

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO**  
**Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 9am**  
**Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Bridget Kennedy, 9:02am**  
**Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Lizzie Kinnich**

**President's Report:**

*Bridget Kennedy, PTO President*

Welcome. Excited to see so many people joining this meeting.

*(shared screen to show presentation)*

The PTO serves the families, students and staff of District 29. For students, we cover the AM Rec program at Sunset Ridge, Middlefork School Coding, author visits, 6th grade social dance and more. For families, we match new families to the district with mentor families. For teachers, we sponsor luncheons and more.

The PTO meets monthly and we will continue to meet on Zoom for now.

If you want to get involved in the PTO, look at the positions on our website and see what you might be interested in. Reach out to the person listed next to the position to see if you can help. We operate on fundraising so please remember to pay your dues. Dues are \$25 per family and that money goes to the PTO. Classroom fees are \$25 per student and that goes towards your child's class parties. The 8th grade fee is \$150 per student. All dues and fees can be paid at [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com).

**Family Action Network Report**

*Lonnie Stonitsch, FAN Executive Director*

Thank you to Bridget Kennedy for letting me address the PTO. We appreciate your support.

FAN is almost 40 years old.

Alison Basofin and Lizzie Kinnich are the District 29 representatives this year.

We encourage the PTO to sponsor a few FAN events this year.

Last season, FAN held 56 virtual events, which is nearly double the number of events than were held in prior years. Our audience footprint has expanded.

More authors and speakers are available to us virtually.

Last week we held our first event. We have 6 events this September.

Abigayil Joseph remarked that she loves what FAN did with Kenilworth and how the entire community was engaged with their MLK event last year.

Lonnie Stonitsch shared she would love to connect and explore doing something similar with District 29.

Bridget Kennedy shared that we will also be promoting FAN events via our social media.

**Treasurer Report:**

*Yena Levinson, Treasurer*

Last night, everyone was emailed the budget as well as some other forms. The budget will be sent prior to each meeting.

We are focusing on collecting dues right now.

The reimbursement form and the Tax Exempt ID form were also attached in the email. We do not reimburse for sales tax so please remember to use this form.

Our bank account balance is at \$103,312k.

**Committee Reports:**

*Hayley Garard, School Kits*

The school distributed all supply kits this year since parent volunteers were not able to enter the buildings. Thank you to the schools for handling this.

*Hillary Bufalino, Parent Connections (not present)*

Bridget shared that the first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 21 at 9am on Zoom. The link is on the website. They will be facilitating a SEL focus group. All are invited to attend.

**Community Update:**

*Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

We hired a new officer. He is in training right now.

We have had a problem with cut through traffic on side streets with students from Loyola and New Trier. We are ticketing and trying to troubleshoot.

Yesterday, there was an accident on Willow and Wagner around dismissal time. A car turned right in front of another car. No pedestrians were hurt.

The best way to communicate with me is on the phone or in-person, not email or text.

Reminder that the schools, park district, police department and the Northfield community should all work as a team.

**Teacher Representative Report**

Ivy Sukenik shared that there is not a teacher rep that was able to join today. The teachers send their best regards.

**Administration Reports:**

*Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools*

Welcome. We have had a great start to the year.

Thank you to the PTO for the back to school luncheon.

We have a staff member who has tested positive for COVID. They did not have any close contacts at the schools. We also had 1 student test positive over the weekend.

We will always call parents if their child is a close contact.

We had 1 staff member and 1 student test positive over the summer.

We will not email the district regarding children who may be quarantining for various reasons. 70% of Middlefork students and 90% of Sunset Ridge students have turned in consent to “test to stay” for non-household close contacts. Tests are administered on Day 1, 3, 5 and 7.

If you haven’t consented for your child, they will have to quarantine and will have access to remote learning.

If a child is vaccinated and asymptomatic, they do not have to quarantine or “test to stay” for a close contact.

The test must be administered by the district. Parents cannot go do their own test via Walgreens, etc.

