

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Monday, October 9th, 7:01pm
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Sandy Norbot
Approval of September 11th, 2023 Minutes – No corrections, stand as approved.**

Presidents Report:

Sandy Norbot, PTO President

Good Evening. This is our second monthly PTO meeting of this school year, and our first evening meeting in recent history. We will continue to rotate between morning and evening PTO meetings. Would like to thank everybody for being here.

Board Reports- Program Documentation

This is our documentation on how to perform each duty for a particular board position. They are important for when we build and slate the following school year. It is nice to give people the ability to see what the role is all about before they sign up for it. Also, once somebody is in that position, it lays the groundwork for what they need to do. If you have recently wrapped up your position, please create the board report and I will get it onto the website.

Sandy showed an example or tried to pull up on the website.

On the [PTO website](#), under board positions. I will email a blank report out to the board as well.

Insurance- We decided as an exec board to obtain a insurance policy. We set aside \$500 in the budget but at that time we had not narrowed down the policy. We have chosen a policy; we are in the process of securing it. It is in effect any day now, the premium \$779, is a little more than what we budgeted. Any questions on the insurance policy? No questions

President Elect's Report:

Ranjini Shankar, PTO President Elect,

PTO Gifts program:

For anybody hearing about this for the first time, the PTO allocates a certain amount of money for this fund and this year (thanks for the work of the PTO benefit committee) we were able to up the cap to \$15,000. This fund goes towards fulfillment request of staff and parents who see projects or needs that don't fall within the school budget. I would like to share my screen and where to find the information you need.

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

Four main guidelines: This is a one time startup amount, so just a one time grant or "seed money" to start a new club or organization.

Second, we try and fund requests that don't fit into the current budget.

Third, to fund programs that extend or enhance the core instructional program.

Finally, want to reach as many children as possible.

Fill out the form – application is open and will stay open till Friday October 27th and at that point we will post all the grant applications on the website for community feedback. We intend to make a decision by end of November. First week of December will be when the decisions are announced.

Treasurer Report:

Yena Levinson, Treasurer

Budget Report – As of today, the balance is \$112,247.14 We are in great shape with Dues. Please keep sending them in, next week I will write room parent checks. I will let Hillary know when those are available for pick up. Please cash any checks you are holding onto and submit any reimbursements! My school bucks and pay the classroom party fees and dues - [HERE](#)

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

Apologizing for missing the first meeting- I had to be at the 9/11 ceremony. I love doing this so would have rather been with you.

I would like to start with what is going on at the police department. Staffing is very hard. We did hire one, he is on patrol on his own right now. We have hired another officer, he is with a training officer for the next 12 weeks. We are looking to hire a 3rd officer, but he has to pass the background.

Today, a lot of residents heard a helicopter circling the area. This helicopter was putting in a heating system at Sunset Ridge country club. Next week Marianos will be replacing 11 systems by the same method. That will be the reason for more helicopter circling noise next week.

Crime starts to pick up at this time of year. Lots of fraud and hacking schemes. I want to remind people, when you get a call to hang up. Disconnect, the longer the scammer keep us on the phone, the more info we will share that can hurt us. Same if they show up at your door, slam door and call us. Read the sender info, and if you don't recognize please be careful. Scammers are pretty active right now.

Lots of complaints about the motorized scooters. They are not street legal and they do not belong on street. Riders are going through stop signs, not paying attention, cutting people off, it has become quite an issue. I am trying to figure out how to handle this without being the bad guy. I thought I would work through the parents. Students on scooters should not on the street, they need to walk them if there is no sidewalk in the area. Need to be wearing helmets! Illinois municipal league sent a survey to all police departments about it, clearly this is becoming a problem.

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Thank you so much for the Northfielder's Garden club for providing flower arrangements for each staff member. It was SO wonderful!

Thank you to ComEd and the Northfield Police Department for their assistance with the power outage at Middlefork school. It was great to have the partnership and police to navigate it.

I just want to note the great partnership we have with the police department. Officers sit on our safety committee, are present in school to bike safety, officer friendly in Middlefork school, give talks about drugs, alcohol and bullying... AND playing in the tournament of eagles. We are lucky and grateful to have a great partnership with the department.

Thanks for the PTO for your support with the author visits.

