



## **SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING**

### **February 12, 2019**

#### **CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES**

Jenny Damon, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.05am.

*Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker*

*Seconded: Erica Marinello*

Jenny opened the meeting by explaining where PTO donations go. The PTO has an annual budget, which is a little more than \$40,000, which is divided into 3 categories of items.

The first category of monies, 45% of the budget or about \$18,000, go toward Student Education - things that would not happen without the PTO for the enrichment of your children's' education. This includes coding opportunities at Middlefork, the Shakespeare Theatre trip for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, outdoor education, new library materials at both schools every year, special assemblies, programs and author visits (e.g. Kwame Alexander, Dear Evan Hansen, PJ Day programs). These experiences are above and beyond what you would get in another district.

The second category comprises about 35% or \$14,000, and goes toward relationships we build in the Community, e.g. Northwestern Settlement House holiday project we do annually, AM Rec at SRS, the Fall Event, Ice Cream Social, Family Service Night, Online Directory and updates to the school grounds at both schools.

The third category, 20% or \$8,000, goes toward Teacher Support – including meals on Parent Teacher Conference days, Teacher Appreciation Week, etc.

Jenny reminded us that we have 55 PTO Chairs. She added that because of successful fundraising, we have money left over which is divided into 2 different buckets; PTO Teacher Gifts Grant Program and MF/SRS Capital Improvements. Jenny explained that PTO Teacher Gifts is a long-standing tradition whereby teachers/administration submit proposals for student opportunities that fall outside of D29's normal operating budget. In the past we have granted music instruments, Makerspace enhancements, Math games, field trips, new tools and technology, a fitness agility course, evolutionary social studies materials, a weather balloon project, virtual reality, books, picnic tables, and many more.

Additionally, the PTO is committed to supporting D29's efforts to continually improve our school infrastructure. In 2016, the PTO donated \$80,000 to assist in the building of the new SRS. We hope to donate a large amount toward the capital improvements at MF this summer. This will, however, be solely dependent upon how much we raise at the upcoming Benefit.

## **Treasurer's Report: Ewa Vlad, Treasurer**

### Income:

- Winter Benefit – our income is up a little due to money coming in toward the Winter Benefit.

### Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$50,000
- CD - \$27,000
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fund - \$ 6,000

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Winter Benefit: Cathy Langford & Bianca Rose**

Cathy reminded everyone to purchase their tickets, on February 18<sup>th</sup> the price will go up to \$110 and will be \$150 each at the door the night of. She also asks that we donate items. There is a volunteer sign-up for help the night of the event. We have sold 122 tickets so far.

Bianca notified us that they added a Benefit page to the website.

Jenny informed us that they will be selling tickets at the Parent Teacher Conferences, and passed around a sign-up sheet to volunteer to help that day.

### **NSSD: Sarah Crawford**

Dr. Stange spoke for Sarah and reminded us that Daniel Habib will be coming to SRS on March 4<sup>th</sup> – the information is on the website.

### **Parent Connections: Sydney Clark**

Jenny reminded us that Family Service Night will take place on March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6.30pm-7.30pm. The theme is Bring Something, Do Something, Make Something.

### **Teacher Appreciation: Lisa Challenger & Mamtha Sharma**

Jenny applauded Lisa and Mamtha for their preview of Teacher Appreciation Week at SRS yesterday – SRS was having a “Heart Health Awareness Week”.

## **COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG**

Chief Lustig introduced Officer Brian Strand, who has been with the Department for 6 months – he noted that Brian is also an attorney, so don't bother trying to argue case law with him!

Chief told us that we have a new Crossing Guard, Martha – she's been a Crossing Guard for 30 years. Chief divulged that since February 1<sup>st</sup> we have had 8 car burglaries and 2 residential burglaries (both homes were unlocked). Please lock-up.

Chief informed us that last week he met with about 24 Police Chiefs and Village Presidents from the surrounding areas to meet with the States Attorney regarding these burglaries because it is mostly juveniles committing those crimes. The problem, Chief says, is predominantly socio-economic. These are inner city kids with no after-school programs. They don't need to be arrested, they need to be educated. In the meantime, please lock-up your cars and homes, and if you aren't going to lock your car, please stop leaving valuables in it.

Chief reminded us that we have coyotes – please try to remove the food source. If you are feeding birds, you will attract mice and deer. Coyotes love mice. Loud noise scares them off. If we get trappers, who are expensive, who will pay for it? It is about \$1,000 per pelt. If they are attacking domesticated animals, we will need to take action.

## **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

### **Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent**

Dr. Stange thanked everyone for completing the e-Learning survey. He also reminded us that June 7<sup>th</sup> is the last day of the school year. The 2019-2020 calendar is approved and on the website.

Dr. Stange also reminded us that in inclement weather, if we feel it is unsafe to drive to school, just don't do it. We understand.

Dr. Stange explained that the State didn't stipulate what exactly is a school day, hence the ability to try out e-Learning Days. There is a panel holding discussions about changing the definition to be 5 hours of teacher-student contact. If that happens, we will have to redo the calendar as we will not be able to have early release days. We will monitor that and keep you posted.

Per school code, if you release a teacher you must do so in March. Dr. Stange reminded us of the importance of enrolling kindergarteners early so that we can get accurate numbers.

### **Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal**

Dr. Greene thanked the PTO for the PJ Day program. The storyteller comes every number of years and was a huge success. This week we have a ceramicist working with all MF classes over 2.5 days, without any disruption of classes.

This is the first year that D29 has established a residency procedure for enrollment of new students, which is going pretty well. Dr. Greene informed us that we are in the low 40s for kindergarten, which would mean 2 sections, but usually with this number enrolled in the spring we tend to end up with 3 sections of students by August.

*Upcoming Events:* Details are on the School Calendar on the website.

February 13:	Parent Book Club
February 21:	Kindergarten Family Math Night

### **Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal**

*Solo/Ensemble:* Last weekend, over 25 SRS students participated in this contest in Highland. Our kids did really well.

*SIT Conference:* Last weekend, students participated in this conference where it is students teaching students STEM. Parents are not allowed in.

*NT Class Registration:* Last night we piloted NT Class Registration in SRS, versus deciding by mail. Counsellors came to SRS and we had 100% participation.

*Energy Activists:* The Museum of Science & Industry Leadership Group has brainstormed about how we can learn from our new building, and get kids invested in it. In each grade level, there will be a lesson regarding energy and science and each grade will have "activists". Training will take place next week.

*After Hours:* On February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm we are trying out a 2<sup>nd</sup> Cup conducted online.

*Foundations:* We are determining the 4 core values of SRS – we would love parents to choose their core values at Parent Teacher Conferences. We will provide stickers and you choose your value.

**School Board Report: Jill Mirkovic**

Jill informed us that at the last School Board Meeting they discussed MF Capital Improvement and approved bids and extras since they came under budget.

**Teacher Report: Robin Zogby**

Thank you for parents volunteering in Service Leagues. Next year the kids might rotate throughout the Leagues.

*Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tara Subeck*

*Seconded by: Tom Whittaker*