The District is engaging in Strategic Planning with Battelle For Kids. We are looking for 2 teams to assist in our planning. The first will be designing “Portrait of a District 29 Graduate” and will be meeting September through December. The other will be a strategic design team, meeting January through April. Reach out if you would like to get involved with either of these committees.

Middlefork has had a lot of traffic at pickup. We are exploring options to help with this and will discuss them at the board meeting tonight.

Abigayil Joseph asked how parents can send in vaccination information or “test to stay” consent if they haven’t done so already.

Dr. Stange answered that information is available on Parent Square or the parent can call the school.

*Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal*

Thank you to the PTO for the generosity during back to school times.

Thank you to the lunchroom volunteers.

Last night, we had an 8th grade parent meeting.

Girls’ volleyball season has started. Today is their first match.

There was not enough interest in soccer this year to form a team.

There has been lots of interest in AM Rec and Intramural Basketball from 4th and 5th graders.

Please look into our SEL pushes for this year. It is important to partner with the community. We will be hosting two SEL focus groups. One will be during Parent Connections next week. The other will be that evening. We will also be hosting a community based focus group with the police and fire chiefs, representatives from the nursery school and more.

We will be sending a parent survey out soon.

*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal*

Thank you for all of the back to school action.

We had a great kindergarten meet and greet in person this year. We have 26 kindergarteners who do not have an older sibling at Middlefork.

The Dolphin Diner lunchroom has been running very well. Thank you to Laura Hendricks.

We have been doing a number of assessments on students this fall to measure benchmarks and growth.

We will be starting coding soon with Ms. Johnson and Ms. Anderson for 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders, all on different days because of COVID. Signup will be in ParentSquare. We will not

be offering kindergarten coding after school as the kindergarteners are now doing coding once a week during class time with the extended day.

We are moving bike safety week to the fall this year for our 3rd graders. We are still figuring out the date. Thinking about October. We may need volunteers.

### **School Board Report**

*Abigayil Joseph*

Tonight is the first board meeting of the school year.

At 5:30pm tonight we have an education committee meeting. The principals will be reporting MAP testing results and how we compare to other districts. We will learn our strengths and where we have opportunities to grow.

At the board meeting, Dr. Stange will be giving a superintendent report and both principals will be giving an update. We will also be discussing strategic planning and the teams that are available to parents to participate.

Education committee meeting is at 5:30pm. Board meeting is at 7pm. Both will be streamed online but anyone can join in-person at Sunset Ridge.

Dr. Stange added that all agendas and meeting packet info are posted online.

### **Additional Comments**

*Bridget Kennedy*

There will be a PTO fall event on 9/24 at Clarkson Park. We will be showing a movie in the park. We do not have a rain date.

*Abigayil Joseph, Social 6th Grade Dance Chair*

We have been trying to figure out what we will be doing this year. Social dance is usually 6 weeks long. This year we will do 3 in the fall and 3 in the spring when hopefully things will be better.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:54am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO**  
**Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 9am**  
**Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Bridget Kennedy, 9:03am**  
**Approval of minutes: Archana Piotrowski and Patricia Gainsberg**

**President's Report:**

*Bridget Kennedy, PTO President*

Thank you for coming to Movie in the Park. Over 100 people attended. We had great feedback. It was so successful that we decided to make this our annual fall event.

The new family ice cream social has been postponed until spring. If you are a welcome family, please reach out to your new family and try to make a personal connection.

Please pay your PTO dues and classroom fees.

This Friday we will begin accepting applications for the PTO Gifts Grant Program.

The PTO website has been updated. (Bridget Kennedy shared her screen to show the PTO website) Thank you to Brent Payne for refreshing our site.

Please send in your updated PTO chair position descriptions so we can put them on the website. At the end of the year, please update the board report for your position.

We are looking for another person or two to help with the Family Fun Fair at the end of the school year. Gretchen Swank is currently running it and needs a hand.

We need 2 -3 people to run the Winter Benefit in March 2023.

**Treasurer Report:**

*Yena Levinson, Treasurer*

Our bank account balance is \$109,072.56.

