



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING September 11, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Damon, PTO President, called the meeting to order.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Buggie O'Grady

Opening Remarks

- Moment of recognition for September 11
- Welcome from Jenny to PTO, thank you for attending

Goals For PTO-

1. Responsibly manage the budget
 - a. \$40,000 to spend wisely and purposefully for programs
 - b. Stay within operating budget per committee
2. Maintain and/ or improve relationships
 - a. Student to student
 - i. Am rec, coding, field trips, junior great books, author visits, book fair
 - b. Parents to parents
 - i. Volunteering, participation in PTO, website, ice cream social, benefit
 - c. Parents to faculty
Conference meals, teacher gifts
3. Have fun!
 - a. Thank you for volunteering and keep perspective on the fact that this is volunteer and should not feel like a burden or full time job for any of us!

Guest Speakers

Introduction of Service Leagues by Dr. Sukenik

- Goal is to build connections and foundations so that students at SRS understand the expectations for behavior and to enhance the service learning. Not charitable, but actual change makers, in purposeful and meaningful service opportunities.

Robyn Zogby- 4th grade teacher- Goal with Service Leagues is to focus on a different service. Students and staff were surveyed and highlighted organizations that were important to them. Their ask of the PTO is to solicit parent volunteers once a month to meet with each service League and coordinate volunteers for field trips, meetings, etc.

Michelle Widdes- The organizations we have chosen are familiar to the PTO and our school and were chosen deliberately...

Partners

NW Settlement house – Nutrition Wellness

Cradles to Crayons – Families and Children

Feed My Starving Children -

Northfield Township Food Pantry -

Bernies Book Bank - Literacy League

Backyard Nature Center – Environmental League

World Bicycle Relief- Transportation League

Emily Dunham- Director of Student Services, Introduction

Oversees all special ed programing, ESL department, Special needs programming on site/ and off site development.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Eva Vlad: Dues being collected. Main checking, CD, 8th grade fund. Spending starts soon.

School Supplies: Seong McGarry & Kendra Chilewich

Seong and Kendra: 25 additional kits ordered after deadline, which was not offered by our former company. School kits offering 15% for us to come back

\$2819 made off sales this year. Shane offering 12% back and bonus money to spend on office supplies which Seong will discuss with Exec board to decide how to spend it. Our plan is to continue with Shane.

Parent Connections: Tom Whittaker

Tom Whittaker: Opportunity to talk and bring ideas directly to the administration from parents, community...things that directly impact our kids. Platform for concerns, comments. 8:45 in conference room at SRS tomorrow, 9/12. Dr Stange facilitates and attends and it's a genuine chance to hear from the parents and for the parents to be involved with decision making as well.

6th grade social dance- Jenny giving report. First dance is 10/5.

FAN- Jenny- Gail posting events on website and adding them to Friday news.

Book Fair 10/16 and 10/17- Middlefork kids bussed over!

House and Grounds- Jenny given report- tree planted in memory of Kate Bowyer, with a plaque, with leaves which turn pink in the fall. Thank you to Corey for that help.

Middlefork Lunchroom-

Winter Benefit: Cathy Langford & Bianca Rose

Winter Benefit- March 2, 2019- North Shore Country Club – Looking for volunteers at this time. Link on website is available now with descriptions of small jobs/ help that the coordinators need to execute the event, rather than the chairs doing it all.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr Ed Stange- Thank you so very much for service of our Exec Board and PTO service.

Thank you for back to school lunch. New staff appreciate setting the tone for the year right on the first day and it's a wonderful welcome to the new year.

Excited about new staffing changes, new curriculum initiatives across almost all disciplines, which is so exciting. New partnerships- theater opportunity with the park district is new for our younger grade kids.

Middlefork School improvements coming. "Final plans" in place for \$2M renovation of library, Makerspace, 4 new breakout spaces, security enhancements, as well as upgrading all plumbing.

Character Education- now become Parents Connections. Social emotional development, 'hot topics,' Please come! Enrollment Residency Verification- policies and procedures are going to be more complicated and complex in an effort to verify nobody taking advantage of tax dollars to send kids to school here.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Enrollment- 193 with kindergartener coming in October

60 Dedicated Dolphins this year! 3rd graders will have training this week for dismissal aides/ safety patrol.

3-4 weeks in, people finally figure out pick up and drop off procedures and it seems to be more smooth. Dr G appreciates everyone's cooperation in helping facilitate the driveway.

Safe place drills happening now- lockdown drill this week for first time. 3 fire, 1 lockdown, 1 tornado required by state.

Picture day Friday- and thank you to parent volunteers to comb and perk the kids up!

MAP Testing in 2nd grade this week.

K starts staying for lunch on 9/17. One more volunteer needed. Flyer going out today to K parents to solicit someone from K to fill the last spot in our lunch week.

Social Emotional Learning initiative happening at MF and will solicit volunteers soon.

Dina Donaldson and Joanna Brown came forward to suggest a Tuesday lunch recess “loose parts” program. Playing with and creating a play opportunity with ‘safe junk!’ It’s a movement started in UK to increase children’s play and using nature and ‘junk’ to build with their imaginations. Increased time for this recess to 35 minutes so they could actually build and create before having to tear their things down. Will solicit volunteers for helping/ supervising this event weekly.

Back to school night Thursday 9/13. Two 45 minute sessions for upper then lower MF grades. Specials teachers available and tech presentation will also happen.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Curriculum night at SRS was success. Great feedback.

8th grade parent meeting coming up soon- committee looking for volunteers to coordinate dance.

SRS will be screening movie ANGST for 6-8th grade, documentary on stress and anxiety. Community/ public will be viewing it on 10/2. Panel of psychologists and consultants will lead discussion after.

First service league is 10/19- we will need volunteers for that first meeting. Kids will be assigned to their leagues. Each one has two committee head teachers, that the parent volunteers will work with.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: JILL MIRKOVIC

Jill Mirkovic- Strategic Planning meetings happened over summer. Action plans are forthcoming next. Measurable outcomes that are meaningful for the project are getting more specific-

Teachers and staff have summer curriculum- meetings/ online courses....behind scenes to continue and enhance their ability to teach our students, FYI.

Safety around the schools is key to the Board. Looking PTO members to be leaders of the charge to keep the pickup and drop off safe, phone free, and prepare sitters/ grandparents to do the same.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tom Whittaker

Seconded by: Buggie O’Grady

Adjourn 10:00am