

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Monday, March 10th, 9:00am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Ranjini Shankar at 9:01am
Approval of February 2025 Minutes – No corrections, stand as approved.

Presidents Report:

Ranjini Shankar, PTO President

Dr. Linda Yonke, Superintendent Search: Parent engagement in superintendent search both on the survey as well as in person in the focus groups has been very low. Will work on some future dates for focus groups that will hopefully make it easier for parents to attend

Community Safety Update:

Deputy Chief Mike Hutensky

- Village/police has had a chance to sit down with Dr. Yonke as part of the stakeholder survey for the Superintendent search.
- No major updates, current focus for the department is on budgeting

Community Parks Update:

Bill Byron

- Summer camp registration is in full swing, still in the early bird Window- by March 31st to save 10%
- Camp calendars will be posted on the website end of day today.
- Market and Music information will be sent out by mail soon
- Egg hunt is Saturday April 19th at Clarkson park. Hunt is at 11am, pictures with the Easter Bunny starts at 10:30am.
- Parks Department will have a referendum on the ballot for the election to help fund the execution of the Master Plan that will improve existing amenities as well as expand Park offerings. This will include the development of the pocket park near Temple Jeremiah.
- Visit www.northfieldparks.org under Parks and Expanding Communities to see a summary of the referendum. Early voting starts March 17th, election day is April 1st - Please vote!

Treasurer Report:

Karie Smith & Annie Hendricks, Treasurer

Presentation can be found [HERE](#)

- Benefit outcome will be announced once it is finalized
- Treasurers have been working with committee chairs to finalize PTO budget for next academic year

- Developed a 2-year forecast for four different Benefit outcomes to understand the financial health of the PTO and it is clear that in most scenarios, expenses outstrip income
- In order to course correct and achieve a more sustainable model the PTO is exploring many options.

PTO Programs Report:

Sarah Cohn & Hillary Bufalino & Katie Lutz

Presentation can be found [HERE](#)

- 8 new PTO programs are being proposed, please view the presentation for more details.
 - **SRS Quest Club** – 4-8th Grade after school enrichment
 - **MF Chess Club** – K-3rd grade before school enrichment
 - **MF Family STEAM Night** – K-3rd grade family engagement evening
 - **SRS Kick-it Wednesdays** – 4/5th grade after school student engagement
 - **SRS Junior High Mixer** – 6-8th grade after school student social activity
 - **Parent Parties** – All grade parent engagement resources
 - **Bingo Nights** – All grade family social activity and fundraiser
 - **Northfield 5K** – All grade family social activity and fundraiser
- 5 Current PTO programs are being changed, please view presentation for more details
 - **Welcomers Committee** – Add an all school event (ex: ice cream social) before school as well as a spring “reconnect” event
 - **Holiday Gifts Program/NUSH** – Pause for one year to develop a better integrated service learning with the schools
 - **3rd Grade Bike Safety** – Now will also support spring 3rd grade Ride to the Ridge
 - **Movie in the Park and Author Visits** – No longer included in PTO budget
- Please provide any feedback to president_elect@district29pto.org on the new program changes by **Friday, March 14th**

Administration Reports:

Hillary Henderson, Teacher Representative

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

- School is beginning work on the budget and requires accurate enrollment numbers. Please notify the school if you are entering or exiting the district.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

- Current Kindergarten enrollment is 46 but please encourage everyone to register so Middlefork can have accurate numbers to predict staffing needs.

- March 21st will be a “special day” right before spring break with a change of schedule to include specials, bucket drumming, arts and crafts and reading buddies.
- Middlefork is still collecting diapers as part of the Girls Scouts Diaper Drive
- Please email class list feedback by **March 21st** as class lists are built in April. Please provide context and information about your student’s preferences versus requesting a specific teacher.
- 3rd grade IAR testing will start April 2nd, right after spring break.
- Middlefork continues to need a few more driveway volunteers. Even just 2 more would be helpful in the mornings.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, Sunset Ridge Principal

- 7th and 8th IAR testing started this week and 4th-6th will begin after spring break
- Scholastic bowl, boys’ volleyball, robotics seasons have ended.
- SRS hosted the state championships for Robotics and were 5 out of 20 teams that participated with one team qualifying for the world championships in Dallas
- SRS had students compete in a History Challenge and several made it to Nationals

School Board Report

Jenny Damon

- The Education committee meeting is **March 11th** at 5:30pm, following will be the school board meeting at 7pm. The focus will be the presentation and discussion of the staffing in the district.
- There will also be a short discussion on the capital improvement project at Middlefork.

Committee Reports:

Winter Benefit, Jocelyn Dinkel, Megan Reed

- Winter Benefit was a success and thank you to everyone who participated and donated.
- There are still auction items and parties available for purchase on www.givebutter.com/miaminights

PTO Gifts, Sarah Cohn

- Second round of PTO gifts was opened in February and received 4 proposals from staff. They are available to view on the [PTO Gifts website](#).
- The programs that are successfully funded will be announced next week

International Night- Ranjini Shankar

- April 30th at Sunset Ridge school at 6pm.

Nominating Chair, Sandy Norbot

- There are still some open positions, especially around the newer roles such as Middlefork STEAM night and the Junior High dance
- There are also volunteers needed for the fundraising committees so please reach out if interested
- Email or call Sandy at sandynorbot@yahoo.com or 847-826-8630

PTO “after party”

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned -10:02am Adjourned by Ranjini Shankar
Minutes compiled by : Emily LeMire, Secretary