Thank you to everyone who has paid your PTO dues and classroom fees.

We will be cutting room parent checks by the end of the week or early next week.

Reimbursement forms are on our website.

**Committee Reports:**

*Christie Caceres, President Elect*

We are taking applications for the PTO Gifts Grant Program from October 15 - November 15.

Only electronic applications will be accepted this year.

In early December, we will get together to decide which grants will be awarded.

We will be talking with the student council to discuss this program as well as they had interest in submitting last year.

*Hillary Bufalino, Parent Connections*

At the last meeting on 9/21, we talked about SEL. Staff members and parents discussed various topics relating to social emotional learning.

A SEL survey was sent to the parent community.

At our next meeting on 10/20, we will be discussing NWEA MAP Assessment.

### **Community Update:**

*Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

Ruse and residential burglaries are active all around us.

Our new officer is in his 5th week of training and doing great.

Another officer is retiring in November and we will need to replace him.

Northfield's Halloween hours will be 3 - 7:30pm.

Computer scams are running rampant.

### **Committee Reports (continued):**

*Patricia Gainsberg, Alliance for Early Childhood*

We had a successful fort building event.

The next parent program will be in January.

We have programs for educators coming up.

*Patricia Gainsberg, Great Books Coordinator*

Junior Great Books program will be on hold for another year unless it is done after school. It is usually held during lunch/recess. Would need 2 - 3 volunteers to run an after school program. Each meeting is 45 min - 1 hour in length.

*Patricia Gainsberg, Middlefork Author Visits*

In November, the author Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow who wrote "Your Name is a Song" will be meeting with Kindergarten through 3rd grade over two days.

Author Duncan Tonatiuh will be doing a read aloud this year as well.

We have two more visits scheduled for the spring.

### **Teacher Representative Report**

*Dana Dorsey*

Thank you for all of your support!

### **Administration Reports:**

*Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools*

Strategic planning efforts are underway. We have contracted with an outside consultant that surrounding districts have used as well. The Portrait of a Student committee met last week and had around 50 participants. We discussed hopes, dreams and aspirations of our graduates. The meeting was recorded and posted under the School Board section of our website. The Strategic Design team will be meeting in January. We would like more District 29 graduate involvement. The local test positivity rate is less than 3% but the cases per 100k are up.

A teacher at Middlefork has tested positive for COVID and that class will be doing the Test to Stay protocol. No one was positive when tested this morning.

All tests for Test to Stay must be done at school.

We encourage you to fill out the Test to Stay Authorization Form in advance if interested in this service.

New Trier supports 6 elementary school districts. If we want to do a parent/student panel, they would offer to have their PTO coordinate with ours and other districts.

Philip Jones, a former District 29 board member, has recently passed away. Thoughts and prayers with his family.

*Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal*

Thank you to the PTO volunteers for making picture day run smoothly.

Thank you to Erica Marinello for partnering with Lauren Gray for our 4th grade author visit this Thursday.

Student Council is planning a fun after school Halloween party for 10/29 for 4th and 5th grade. Please fill out the SEL survey that was sent. Your input is very valuable.

Athletics are continuing. Volleyball is wrapping up and basketball is starting.

There is a 12pm dismissal on Friday.

Marci Peck added that if your child is participating in sports, you will need to send in a yearly physical form.

*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal*

Thank you to Trish Gainsberg for organizing our upcoming author visits.

Coding clubs have been running very well.

The leftover teacher appreciation funds that were gifted to us at the end of the last school year have been used. We spent the \$250 Amazon gift card on new outdoor and indoor recess equipment as well as parent volunteer vests.

Thank you to the 10 parents who volunteered at bike safety last Friday.

We are planning a Halloween parade for the afternoon of 10/29. We will have an outdoor viewing for parents.

Some room parents will be able to come help with class parties at the request of teachers.

Parents will have to either show proof of vaccination or take a rapid test.

Bridget Kennedy asked if we could live stream the parade and Mrs. Kiedaisch confirmed that it is the plan to livestream the parade.

