

"Rekindling our hope, exploring our world, seeking our path, while building our community"

Board Meeting – Northwest Passage High School #4049 November 19th, 2019.

Board members in attendance: Jason Olson, Jennifer Braun, Barb Sanders, Charlotte Elva, Kurtis Heerema, Vashti Pearson, Megan Fredrickson, Steve Rippe

Others in attendance: Peter Wieczorek, Heather Ross, Zack Stephenson

Absent: Angela Bell

Call to order: 5:26

Mission Statement: NWPHS teachers discuss how hope has been rekindled in their students.

Approval of October Board Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes made by Charlotte, seconded by Kurtis. Motion goes 8-0.

Public Comment: Zack Stephenson speaks about our students visiting him at the state capitol and discussing legislation. He also speaks about his tour of our school at the Explore Your World Fundraiser. He thanks NWPHS for the great work we are doing with students.

Swearing in of Board Members: Zack Stephenson swears in newly elected board members Steve Rippe and Vashti Pearson.

Treasurer's Report: Total Revenue Budget for October \$203,545.87 vs. October Actual Revenue of \$187,992.23. Total Expense Budget for October was \$201,953.60 vs. October Actual Expenses of \$209,287.11. Cash total for all accounts at the end of October was \$935,024.49. As of the end of October, our YTD actual expenses of \$586,853.25 and actual revenue of \$739,688.50 leaves us with a YTD net gain of \$152,835.25. There were no voided checks in October. Discussion by Charlotte regarding a gap of five checks (10660-10663) within the budget packet. A motion to approve the budget made by with the changed phrasing of Special Ed on line two made by and research on missing check numbers made by Charlotte, seconded by Steve. Motion goes 8-0.

Program Highlights:

- Director's Report
 - **Bethel University Authorizer Annual Visit** Since our last meeting Bethel University came out for their Annual Visit. Students visited with Bethel Authorizers and showed them around the school. The Annual Visit Report will include contract renewal and school goals. This is one of the many accountability measures that charter schools go through.
 - **Chipotle Fundraiser** Many students and families attended the Chipotle Fundraiser night. We raised \$147.23 and a parent donated \$50 to NWPHS.
 - **Conferences** We had over 90% attendance at conferences this year. Conferences are meant to empower students and parents and make the conference experience meaningful.
 - **Audit** We have had our audit and will have our report presented in January.
 - **Ambassadors Meeting** The student ambassadors have met several times. They are busy giving tours and showing guests what NWPHS is working on.
 - **Friday School Expo** Expo was on the first Friday of November. Projects are showcased on Facebook.
 - **Youth in Government** The Youth in Government expedition had their launch event and have finished writing their bills.

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- **Staff Development - Circle Keepers Anoka Co. Advocacy** NWPHS staff met with Anoka Co. Mediation services. They focused on circle work and keeping a safe and productive circle.
- **Teacher Powered Conference** Last Saturday Jenny went to the Teacher Powered Conference.
- **Special Education Taskforce** Peter is working on the legislative side of the Special Education Taskforce. Val Miller is working on the program side to make sure that students get the funding that they need.
- **Special Ed. Teacher and Para Interviews** Peter interviewed a Special Education teacher last week and NWPHS has offered her a position. NWPHS staff have also interviewed a paraprofessional and is waiting on references in order to hire them.
- **PBL in Japan** Steve Rippe speaks about his program with a Japanese group interested in learning about PBL. A group from Japan has been visiting PBL schools for about 12 years. 11 members from The PBL Institute of Japan will visit NWPHS to discuss experiential education and its importance to project based learning.

New Business:

- **Board Election: Officers**
 - **Board Chair:** Jason will continue with his interest in being the board chair. There are no others seeking the board chair position. A motion to approve Jason as the chair of the board made by Barb, seconded by Charlotte. Motion goes 8-0.
 - **Vice Chair:** Kurtis will continue with his interest in being the board chair. There are no others seeking the vice chair position. A motion to approve Kurtis as the vice chair made by Jenny seconded by Vashti. Motion goes 8-0.
 - **Treasurer:** Charlotte will continue with her interest in being the treasurer. There are no other seeking the treasurer position. A motion to approve Charlotte as the treasurer made by Vashti, seconded by Kurtis. Motion goes 8-0.
 - **Secretary:** Jenny is no longer running for secretary position. Megan is interested in taking the secretary position. A motion to approve Megan as the secretary made by Jenny, seconded by Vashti. Motion goes 8-0.
- **Legislative Update** Peter shares the document titled "A Primer on Minnesota Charter Schools" which shows the differences between Minnesota and other charters. He shares another document about legal transparency and accountability in Minnesota Charters. Peter also shares a document on NWPHS's lease. Lease aid legislation is another important component of keeping charter schools running.
- **New Parent Recruitment** Angela Bell has decided not to move forward with her membership on the school board. This means we have a parent opening on our school board.
- **SEO Update** We are working with J3N5 on search engine optimization. We are now in the top three position of charter schools/STEAM/STEM schools on searches in the area. Traffic from organic search is up considerably in the last three months. The campaign is getting NWPHS more attention online. We have also changed to the number one spot for the search "high schools near me" within the last few days.


Future Items: No Future Items

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A motion to adjourn made by Megan, seconded by Jenny. Motion goes 8-0.
Adjourned: 6:31



Jason Olson, Board Chair



Jennifer Braun, Secretary