District news- The upcoming board meeting will discuss how we have the highest enrollment in over 20 years. Highest enrollment in the district in over a decade. Lot of people in our schools and we are working hard on strategic planning goals, SEL, RULER, literacy, world languages, and so much more. We are onboarding 20 new staff members, including but not limited to a K-3 reading specialist, new social worker, added section in 3rd grade... and many more. We have hired over a ½ dozen TA's. We are preparing for collective bargaining, We have a great relationship with the teachers union so we expect to resolve this year.

Public service announcements: One thing we are hitting hard is that everybody volunteering in the school needs to be wearing an ID badge at all times. Given that we have so many new staff it is imperative that everybody is identified.

Don't leave valuables in your car, even in our parking lot or park district.

There have been reports of separate dog biting's in the last month- I love dogs, but if you are at the park please have a leash on your dog! If you are a pedestrian around the dog park please be observant of what is going on around you.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

We are looking forward to hosting Parent teacher conferences. In person and online person are available but we prefer in person. We are requesting that conferences take place on the 19th only- we want to be respectful and honor teachers time.

Please mark your calendars for RULER family night- November 9th 7pm, at Sunset Ridge. Open to all families- K-8th grade. Ruler reps, have designed every station and the kids are super excited about it. If you ask me, geared more towards Middlefork students. All with a fun theme, raffle- passport system, music. Going to be great, everybody is welcome and bring the whole family.

Sunset Ridge had such a great author visit with Ben Hatke, thank you to Trish for making that happen. It was so cool to watch him do drawings as he was talking to the kids. Really fun to watch and show kids how the smallest stroke of the pen made a different emotion.

Girls volleyball season is wrapping up, conclude with tournaments soon.

Inaugural final cross country season is having their last meet at new Trier next week. The kids are very fired up about this club!

Basketball starts in a few weeks. Is there going to be transportation- we do have transportation. Basketball is for 6-8th.

Student Ambassadors are planning a Halloween spirit week. Will be in Friday news with more info.

7th grade, Outdoor ed coming up a field trip.

7th grade orchestra going to the symphony.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

In addition to a power outage, we had a successful picture day. Thank you to the PTO volunteers. Our Author, Brendan Wenzel, the lights went on and delighted the audiences with his stories about his inspirations. We were really happy that Kelly Johnson organized this with the book stall.

Lots of fun clubs are up and going! Coding, Middlefork video club, chess, dedicated dolphins and art studio class. Bike safety week was a huge success! Thank you to the police for doing the rules of the road and register the bikes on the last day. We appreciate the 3rd grade parents who helped with testing the students and helping to clean up afterwards. Now our 3rd graders are on wheels. Please look out for them.

Halloween is a big tradition at Middlefork- looking forward to celebrating. In addition to parade and room parties we are going to do our first attempt at a pumpkin patch. We will be inviting families to drop off the pumpkins and we are going to use them for decorations but also for some classroom activities that morning. I am going to ask for parent volunteers -help that morning organizing the pumpkins and help with Kindergarteners in the arrival line, etc Looking forward to that very much. Parties are in the planning phase, so that is great.

Christine Keopraseuth, Teacher Representative

Just a reminder to sign up for conferences!

School Board Report

Jennifer Damon

Trial here to see if parents and students will be using the transportation for the after school sports- if you would like to keep using student bussing, use it! If it will not be used then we will save the cost moving forward. Kids like the community aspect of riding the bus to the events together.

There is usually a committee meeting at 5:30pm before the school board meeting. This week is the finance and facilities meeting- all on Zoom. This is where you will hear a meatier conversation about the topics with no decisions being made at that committee meeting. They report that back to the school board meeting. The board meeting is where we have the vote. If you are looking for more detail, listen to the committee meeting before the school board meeting.

This month is the finance and facility meeting, we will be hearing about the financial audit. Tom Beerheide will be talking about a levy review. Feasibility study and thinking aabout what we can do for Middlefork school. Something else is we will review data from the five essential schools Survey study. Hearing about the strengths and areas for opportunity.

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

Committee Reports:

Christine O'Neil– Fall Event – Movie in the Park
October 20th at 5:30pm at Clarkson Park. Movie starts at 6pm.

Maria Mastroianni, Author Visits, Middlefork
Author visit was great. Brendan Wenzel was great and we really appreciate Kelly Johnson's work with the Book Stall to make this author visit happen!

Dan Friedman, Parent Connections
Please join us for the next meeting which will be very informative. October 25th 7pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83731494173?pwd=ZkNsTONPem5JSklCbTF4bXdjRWJvdz09>

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned : 7:44pm- Adjourned by Sandy Norbot.
Minutes compiled by : Emily LeMire, Secretary