Teachers prefer when holiday themed parties are grade-wide consistent.

### **School Board Report**

*Abigayil Joseph*

At 5:30pm tonight we have our finance meeting. We will be discussing 2021 audit findings as well as capital updates.

At 7pm tonight we have our regular school board meeting. Will be giving updates on strategic planning, enrollment, vaccine requirements for overnight travel and the potential hiring of a security consultant.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:53am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO**  
**Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 9am**  
**Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Bridget Kennedy, 9:02am**  
**Approval of minutes: Patricia Gainsberg and Yena Levinson**

**President's Report:**

*Bridget Kennedy, PTO President*

Thank you to all of our volunteers over the past months.

We are still looking for 2 more volunteers for the winter benefit. Devon Pearce has volunteered and has event planning experience. Angie Oliver has also volunteered. Would like 2 more volunteers with fundraising experience. The benefit will have a live and silent auction. We are looking at March 2023 for the benefit. Please email me if interested in helping.

**Treasurer Report:**

*Yena Levinson, Treasurer*

\$104,577.95 in the bank.

Room parent checks were handed out for a total of \$11,750.

We have collected 81% of dues and classroom fees.

If you have any checks, please cash them.

**Committee Reports:**

*Christie Caceres, President Elect*

We are accepting applications for the Gifts Grants Program until 11/15. We have received some applications and would love a few more. Past gifts as well as the application are on the PTO website. Spoke with the Student Council Exec Board last week and they will be submitting something as well. After 11/15, all applications will be posted online for people to view.

*Kerri Melzl, Holiday Projects (not present)*

Bridget shared that every year, our district works with the Northwestern Settlement to help families in need. The lists will be distributed in class after Thanksgiving. Chrissy Geraghty will be taking this over next year.

*Hillary Bufalino, Parent Connections*

At the last meeting, we discussed NWEA testing, which measures academic progress. The recording of the meeting is posted online. At our next meeting on 11/16, we will be discussing the math curriculum. Please join us.

**Community Update:**

*Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

Halloween went great.

The Illinois Bike Rules of the Road pamphlet is available at the police department front desk. Older children may need to be reminded of the rules when biking.



### **Administration Reports:**

*Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools*

We have lots of academic and mental health support being offered this year to help recover from what has been affected by the pandemic.

Lunch shields will be taken down this week.

The first vaccine clinic has sold out. The next clinic is scheduled for 11/24. Registration will be sent out on 11/18.

At the next board meeting, we will be discussing the calendar for next year. We will be discussing a Wednesday vs Monday start.

Thank you to those who filled out the survey on parent teacher conferences. 50% prefer virtual conferences while 41% prefer in-person conferences. Going to recommend to the board that we give parents the choice.

Please do not bring your dog on our campus while kids are outside.

*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal*

It was so nice to have parents in class helping with the Halloween parties. Teacher agreed.

They liked having a consistent, grade-wise plan. Also liked having the supplies in advance.

Thank you for all of the author visits.

Shields are being taken down at lunch today.

Middlefork teachers will be providing first trimester progress reports this year. In the past, we have only sent 2nd and 3rd trimester reports. Reports will be sent early December.

Parents will have 2 opportunities to give feedback on our math curriculum: 11/15 at 7pm and 11/16 at 9am during Parent Connections.

*Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal*

Lunch shields went down yesterday.

Halloween was a huge success.

6th Grade Social Dance has been very successful. Thank you to the chairs.

Spirit Week is coming up. Next week, the student council would like to do a gratitude week.

The Veteran's Day concert is happening this year. 7th and 8th graders will be performing. The performance will be live streamed on our YouTube channel.

The 4th grade concert is tomorrow night. It will also be live streamed as each child can only have 2 in person guests.

