

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Monday, December 9th, 9:00am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Ranjini Shankar at 9:02am
Approval of November 2024 Minutes – No corrections, stand as approved.

Presidents Report:

Ranjini Shankar, PTO President

Presidents Elect's Report:

Sarah Cohn, PTO President Elect

- PTO Gifts update: Going to fund some great educational opportunities for our district including Brightstar Theater Performance, Author visit at Sunset Ridge (Steve Sheinkin), Author Visit at Middlefork (Matthew Cordell), piloting a climate club at Middlefork for 2nd and 3rd graders, and International Night. There is one more round of funding. Feb 21st is the deadline for the spring round of funding. Please visit the [website](#) for more information.

Treasurer Report:

Annie Hendricks, Treasurer

Presentation can be found [here](#):

- Zelle is working so reimbursement can now be done electronically. The reimbursement form reflects this new option.
- Approved \$7,000 in PTO gifts to date.
- 91% of families paid their PTO dues, allows us to continue to support the district
- You still can pay dues through MySchoolBucks
- We are already in the beginning stages of planning the budget for 2025/2026. This is our focus as we get into 2025. Please reach out with any questions,

Community Update:

Deputy Chief Mike Hutensky

- Northfield has hired 3 new officers who will be heading to the academy in January and will join the force officially in April
- During this season there is an uptick in stolen cars. Please don't leave your car running with keys in the car.
- When there is more than 2 inches of snow on the streets, we don't allow parking on village streets during that time so we can plow.

Administration Reports:

Ms. Allissa Baldwin, Teacher representative

- Thank you for all the PTO grants and the delicious lunch from Sweet Green last week.
- Kids went shopping for NUSH last week and wrapped their gifts successfully. This is such a wonderful program

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

- Middlefork Capital Improvement: Exploring options for the space and infrastructure needs at Middlefork. Our next meeting is January 8th at Middlefork, this is open to everybody. We welcome your input.
- No parent connections this month.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

- First Author assembly next week. Global read aloud with Minh Le, virtually K-3.
- Book fair is happening this week, set up is underway.
- NUSH, Thank you volunteers for coming in during library time to help create cards for the families. The extra effort to makes the student connection so much stronger.
- Junior Great Books is a club sponsored by PTO and we currently have 24 students registered for 2 different sessions starting in January.
- Thank you for funding the climate club through the gifts program. We have about 16 2nd and 3rd grade students interested in participating.
- We have lots of music performances. 3rd graders did a wonderful job the community music event, it was great to have so many Middlefork families there. Thursday this week (December 12th) at 6:30pm we will have the winter concert for 2nd and 3rd graders. K and 1st will be a month later at the end of January.
- Kindergarten registration kick off Wednesday January 22nd, 2025. Always helpful to know the numbers early on so we can plan accordingly.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, Sunset Ridge Principal

- Thank you to Ms. Baldwin, Ms. Logan and Ms. Neace for coordinating all the music fieldtrips for the students. Visiting nursing homes, senior center, 4th and 5th going to Middlefork- it takes a lot of coordination and it is so beneficial for the students to see the impact of their music on other people. Thank you for all the efforts it takes to plan and execute those events.
- Partnering with District 35, Glencoe, on a Career Day. Dr. Wang and Dr. Stange are partnering our districts so the 8th graders can head over to participate in this amazing opportunity.
- Grateful for the partnership with the PTO for the NUSH. It has been progressing smoothly, and the kids are very excited. 4th and 5th grade will be doing a service project

for the settlement house after the 1st of the year- maybe a food drive. More to come on that.

- Readapalooza: Every home room creates a themed room and students rotate to read in each of these rooms. Last year there was a Where's Waldo room. Seeing the 14 year olds looking for Waldo was so fun. One of the rotations is to the Eagles nest café where the PTO is volunteering to serve Hot cocoa. We have spots for volunteers, it is the day before break on the 20th. We need all the hands we can get for that event. [SRS Readapalooza](#)
- Homework club: District ends subsidizing the club, the Northfield Park district is going to continue the program. Right now we do not have enough kids to run the program, we would like to see the program extended. Please sign up if you are interested in participating.
- Traffic: Please pay attention while driving through the parking lot. The line on Willow is very long, consider coming around through Sunset Ridge to alleviate some traffic.

