

PTG notes

- I. Welcoming
 - Introduced all staff working at Minnesota North Star Academy
 - Introduced parents in attendance

- II. Fundraising
 - a. State fair: Improvements for next year
 - i. Communication in advance
 - ii. State fair Aug. 27, 2009 – Sept. 7, 2009
 - iii. Sign up before summer break begins
 - b. Butter Bread
 - i. Heidi will lead
 - ii. Scheduled for Thanksgiving
 - iii. Any parent offering to assist with Heidi in organizing?
 - c. Candles
 - i. Joan T. will be contact person
 - ii. Scheduled around Christmas break
 - iii. Any teacher offering to assist with Joan in organizing?
 - d. Sign Language classes
 - Saturday classes that are student lead that teaches beginning sign language to the community. Half a day at the church provided there is community interest and participation.
 - i. Macalester Church
 1. Anthony will work with Susan establish contact and gather information
 - ii. Gustavus Church
 1. Joan will help with arranging
 2. Teacher interested in becoming lead contact person?

- III. Treasury Report
 - a. PTG account update
 - b. Student account update
 - Student accounts: money that students have raised through fundraising opportunities, money used for school trips, sports involvement, field trip opportunities, etc.
 - i. Question regarding individual student accounts – contact Anthony Ritz

- IV. Transition
 - a. Lynn and Chris
 - Transition Fridays: focus on exposing students to resources and speakers that will assist in knowledge useful to beyond high school experience.
 - Transition classes (taught by Chris): all transition areas will be addressed through the course of the school year. Currently Post-secondary, career, and advocacy areas are being focused on.
 - Focus is to approach transition goals for students.
 - b. Upcoming Events
 - i. Oct. 1 – Deaf/Hard of Hearing day at the University of Minnesota (all students)
 - ii. Oct. 3 – St. Paul Tech entrance exam (Jr. and Sr. only)

Students will take placement exam at St. Paul Tech to expose them to the testing structure; and to have an opportunity to take the career compatibility test

iii. Oct. 9 – Field Trip to Organic Farm (all students)

Experience is to expose students to work experience, also a community service project for Minnesota North Star Academy (collecting fruits and vegetables on the farm).

V. Group Comments

a. Political Exposure (Ginna)

i. Would like to see the students get some kind of exposure to all the political information in the press currently

1. Oct. 24th – Emory Dively will be at North Star to explain to students about different sides of the Democratic party and Republican party, and will explain the voting process and the importance of voting

2. Oct. 24th – Deaf Culture Salon D*Decision 2008

a. <http://www.tcdeaf.com/events/20080730salon>

b. Good exposure to Deaf regarding Political issues and stances

VI. Kim Kause - Presentation

a. Merger Plans

Merger with Metro Deaf School, progressing well

Currently at a board level, working with the state department of education

Many committees within the school boards have been developed to keep progress moving along

Near future will announce a meeting to involve staff, family into the development of the new schools. Meeting will also provide more detailed information regarding the merger between the two schools.

b. France Trip

i. Susan Boinis will help with North Star in arranging plans for France Trip

ii. Once a month meetings have been suggested in order to group France participants (students) to expose to French culture

iii. Later meetings will be held to discuss plans for France trip

iv. Passports

1. Something that can be discussed during meeting held in late October with Families involved with the France trip

2. Suggested families take care of it soon because may take weeks or months to process passport or correct errors

c. JMC online

Visual example of new attendance and grade book available for parents to access online

Explanation of how JMC works for parents and what is expected from the system (only current semester will be available online)

Access is provided through school webpage . . .

http://webmail.mnnorthstaracademy.org/jmc/jmc.cgi_0809.dll?module=parent