high school drop off. Use the front circle for all high school students, do not use Door C.

The front circle is for drop-off and pick-up only. Do not abandon your car in the front circle. If you have to park, use the parking lot.

The track is not available for long-term parking. There is now a one hour parking limit at the track, except during events, when the signs will be covered.

Dr. Bovino welcomed all parents to school.

H1N1 Flu information

The CDC emphasizes that hand washing is the best defense. The school checked to see what kind of cleaning agent the CDC is using to clean surfaces, and has purchased that cleaner for the schools (it does not contain chlorine bleach).

Ill students will be sent home by the school nurse. Sick children must stay home until at least 24 hours after the fever is gone. It is suggested that siblings of the sick child be kept home as well.

The schools will be tracking the number of students being sent home with fever and symptoms. Be sure to pay attention to getting the regular flu shot, and the H1N1 shot as well, which in New York State can only be given by your Primary Care Physician.

Also it was noted to ask your physician if the flu shot contains the preservative **thimerosal**, and ask for the doctor's advice about its use.

Use the CDC web site for more flu information — www.cdc.gov

Homecoming

The PTO is excited to announce a Friday night Homecoming event (October 2) full of activities. There will be a new “Ultimate Video Trailer” that will have video games and Guitar Hero. Also there will be - Dance, Dance Revolution - Interactive Inflatables - Carnival Games - Dodgeball Tournament - Prizes - Music - 50/50 Raffle - Spirit Wear - Balloon Pop - Hot Dogs - Popcorn - Cotton Candy - Ice Cream - Candy - Snacks - Chicken Nuggets - Pizza Bites - Caramel Apples - Chili & More!

School organizations will have booths that function as fundraising venues for their organizations. The Senior Citizens are expected to have pumpkin decorating again this year, and there will be a new cook-off contest for the best chili, with parents bringing in their pots of chili to be judged and eaten.

At 8:00pm, a pep rally in the HS gym will honor all high school student athletes involved in fall sports, and there will be a full schedule of games to attend on Saturday, October 3.

All Friday night activities will be inside this year, so inclement weather will not be an issue. Parents are reminded that all children must be accompanied by an adult, this is NOT a drop-off event.

The PTO is looking for volunteers for the Friday Homecoming areas.

Volunteer hours will be in slots from 4:30pm to 8:00pm. Contact the PTO volunteer Coordinator, Trish Mahoney, at dishyT@aol.com

PTO Treasurers Report

Membership in the PTO is at 45% of school families so far. The dues of \$35 cover all that the PTO does throughout the year. There will be no additional fund raising requests. There have been donations of \$635 to the PTO so far this year.

A request for funds of \$240 for the Newcomers Club was motioned and passed.

A PQ parent reminded us that PQ is always looking for high school age students as volunteers in the elementary school, and they can earn community service hours.

The new Continuing Education program flyers have information about many classes that can be taken. Sign up is by mail, or at the high school on Monday, September 21, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.

The PTO is looking for both middle school and high school student reps and the deadline has been extended. Participation is limited to two (2) student representatives: an 8th grader representing the Middle School student body; and, either an 11th grader or a 12th grader representing the High School student body. For a student rep application, go to <http://www.northsalemschools.org/middle/pto.php>

A flyer is going out on Tuesday Newsday with a request for donations for Homecoming, with each grade donating a specific item.

6th/7th /8th grades - One case Arizona, Nestea or Snapple Iced Tea (No glass bottles)

9th/10th grades - Sports drinks

11th grade - Single size chips or snack bags

12th grade - individually wrapped candy

Families with multiple children or with children in both schools need only make one contribution.

The meeting adjourned at approx 9:50 am, after an exciting fire drill.