

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Monday, November 13th, 9:02am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Sandy Norbot
Approval of October, 2023 Minutes – No corrections, stand as approved.

Presidents Report:

Sandy Norbot, PTO President

There is a new A/I program we are going to try out. The program will provide a summary of what happens during the meeting and will send me a summary afterwards. It could help our secretary to review the meeting and we will see what this is like for a full meeting. If we find it useful we will use it in the future. If not, we will turn off the feature.

Thank you for attending this morning. Lots to report on what is going on with our PTO and community. We had a successful movie in the park, it was great to watch Mario Brothers outside. The PTO also provided meals during parent teacher conferences. Volunteers at both schools with picture day were fantastic. Room parents and staff put on Halloween festivities. Thank you to everybody who was involved in all these activities.

Board reports please put your board reports together. These are documents that explain what that role is all about. These are located under “about the PTO”, board positions. The paper icon next to each position is where the report is located. It summarizes what you do month by month, your budget, and there are sample emails, etc. Lots of great information for somebody who is looking to volunteer in this position. Please make sure you submit one of these for your board position- blank report under forms and resources, [Committee report blank form](#).

Budget review and program ideas: We are always thinking about what is coming up next for the PTO, how are we doing now, and how are we going to improve next year. We think about the programs themselves and the budget, etc. The budget is based on the position from last year. What did they do, what funds did they need, this is how we determine the following year. It is important to submit your expenses. Beyond that, if you have any really big ideas for your position, that would not fit into the current budget, we would like to hear it. We can speak about it and see if we can find a way to fit into the current programs or current budget. We have some savings, and some wiggle room for additional items that are deemed important.

President Elect’s Report:

Ranjini Shankar, PTO President Elect,

PTO Gifts program: The PTO gifts program closed at end of October. We have 15 great requests from parents, staff and students. We have the decision making meeting this afternoon, to approve as many as we can. You will be hearing back which requests were approved in the

December PTO meeting. As soon as they are approved it will be updated on the website as well. We will be meeting at 11:30am today, feel free to text or email me with any feedback.

[HERE](#) is where you can information on the PTO gifts program:

Treasurer Report:

Yena Levinson, Treasurer

Total bank balance of \$103,096.11. Received \$10,000 to date, classroom fees. \$9,250 already distributed. We have a balance of \$750 to distribute. The plan is to distribute the remaining funds before the holiday party. I think we are pretty much there, we don't expect a ton more. Please deposit checks, and please submit any reimbursements.

As you are spending, please use the [tax exempt](#) form. And that can be found on the PTO website.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

Halloween, always reminds me of a Norman Rockwell painting. I never know who has more fun, parents or kids. People enjoyed my costume as usual.

New officer is progressing well, will be on his own by the first week in December. We tried to hire a second officer but he is not going to work out.

New license plate readers are installed. We are still waiting for approval on county roads. We have solved a hit and run, so already they are working and doing their jobs.

Last weekend we responded to a call that somebody was shot behind Mariano's. Officers responded and found that it was a hoax. The subject that reported was having a mental health breakdown and was taken to the hospital. He will be charged at a later date.

We were on Standby this weekend to assist Northbrook. Northbrook was having rallies so we were ready in case they needed our services.

Over the weekend we had an ambulance call at a residence. The resident pulled a six inch knife, threatened the police and paramedics, then locked himself in a closet. He will be another guest of ours once he is released from the hospital. Lots could have happened and did not, proud of the officers who responded to that call.

we are going to hire an outside company to do a staffing study. Even though we are under staffed, we want to know how much staff does Northfield need? We will be waiting on that report to start and finish.

That is about it, if you have any questions I am here.

Administration Reports:

Ms. Hillary Logan, Teacher Representative

Sunset Ridge has been super busy. Last week Ruler night was a success, door decorating by student ambassadors, Bold and Crispy was out working with a physical education event in Wilmette. Yearbook committee is working hard on the cover. SRS kindness quilt is being worked on – asking students to complete a sticky note. Music has been super busy! we went to the Wolves games and performed on two different concourses before the game. Students were excited to watch the fight at the end of the second period Veterans day concert was a success, Fourth grade concert as well. We have a 5th grade concert on December 8th and visiting two senior homes with the 6-8th graders. The 8th graders are going to play for residents with Dementia, and learn how they explain this to people in a memory care facility. 6th and 7th will play for another senior home, tradition concert.

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Echo your thanks for all the volunteers, room parents, conference meals, thank you to all that helped out.

Kicking off our work on the feasibility study. The board of education approved this study. There will be opportunities for parents to give their thoughts on this process as well.

Annual academic assessment date- we go over all the results of the MAP testing.

Board of Education meeting will go over the agenda and see when the dates are proposed for the 2024/2025 calendar. Typically target January for final approval.

Parent connections, safety and security was the subject of the last meeting- you can see the slide deck in the recording on district website [here](#).

Wednesday this week is the next meeting. I will be reviewing the academic assessment data. All info on the district calendar. You can gain all this information at the board meeting or the parent connections meeting.

Sandy noted how great the presentation of all this data, that Dr. Stange does a great job presenting the information.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

District wide updates: Thank you for the PTO for the conference lunches. We love the PTO and the lunches made a very long conference day go by much smoother. Food was in the lounge at the beginning and allowed the teachers to not feel rushed.