### **School Board Report**

*Abigayil Joseph*

Our next board meeting is next Tuesday. The education committee meeting is at 5:30 and the general board meeting is at 7. We will be discussing the district calendar, results of the parent teacher conference survey, special education measures, strategic planning updates and a school security consultation service.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:36am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO**  
**Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 9am**  
**Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Bridget Kennedy, 9:01am**  
**Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad & Christie Caceres**

**President's Report:**

*Bridget Kennedy, PTO President*

Thank you for coming.

Recap of Northwestern Settlement House: We helped 41 families. Thank you to Chrissy Geraghty and Kerri Melzl. This is a huge undertaking. The Student Council helped pack up the truck. Thank you to families for donating.

Update from Patricia Gainsburg on *The Alliance for Early Childhood*: Please consider honoring an educator or support staff.

If you are interested in helping with the Winter Benefit, please reach out. Devon Pearce and Ange Oliver have already committed to helping and we would like a third person to run fundraising.

**Treasurer Report:**

*Yena Levinson, Treasurer*

\$95,254.29 in the bank.

If you have any checks, please cash them.

**Committee Reports:**

*Christie Caceres, President Elect*

The Gifts Grants Committee approved all 6 requests that came in. Gifts support both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge. Received great feedback from parents this year. Thank you to Brent Payne for updating our website with all the info.

**Community Update:**

*Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

Last night there was a bad car accident at Willow and Hibbard. There was a fatality. Our task force is helping investigate the cause.

There has been an increase in catalytic converter thefts. There are precious metals inside the converters that are valuable.

Crime has been more aggressive lately. Please be aware of your surroundings.

### **Administration Reports:**

*Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools*

Thank you to the PTO for the Gifts Grants Program and all of the work on the Northwestern Settlement House.

The Task Force met yesterday. Metrics are on the rise. No evidence of transmission at school. We did discuss expanding testing with SHIELD testing and the consensus was not to implement it at this time.

At the school board meeting tonight, we will be discussing the calendar for next year. Strategic planning is going very well.

*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal*

We are having holiday parties in school this Friday.

Thank you to the PTO for supporting our Coding Club.

We are very excited about the approval of the gifts through the Gifts Grants Program.

We are going to be combining grades for recesses after the new year.

We are funding a Lego Club for 1st and 2nd graders beginning in January. The club is full.

*Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal*

Thank you to the PTO for the Gifts Grants Program and author visits.

It was great to see parents come out to all our holiday music performances.

We are going to be starting a newspaper in the new year.

We are going to highlight our core value movements starting in 2022.

### **Committee Reports (continued):**

*Hillary Bufalino, Parent Connections*

At the last meeting we discussed the math curriculum. Mrs Berkhof gave an overview on the current math curriculum and we gave our feedback. There is no meeting this month. The topic in January is strategic planning.

### **School Board Report**

*Abigayil Joseph*

The education meeting is tonight at 5:30pm.

The board meeting is at 7pm. We will discuss the district calendar, strategic planning and our security consultant.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:27am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO**  
**Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 9am**  
**Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Bridget Kennedy, 9:02am**  
**Approval of minutes: Erica Marinello and Yena Levinson**

**Administration Reports:**

*Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools*

Metrics are up in our area. Around 11.5% test positivity rate and 1800 per 100k. Starting to trend down though.

We have had 50 students and 11 staff test positive since we started our break in December. 98% of staff and 82% of students are vaccinated.

43% of our cases are unvaccinated kids.

We have increased our mitigation strategies for now.

Right now we have a good stock of rapid antigen tests but the state is beginning to limit them so if we have a big testing increase we may run into a shortage.

We do not have the staff to implement SHIELD testing.

IDPH said you should not be going remote because of your test positivity rate. You should only go remote if you have an outbreak or a staffing issue. If it happens in our district, it will likely be on a classroom level.

**President's Report:**

*Bridget Kennedy, PTO President*

We are still looking for a couple more people to help with the winter benefit. Devon Pearce and Ange Oliver are running the event. We need help with fundraising.

When you have completed a PTO board position, please update the summary of your position so that it is easier to transition next year.

The book fair will be in late April/early February.

**Treasurer Report:**

*Yena Levinson, Treasurer*

\$91,728.01 in the bank.

