

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Monday, November 11th, 9:00am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Ranjini Shankar at 9:01am
Approval of October 2024 Minutes – No corrections, stand as approved.

Presidents Report:

Ranjini Shankar, PTO President

- Sarah Hayes has stepped into the Alumni chair role

Treasurer Report:

Annie Hendricks, Treasurer

Presentation can be found [here](#):

- Reviewed bank balance and PTO dues.
- Zelle is set up and ready for use. Zelle can be selected as an option on the reimbursement request form found on the website [here](#)
- 2-year scenario planning has been completed
- Documented Federal Tax treatment for various Benefit contributions

Community Update:

Deputy Chief Mike Hutensky

- Halloween was quiet and uneventful
- Cannabis dispensary on Waukegan Road is operational. No issues to date but will continue ongoing monitoring.
- Snowbirds are moving down to warmer climates so please help keep an eye on any empty residences to keep the neighborhood safe.
- Four new officers have been hired and will be joining the staff after training

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

- Illinois school report cards are out for the 4000 Illinois schools that are graded each year. The report card will be talked about at the Education Committee meeting on **Tuesday, November 12th at 5:30 PM**. Both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge earned exemplary remarks, both are in the top 10% of schools in Illinois. Middlefork earned top 1% status.
- Board reviews the first draft of the next year calendar at the November meeting on **Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00PM**. The agenda and hyperlink will be live for the 25/26 calendar on the board [website](#).
- The Subcommittee meeting for the Middlefork capital improvement project is on **Wednesday, November 13th at 10AM at Middlefork School**. They will be discussing a full range of upgrade options.
- Parent connections meeting is **Wednesday, November 20th at 9AM**.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Middlefork updates:

- Middlefork continues to increase ways for parents to be involved in the schools and classrooms including 2nd Grade birthday readers, Kindergarten board game days and Turkey Trot
- Junior Great Books will have registration form sent out shortly for 3rd graders, the club will start meeting in January.
- Music performances start in December - 3rd graders will perform at the Holiday Concert at **Clarkson Park on December 4th**, 2nd and 3rd grade concert on **December 12th**, and then K/1 concert will be **January 30th**
- Middlefork can use some extra volunteers at the car line drop off in the mornings to help keep the line moving. Please contact Ms. Kiedaisch (kiedaischj@srd29.org) if you are interested in helping.

Sunset Ridge:

- Northfield Park District will run Homework Club starting in the new year. Registration opens **Monday, November 18th**.
- There will be a Veterans Day concert **Monday, November 11th at 2PM**, and a 5th grade concert on **Thursday, November 14th at 7PM**
- There was not enough interest to field a Girls basketball team, but there was so much interest from the Boys that a fourth team was added to the 6-8th grade lineup.
- Sunset Ridge is partnering with Glencoe for Career Day on **Friday, January 10th**. If you think of anybody who would be interested in sponsoring a table, please see the ParentSquare post from October 21st or click [here](#) to sign up before **Friday, December 5th**.
- If there is any feedback regarding the “Listening Conference” that took place in October, please send it to either principal or Dr. Stange

School Board Report

Jenny Damon

- Education committee meeting starts at **5:30PM on Tuesday November 12th**. There will be important information regarding our children’s academic performance discussed at this meeting.
- D29 typically follows New Trier’s calendar, but please do reach out to your school board member or want to see any changes about the calendar.
- If there is any feedback about where we are headed with regards to Middlefork renovations please pass on to the school board

Committee Reports:

PTO Gifts, Sarah Cohn

- Applications closed on November 1st, 2024 for the first round of grants. 13 applications were received, and all are up on the [PTO website](#). Please send feedback on any of the applications to Sarah Cohn at president_elect@district29pto.org
- Grants will be reviewed by the PTO Gifts committee which consists of Administration (Dr. Stange, Dr. Sukenik, Ms. Kiedaisch, Mr. Beerheide) and the PTO Executive Team (Ranjini Shankar, Sarah Cohn, Karie Smith, Annie Hendricks) in conjunction with any community feedback we receive and decisions will be made on **November 18th**.
- **Friday, February 21st** is the deadline for the second application cycle.

NUSH Holiday Projects, Sarah Cohn

- Holiday Projects is a partnership between D29 and Northwestern Settlement House to provide gifts and grocery gift cards for families in need. This year the team is also working to incorporate a service-learning opportunity for each grade.
 - K-3 will be reading a story about giving back to others and making holiday cards for the NUSH families.
 - 4th grade will be assembling stocking stuffers at Sunset Ridge.
 - 5th grade is potentially doing a canned food drive but will confirm at a later point
 - 6-8th grade will create a budget and go shopping to purchase the gifts themselves
- Families are encouraged to spend between \$25-30 per assigned person
- Accepting VERY large boxes for donation.

Middlefork Book Fair, Sara Thompson

- Middlefork Book Fair will take place **Tuesday December 10th - Thursday December 12th**.
- The fair will take place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during school hours and then have evening hours on Wednesday from 3:15pm-7pm
- Plenty of other activities are planned such as: reading challenges, various read aloud sessions and teacher reader theater.
- Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities shortly.

Diversity and Global Citizenship- International Night, Carolyn Kelley

- District's first International Night will take place on **April 30th at Sunset Ridge School. From 6:00-7:30PM** with a 30 min performance at the beginning followed by time to explore the different country booths
- An interest form will be sent out via ParentSquare and every family will have a chance to sign up and participate. The link to the survey is [here](#).
- Families can participate by bringing a dish from their country, poster, or just something to display on the table. This is intended to be very simple and for families to have fun representing whatever country they are from or have a connection to.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned -9:32am Adjourned by Ranjini Shankar
Minutes compiled by: Emily LeMire, Secretary