Conferences were successful- 20% via zoom. As we keep moving forward with the hybrid model, this one went smoothly. We want to keep trying to accommodate what families needed.

Our number corner K-5th is going really well. I have been in several classrooms and discussions about patterns and the new routines are exciting the kids. Kudos to teachers for their work on this program.

Ruler family night had a huge turnout, thank you to all who came. We welcomed officers from the police department who were good spots in the photo booth. Thank you the Middlefork families who came and learned about something that we feel is important. Our ruler reps made it really fun. More to come.

Sunset Ridge- the work that the music department has been doing in the past few weeks has been tremendous. Grade level concerts, veterans day concert, Wolves Games. The work that the music department is doing is very intentional and how their music skills are impacting the community.

BBALL season up and running- lots of boys, not a lot of girls. The girls that are playing are passionate about it. We are combining 6,7,8th – they will all play on varsity. Park district to partner with us to have practice space n the AM.

Student ambassadors are partnering with Northwestern Settlement house to do some pre work like constructing boxes, creating a video to show kids about the program (more of a learning opportunity) addition to the donations and shopping. Older kids go to shop for the families, but we want to boost up the learning piece. How is this making an impact.

This group has revived our social media account, Instagram. They are trying to highlight different things in the district. Will put the Instagram in the chat. Follow sunsetridgeschool

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

I want to echo Dr. Sukenik said about Ruler night. The glow of connecting with so many of you in person has a lasting effect. It was great seeing you having so much fun with the kids. Thanks for packing the house.

Thank you PTO for making Halloween so special, offering lend a hand in Pumpkin patch, and for encouraging your kids to decorate. Thank you for organizing such engaging parties in the classrooms... set up and cleaned up properly.

Love the gourds and scarecrows and great decorations out-front, we appreciate that work keeping our spaces beautiful.

Thank you to the police department to ensure everything went well at the outdoor parade.

Third graders will be performing at the Northfield holiday fest in Clarkson Park. 3rd year, and it is really sweet and fun! All families are invited to come out. 3rd graders will sing the heart out. Last year the weather was super cold, hoping we are back on the mild side.

Starting to work with Junior Great books, a great program sponsored by the PTO. Sending out some information to see what interest there is.

Northwest Settlement house- Middlefork students will be making cards to go along with the gifts. We will have dedicated dolphins preparing the boxes and helping.

Encourage you to remind your kids to eat their lunch every day. Seems kind of odd, kids come home with partially eaten lunches. We need to remind them to eat, they love to socialize. Just a gentle reminder to eat your lunch.

We are beginning feasibility study, we have 3 teachers from different teams in the building. Sharing different perspectives in what our staff and student needs are. Looking forward to embarking on this.

School Board Report

Abigail Joseph and Jennifer Damon

Jenny Damon is here. We will be having the education committee meeting today at 5:30pm. Christy Crabtree will be going through that with Dr. Stange, MAP, IAR, and ISA presentation. She breaks it down with the Why, so what, now what, a comprehensive and interesting way to look at it. Achievement and growth amongst
7pm is the regular board meeting, we will be working on the calendar. We start with New Trier calendar and go from there.

Collective bargaining with the teachers union is underway. It is going very well, group of school board reps meet with Teachers union reps. We work through their upcoming contracts. Our smooth negotiations show what a true partnership we have between school board and teachers.

Safety and security presentation at the parent connections meeting. I wish more people would attend those meetings as they are so informative.. Please do look at that presentation, that is very important in our community. Want to highlight that as well.

School board meetings are live streamed on YouTube – You can access the meeting information [HERE](#)

Committee Reports:

Maggie Yocum-Piatt, Holiday Gifts Project Northwestern Settlement House

1891, oldest settlement house in Chcigao. \$15,000 gift, toys, gifts, for a good holiday and holiday meal. Look similar K-5, will get 1 family. Kids can work together. \$25 is the participation we ask for child. Wrapped and clearly labeled, box outside each of the classrooms for the gift drop off.

We really improve the student engagement this year. Why are they doing it, and how is impacting others?. 6-8th graders will go to target, shop, and wrap them and take to the families.

We are doing the Christmas Cards for the younger children to give to the families

We are excited about the SRS students creating the video... This will help the student engagement more.

We would like to get the list out this week. We are hoping to have this before break... as soon as we get the lists we will get them out asap.

Sarah Cohen, Middlefork Book Fair

Gearing up for book fair, it will be Tuesday December 5th-Thursday December 7th. Students will shop during the day Tuesday and Wednesday and family book fairs on Wed and Thursday after school. We will send out information this week and next week. Spam you with lots of info after the holiday.

Literati, trying out a new vendor this year. They sold us on the easy set up, so we will see if that is true. Known for book subscriptions. We are confident that it will be successful. There will be an opportunity for a book card so you don't have to send the kid to school with cash. We will be sending around a sign up genius for parent volunteers.

Sunset Ridge will be in the spring, that will be coming -we are doing it later in the year.

Monthly matters had the link to Literati, that information was in the last news letter

Dan Friedman, Parent Connections

We already discussed the parent connections meeting.

Please join us for the next meeting which will be very informative. October 25th 7pm
https://www.sunsetridge29.org/parents/parent_connections

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned :9:42am- Adjourned by Sandy Norbot.
Minutes compiled by : Emily LeMire, Secretary