If you have any checks, please cash them.

**Committee Reports:**

*Hillary Bufalino, Parent Connections*

We did not have a meeting last month. Next month we will hear an update on COVID as well as strategic planning. Please join us next Tuesday at 9am.

*Erica Marinello, Sunset Ridge Author Visits*

7th and 8th grades have not had author visits yet. We are working to get one scheduled.

4th, 5th and 6th grades will have a virtual visit on 2/14 with Kelly Yang. They will also all receive a copy of her new book when it is released in March.

*Patricia Gainsberg, Alliance for Early Childhood*

There are a number of parent events coming up. Look on the website for more information. We also have an event coming up for educators and they will receive credit if they attend.

### **Community Update:**

*Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

It is budget time at the Village.

The new officer is now on his own.

We had an officer retire so we are in the process of hiring a new officer.

When you see something that concerns you, call us right away.

Car dealerships in the area continue to be burglarized.

We went into a soft lockdown at Middlefork School a few months ago. We found the person who made the threat and he went into a mental health program. He has since been released and has made numerous calls to a local business. We have a warrant for his arrest.

### **Administration Reports (cont.):**

*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal*

We did "13 Days of December" in both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge schools. Administration scheduled school wide activities for both staff and students.

We are kicking off our Distinguished Dolphins program. Positive behavior will be recognized on a classroom level.

Kindergarten registration is coming up at the end of January.

The Kindergarten winter sing will be recorded this week and shared with families.

Traffic has been very backed up during pickups because of the cold weather.

Dr Sukenik was unable to join us but wanted to pass along the following:

SRS is focusing on the value of perseverance this month.

Journalism club is beginning this week.

1/28 will be 8th Grade Picture Day.

### **School Board Report**

*Abigayil Joseph*

The finance committee meets tonight at 5:30pm. We will be discussing the 5 year projection plan.

Board meeting tonight at 7pm. Will be discussing strategic planning. Approving district calendar. Discussing enrollment.

We are analyzing data on a month to month basis on enrollment and class sizes. It is not a board level decision on whether to add or remove a class on a grade level. It is up to school administration.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:45am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO**  
**Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 9am**  
**Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Bridget Kennedy, 9:01am**  
**Approval of minutes: Erica Marinello and Hillary Bufalino**

**President's Report:**

*Bridget Kennedy, PTO President*

The PTO Fundraising letter was just mailed out. We do a letter writing campaign on benefit off years. Please donate! The PTO provides so much for our district. Can donate via check or online.

Sarah Cohn has stepped up to take over fundraising for the benefit. We will have 2 people running the event and 2 people running fundraising. There will be many more opportunities to get involved.

The Middlefork Book Fair will be the week of May 9. Sunset Ridge dates are still TBD. Ice cream social for new families will be on May 16.

The last day of school is June 7 and we will have the end of year party on that day.

**Treasurer Report:**

*Yena Levinson, Treasurer*

\$91,729.25 in the bank.

**Committee Reports:**

*Hillary Bufalino, Parent Connections*

Last month's meeting was on special education services. The presentation is posted online under Parent Connections. Next month we will discuss strategic planning.

**Community Update:**

*Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

Ruse burglaries and catalytic converter crimes are continuing.

We are finishing up our budget for a March review.

**Administration Reports:**

*Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools*

COVID metrics are trending down.

Task force meeting was yesterday. They are an advisory committee that has some authority to affect mitigation strategies.

Lunch shields are coming down today.

There will be a special school board meeting tonight regarding the lawsuit. Issues are very complex beyond masking vs non-masking. Only the board can decide to change the return to school plan. We need to be strategic and methodical in our process.

We have some open teaching positions that will be posted.

Strategic planning is still underway.

Security consultant has reviewed our district, conducted interviews and did site visits. We expect a full report soon.

Thank you to Bridget Kennedy for your leadership in helping us work out the driveway traffic.

### **Teacher Representative Report**

*Kellie Johnson*

The Dedicated Dolphins are spearheading a kids heart challenge. Flyers went home last week. You can go online to register and complete challenges.