School Board Report

Jenny Damon

- Calendar: we are looking at 2025/2026. Big question is if we follow New Trier's Spring Break calendar of spring break March 30th- April 3rd. Do we take off April 6th after Spring break to follow their calendar? The issue arises if we have more than 1 snow day, we would then have to push into the following week for the end of school.
- The District 29 Board of Education will hold their December meetings on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 in the Sunset Ridge School Auditorium. The Education Committee Meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and feature an update and discussion of our Strategic Plan Curriculum Goals. The Regular Board of Education Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and feature a discussion of the draft 2025-2026 District Calendar and the 2024 Tax Levy. The meeting agendas are available from the District 29 website, or by clicking [HERE](#). Both meetings are also broadcast live via the [D29 LiveStream](#).

Committee Reports:

NUSH Holiday Projects, Sarah Cohn

- Thank you to everybody who purchased and sent in gifts. Delivery date is Friday morning to NUSH.
- Thank you to the student Ambassadors, Dedicated Dolphins and all the teacher/staff volunteers for their help.

Middlefork Book Fair, Sara Thompson (Report given by Ranjini Shankar)

- Children will shop Tuesday and Wednesday during school. 3:15-6pm on Wednesday the store will be open after school hours
- Students will shop the fair during the school day on Tuesday, December 10 & Wednesday, December 11. Additionally, we will hold Family Book Fair hours on Wednesday, December 11

from 3:15- 6pm with a Readers' Theater performed by the teachers at 3:30pm and Storytime with Mrs. Kiedaisch at 5pm.

- Middlefork Learning Center -or- you may shop online via [The Middlefork Book Fair Scholastic Homepage](#) between December 9 and December 22. You can also share this link with family and friends that may want to shop and support our school!
- Cash, credit card or eWallet! eWallet is a digital payment account that allows your child to shop for books at the Fair without cash. Please visit the [Middlefork Book Fair Scholastic Homepage](#) to set up your student's eWallet.
- We are still looking for a couple of volunteers to help with setup and working the fair! Please sign up [HERE](#).
- Sarah: Sunset Ridge is scheduled for May 19th, 2025.

Programs Committee, Hillary Bufalino

- Formed a committee and switched the name from Innovation committee to Programs committee.
- We are researching other districts to see what their PTO does.
- Do you have thoughts about current PTO programs? Ideas for future PTO programs? Please fill out this super quick and anonymous [survey](#) and share your feedback.

Readapalooza, Ranjini Shankar

- December 20th at Sunset Ridge. Eagles Ridge café will have Hot Cocoa. Classes will experience different themes and genres in individual classrooms.
- [signupgenius.com](#) - sign up to volunteer!
- contact Christie Caceres (christiecaceres@me.com) or Jenny Gallagher (jgusgal@gmail.com) with any questions.

Alumni Relations, Sarah Hayes

- Currently working on getting a parent square out to share the link for alumni. We are working on a way to get Alumni connected, and more involved in the district. If you are an alumni, or know somebody who is, please help us collect that data by filling out the form [HERE](#)

Winter Benefit, Jocelyn Dinkel, Megan Reed

- March 8th at Sunset Ridge country club. We wanted to get a plug for sponsorships and auction items. They help with event costs, as well as businesses to connect with our community. If you are a sponsor you will have visibility at the event. We will give them a big shoutout!
- Ideas for sponsorships, please contact our committee and our team can reach out. We have talking points and letter that you can provide if you feel reaching out personally is a stronger option. If you have an idea for sponsorship, please fill out the form [HERE](#)
- We are also always looking for auction items, we are still open to anything. Please reach out to Megan or Jocelyn if you have ideas for auction items

- We have a meeting on Wednesday at 7pm, it is in the Northfield Park District community room.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned -9:47am Adjourned by Ranjini Shankar
Minutes compiled by : Emily LeMire, Secretary