### **Administration Reports (cont.):**

*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal*

Thank you to Kellie Johnson and Patricia Gainsburg for arranging our virtual author visits.

We have a long term music sub, Mr. V.

We are working on manners this month at school.

Would like to connect with third grade room parents regarding graduation.

The temperature is the deciding factor for indoor vs outdoor recess. Must be over feels like 15.

Regarding traffic, we are continuing to work with the entire admin team. One idea is to have PTO volunteers help open doors. Bridget has created a sign up genius. We have considered hiring a traffic consultant.

If you have concerns, please contact me directly.

*Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal*

Chief Lustig and his team are coming to speak to our 6th - 8th graders on online bullying and what it means legally.

Disney is coming up for band and orchestra. The parent zoom is tomorrow night. There will be one more meeting prior to the trip.

Washington DC trip will also be happening.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:47am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 9am**  
**Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Bridget Kennedy, 9:02am**  
**Approval of minutes: Erica Marinello and Eva Vlad**

**President's Report:**

*Bridget Kennedy, PTO President*

Thank you to everyone for coming to help with our vote. Last year, we approved a budget of \$2000 for the Family Fun Fair. We did not know if it would even run, at the time, as it has been canceled the past two years. We are planning on running it this year but there has been an increase in prices. We also used to share this cost with the park district and they no longer will contribute. We need to bring in a generator for powder. We would like to increase the budget by \$1500. Bridget made a motion to vote on the budget increase and it was passed. The Family Fun Fair will be on June 7th at Clarkson Park.

Please donate to the PTO's letter writing campaign if you haven't already. You can contribute via check or online donation.

We now have 4 people running the Winter Benefit.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with dropoff at Middlefork. Jen Kaidaisch shared that they would like to extend this through the end of the year.

Reminder to summarize your board position so the transition to next year is easier.

**Treasurer Report:**

*Yena Levinson, Treasurer*

\$100, 901.85 in the bank.

We have raised \$10,500 in the fundraiser so far.

**Committee Reports:**

*Hillary Bufalino, Parent Connections*

Last month's meeting was on special education services. The presentation is posted online under Parent Connections. Next month's meeting on 3/15 we will discuss strategic planning.

**Community Update:**

*Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

We arrested someone at Walgreens last Friday using a fake ID.

We had two car thefts two weeks ago.

If you see anything suspicious, call us.

Parents have reached out regarding cyber bullying. Kids are creating accounts using fake names. This is a problem. Parents need to be involved and we need to work as a team.



### **Administration Reports:**

*Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools*

Thank you to Chief Lustig for working with our kids on the topic of bullying.

Thank you for all your patience and support with our return to school plan updates. We are making progress in getting back to normal. Students and staff are adjusting well. We are trying to make year end activities back to normal.

We have been doing lots of interviewing for positions in the district.

Strategic Planning update: In March, we looked at a lot of data. We identified strengths and opportunities and will be figuring out our priorities.

Encourage all to take the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. We need 20% of our district to take the survey to get our data. Currently, only 10% have taken.

*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal*

Thank you for the lunches during Random Act of Kindness Week.

Thank you to Kellie Johnson and Patricia Gainsburg for arranging our virtual author visits.

Thank you to our room parents for the Valentine's Day celebrations.

We are bringing back in-person chess club.

Spanish Club will be starting in the spring.

Second Trimester progress reports will be shared on 3/18 via ParentSquare.

The mask optional environment has been going well. We are grateful for the time we had to transition.

*Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal (not present)*

Jen Kiedaisch shared on behalf of Ivy.

Thanks to the room parents for the Valentine's Day activities and treats.

Congrats to our robotics teams.

Band/choir/orchestra trip to Disney was a success.

8th grade photo retakes are Friday.

Performances for the school play, Wizard of Oz, will begin 5/12.

### **School Board Report**

*Abigayil Joseph*

Suggested that Ed send out an independent communication reminding parents to fill out the 5Essentials survey. The school board uses this data.

Board meetings are next week.

Education committee meeting at 5:30pm will be talking about strategic planning and professional development.

Board meeting at 7pm will be discussing the possible calendar revision for April 4, the Back to School Task Force and more.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:39am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO**  
**Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 9am**  
**Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Bridget Kennedy, 9:02am**  
**Approval of minutes: Christie Caceres, Hillary Bufalino**

**President's Report:**

*Bridget Kennedy, PTO President*

The newsletter was sent out yesterday.

Our goal for the fundraiser was \$10k. We raised \$13k. Thank you to all who donated.

The Exec Board has discussed putting a 2 year suggested limit on PTO positions.

Please update your board report to reflect information about your board position.

Ivy Sukenik asked what the process would be to add a PTO position to be a SEL Liaison.

Bridget said they can discuss this at a later time and vote at the next meeting to make it a position if desired.

**Treasurer Report:**

*Yena Levinson, Treasurer*

\$97,934 in the bank.

We raised \$13,107 from the fundraiser and still have a few checks to deposit.

**Committee Reports:**

*Hillary Bufalino, Parent Connections*

Last month's meeting was on strategic planning priority areas. The next meeting on 4/19 will be about safety and security.

*Sandy Norbot, Teacher Appreciation Week*

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2 - 6. There will be multiple ways for parents to help get kids involved that week.

*Book Fair*

Bridget shared that the book fair is coming soon. Online shopping will be available from 5/9 - 5/22. There will be opportunities to shop in person on May 10th from 3 - 6pm at Middlefork School. Shopping will be in-person for Sunset Ridge on the same day, time TBD.

**Community Update:**

*Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

There was an accident this morning on Willow and Sunset Ridge.

The annual budget goes to the board this month.

People report suspicious things on social media sometimes but they should always call the police department as well.

High school students are playing a game called Paranoia. They use NERF rifles that can be mistaken as real guns. The game has potential to be dangerous.

### **Administration Reports:**

*Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools*

COVID numbers are up.

There is a new litigation out there regarding masking. District 29 is named in this litigation. The documents are public and online. Will discuss more at the board meeting tonight.

Public comment at board meetings was always required to be in person. We revised that during COVID to allow people to submit electronically. We will look to make this policy.

We will be wrapping up strategic planning tomorrow night.

If we do not get the official report back in time from the hired security consultant, we may have to change the topic of the next Parent Connections meeting.

Mr. Kramer, the Sunset Ridge custodian, is retiring after 28 years.

*Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal*

Mrs. Peck is also resigning. We are looking for a new SRS nurse.

We are doing IAR testing this week and it is going well.

Seventh grade has Outdoor Ed next week.

Eighth grade has their Washington DC trip next week. Eighth grade students that are staying back will be working with the village on Earth Day.

4/26 will be our annual bike drive.

SRS Robotics Team is going to the World Championships in Dallas in a few weeks.

*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal*

Third grade began IAR testing this week.

Gaga ball pit is now outside for recess. It has been a fun alternative.

Thank you to all who volunteer for morning traffic duty. Please continue to volunteer.

We are going to have a new event for third graders called Ride to the Ridge. Students will ride bikes or scooters from Middlefork to Sunset Ridge. They will learn where to park their bikes and will then watch the SRS musical.

5/31 will be Third/Fourth Grade Transition Day. Parents will be invited.

6/1 is Field Day. 6/3 is the rain date.

The Spring Sing will be back this year and we are combining it with portfolio night. Will have a Kindergarten/first grade night and a second/third grade night.

### **School Board Report**

*Abigayil Joseph*

Finance committee meets tonight at 5:30pm with the regular board meeting to follow at 7pm.

April is a heavy approval month: calendars, contracts, etc. Custodial and food contracts are two big ones that will be discussed.

Will also be discussing strategic planning.

**Additional Comments**

Bridget shared that May 10 will be the last PTO meeting of the year. We will be approving the 2022/2023 slate and budget.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:56am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary