



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING October 9, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF /SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Jenny Damon, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.05am.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Tara Subeck

Jenny opened the meeting by introducing Lonnie Stonitsch of FAN, who is kind enough to join us at this time every year to tell us about the great things that FAN is doing in the coming year.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Lonnie Stonitsch, FAN co-Chair and Executive Director

Lonnie began by explaining that she met with Dr. Sukenik, Dr. Greene and Dr. Stange at the end of August. They explored initiatives and ideas for our schools. Lonnie thanked them for that opportunity and said she had really enjoyed it.

Lonnie passed out 2 flyers itemizing upcoming scheduled FAN presentations she is very excited about.

Joyful: The Surprising Power of Ordinary Things to Create Extraordinary Happiness – Ingrid Fetell Lee
October 16th at 7pm, North Shore Country Day School Auditorium

This Imperfect Moment: A Conversation with “Ask Polly” Advice Columnist Heather Havrilesky
October 29th at 7pm, North Shore Country Day School Auditorium

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report: Ewa Vlad, Treasurer

Income:

- PTO Dues – We are not doing as well as expected. We have collected about 68% of Dues. We will start sending out emails very soon. When asked if they were perhaps receiving all the Dues since you need to pay separately, and Jenny responded that Ewa is keeping track of that.

Expense:

- Winter Benefit – paid the deposit.
- 6th Grade Social Dance – paid the fee.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$59,000
- CD - \$28,000
- 8th Grade Fund - \$ 5,860

Legislative: Jessica Adams

Jenny explained that Jessica could not attend today. She guided everyone to the reverse of the Agenda to view a proposed change to the By-Laws. Jenny revealed that for the past number of years Jennifer Kyriakopoulous had attended Picture Day to ensure the kids' faces and hair were nice for their photos. This year, April Toofan and Seong McGarry did it, so if your child looked extra nice you know who to thank! However, this has not been an official PTO Position, so we would like to add the Position for MF and another for SRS. We will need a quorum to vote on this next month.

School Supplies: Seong McGarry & Kendra Chilewich

Seong informed us that we signed a 2 year contract with Shane & Co. We negotiated a great deal; this year we made 11% and for the next 2 years we will make 15%.

Parent Connections: Sydney Clark

We met last Thursday and it was well attended. For those of you not aware of what it is, Parent Connections is a monthly meeting where parents can sit down with Dr. Sukenik and Dr. Stange to discuss things going on in the schools. Sydney divulged that this year we are scheduling topics to be discussed. Last week was about Progress Reports, and it was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about D29's policy on that and for Administration to receive feedback. The next meeting will take place on November 1st at 8.45am in the SRS Large Conference Room – the topic will be Communications, so things like the website and the newsletter. Everyone is welcome to attend, you do not need to join the Parent Connections Committee, you are welcome to come to any and all meetings that you can.

Jenny added that the format of Parent Connections is more of a discussion, whereas PTO Meetings are more informational presentations. It is a great opportunity for parents to have a voice. Sydney agreed and said that it is also an opportunity for Administration to give parents some perspective, to hear feedback and also for parents to discuss various topics with other parents.

Book Fair: Megan Waite & Melissa Daley

Megan reminded us that the Book Fair will take place on October 16th and 17th. They are still looking for volunteers, so if you have any time please sign-up for a shift. Megan revealed that the faculty will be presenting a Readers Theater on the 16th at 5.30pm, which is something the kids always love.

Alliance for Early Childhood: Allison Gaetano

Allison divulged that the Alliance has decided to cancel Screen Break. Now with kids using iPads or Chrome Books for school work, it has morphed from being a week where kids can explore other entertainment options into a week that puts guilt and work on parents. Screens are now part of our life. Allison explained that they will host events throughout the year, but this coming year will be a transition year and we can expect much more next year. Allison revealed that the first event will be this coming weekend – a Fort Building opportunity. She explained that when families do a project outside together in nature, afterward they usually say "That was great,

let's do something like this again!" but it is difficult to come up with ideas, which is where the Alliance will come in.

School Programs & Author Visits: Tom Whittaker (SRS) & Venessa Matuschka (MF)

Venessa revealed that she and Dr. Greene have been working together on the schedule for this year and have it pretty much figured out. The Rope Warrior will be coming to MF on October 19th – he will begin with an assembly in the morning and will then work with the Gym classes in the afternoon. Joe Faccione will be coming for PJ Day on February 1st, he has been at the school a few times and we are excited to have him back. Venessa also informed us that Mrs. Nagy is working on an Artist in Residence Program with a sculptor who will work within the art classes.

Tom revealed that last year he took Lauren Gray to the Book Stall in Winnetka, where they established a great working relationship. Tom explained that the Author Visits this year, so far, have been scheduled through the Book Stall so have been free of charge. But Lauren has secured Kwame Alexander for April 10th, and they are so thrilled about it. Because he is such a highly sought after author, his visit will take up much of the budget. As part of the visit we will need to purchase books for the 7th and 8th Graders, but Lauren will likely also be submitting a proposal to PTO Gifts to purchase his books for the 4th and 5th Grade classrooms. Tom informed us that Lauren will be working with the Northfield Public Library and Park District to publicize the event to the community.

Jenny noted that the budget is just under \$10,000 which is derived mostly from the Winter Benefit.

Winter Benefit: Cathy Langford & Bianca Rose

The Benefit is set for March 2nd. Cathy informed us that they got a fairly good response to the Sign-Up for Volunteers. They are also looking for Donation Items. The big reveal for the theme will be soon. Cathy also explained that they will use the same mobile bidding app that they used last time.

Fall Event: Jenny Gallagher, Rebekah Bader & Sally Brown Thilman

Jenny explained that the ladies couldn't attend but wanted to reveal that the Fall Event would take place on Tuesday, November 6th at 3.30pm at SRS.

PTO Gifts: Erica Marinello

Erica revealed that the PTO Executive Board decided to dedicate \$15,000 to PTO Gifts. Erica added that she attended the MF Staff Meeting and will soon attend the SRS Staff Meeting to explain the procedure to faculty. The Committee will meet, after receiving the Proposals, to make allocation decisions. She noted that Caitlyn Anderson from MF and Hilary Logan from SRS will sit on the Committee also.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig informed us that he is still looking for a Crossing Guard and reminded us that the staff we see are employees of the Police Department.

Chief divulged that car burglaries are still ongoing. He also revealed that a guy in a red Range Rover pulled in on Central, ran inside a business, leaves the car running with the keys in the ignition and \$4,000 in cash inside. Chief noted that a lot of these thieves are juveniles from Englewood. Chief is reminding us the lock up our vehicles and take valuables from them.

Chief also asks that we refrain from being on our phones in the school parking lots. He noted that he has sat there, using the radar gun, and it is crazy how fast people are driving in the lots.

Chief explained that the law treats juveniles differently when they commit an infraction. They meet with a Juvenile Officer and they attempt some sort of behavior modification such as sending them to a peer jury of

high school kids who then dole out the community service. Should the juvenile again get caught, they may then be sent to Juvenile Court where a judge will then decide upon the penalty. Chief further stated that the consequences doled out to juveniles are only effective if their parents are on board. If the parents feel the infraction is no big deal, then the juvenile will. What we are seeing at New Trier is that the consequences are not effective, the kids don't care. If they are suspended, big deal. Vaping has become notorious in the bathrooms and elsewhere at New Trier. If the parents, however, feel that vaping is not a big deal, then the child will. So New Trier has requested that Northfield and Winnetka Police Departments begin ticketing students caught vaping and that they go to court.

Chief informed us that there is someone currently in his jail - a divorced parent in Northfield, living with his mother, who has 6 children. His 14 year old called DCFS to report that there were inappropriate images on the father's computer. DCFS called the Northfield Police, who got a search warrant, confiscated the computer. This will be his first offence. There are no Northfield Children involved. He will make bond.

Chief also reminded us that this is the time of the year that the Police get complaints about strangers. Officer Friendly visited MF and Dr. Stange talked with SRS students to remind them what to do. It could be totally innocent, or it might not be. Chief asks that young kids not be outside their homes alone. He noted that recently a young child was outside playing in his front yard when a stranger in a car approached and panicked the child. Seong McGarry revealed that it was her 6 year old – playing in his yard on a cul-de-sac of 3 houses. A car approached asking where an old lady lived, started asking about their dog. The child came in and the car drove off. Within 10 minutes, the car returned, so they called the police. Chief revealed that it happened to another family also and the 13 year old let a complete stranger into the house. Chief noted that the expressway has never been our friend, it offers a quick getaway.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange thanked the PTO for the support during Teacher Appreciation. He noted that the teachers loved the signs in the lounges, and was touched by parents calling to say "Thanks".

Dr. Stange revealed that next Wednesday we are hoping to get approval to walk on the grass at SRS.

Dr. Stange informed us that last night at the Board Meeting, the Board watched a presentation on the Capital Improvement Plan for MF. The plan includes a redesign of the Learning Center, security enhancements and the creation of 5 breakout spaces. He added that the Board needs to decide by July so that it can go to bid in the fall.

Dr. Stange announced that the Board approved Misty Bell moving from 2nd Grade to Kindergarten.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Loose Parts Recess: Dr. Greene explained that Tuesday lunchtime recess is the longest recess of the week. The first one was last Tuesday, the second one is today. She thanked everyone who donated, especially the parent who donated the real drums. She isn't sure how far into winter they can do it, they may need to regroup after the winter. Different grade levels are playing together, some kids continue playing sports on the fields, but it is a great alternative.

Upcoming Events: Details are on the School Calendar on the website.

October 10: 2nd Cup – Kids and Social Media

October 12: Vision/Hearing Screening

October 15: Conference Scheduling

October 19: Rope Warrior – there has never before been a program integrating Art and PE at MF.

October 31: Halloween Schedule is on the website.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Dr. Sukenik thanked the PTO for allowing us to bring in Kwame Alexander. She added that it is a really big deal, that his books fly off the shelves at SRS and are likely the most popular books in the school. His books are appropriate across the SRS grade levels, so it is a great opportunity for all the grades to share the same Author Visit.

Angst: Dr. Sukenik thanked all who attended the screening. There were about 100 attendees, of which about 40% were not D29 parents.

Bikes: Kids are not locking their bikes. The racks are full and only 10 bikes were locked. This isn't a problem during the day, but it is when they leave them overnight. Please remind the kids to wear helmets.

Early Arrival: Kids are arriving earlier than 7.30am and are staying in the vestibule playing on their phones. There is no supervision there and as the weather gets colder and colder it will become more packed.

Fall Sports: Fall sports are wrapping up this week: Girls Volleyball, Soccer and Field Hockey. The Girls Volleyball team is heavily favored to win the championship, which will be hosted by SRS. Basketball will start the last week of October.

Service Leagues: October 19th will be the kick-off. There are groups going to Feed My Starving Children, Erickson Woods, Cradles To Crayons, Bernie's Book Bank, and walking to Middlefork Farm. Students not going on field trips this month will go in November. Dr. Sukenik is requesting more volunteers.

Partnership Survey: Only about 30 people responded to the survey sent out in the Friday News. This is stemming from D29's partnership with the Museum of Science & Industry.

Upcoming Events:

November 14: Digital Citizenship parent presentation

Teacher Representative: Pilar Westfall

Mrs. Westfall hopes that parents will respond to the survey.

She thanked parents for their support for Service Leagues.

Kwame Alexander – she divulged that she has Crossover on her desk as she is reading it and it has sparked so many great conversations with students.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tara Subeck

Seconded by: Tom Whittaker



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING September 11, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Damon, PTO President, called the meeting to order.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Buggie O'Grady

Opening Remarks

- Moment of recognition for September 11
- Welcome from Jenny to PTO, thank you for attending

Goals For PTO-

1. Responsibly manage the budget
 - a. \$40,000 to spend wisely and purposefully for programs
 - b. Stay within operating budget per committee
2. Maintain and/ or improve relationships
 - a. Student to student
 - i. Am rec, coding, field trips, junior great books, author visits, book fair
 - b. Parents to parents
 - i. Volunteering, participation in PTO, website, ice cream social, benefit
 - c. Parents to faculty
Conference meals, teacher gifts
3. Have fun!
 - a. Thank you for volunteering and keep perspective on the fact that this is volunteer and should not feel like a burden or full time job for any of us!

Guest Speakers

Introduction of Service Leagues by Dr. Sukenik

- Goal is to build connections and foundations so that students at SRS understand the expectations for behavior and to enhance the service learning. Not charitable, but actual change makers, in purposeful and meaningful service opportunities.

Robyn Zogby- 4th grade teacher- Goal with Service Leagues is to focus on a different service. Students and staff were surveyed and highlighted organizations that were important to them. Their ask of the PTO is to solicit parent volunteers once a month to meet with each service League and coordinate volunteers for field trips, meetings, etc.

Michelle Widdes- The organizations we have chosen are familiar to the PTO and our school and were chosen deliberately...

Partners

NW Settlement house – Nutrition Wellness

Cradles to Crayons – Families and Children

Feed My Starving Children -

Northfield Township Food Pantry -

Bernies Book Bank - Literacy League

Backyard Nature Center – Environmental League

World Bicycle Relief- Transportation League

Emily Dunham- Director of Student Services, Introduction

Oversees all special ed programing, ESL department, Special needs programming on site/ and off site development.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Eva Vlad: Dues being collected. Main checking, CD, 8th grade fund. Spending starts soon.

School Supplies: Seong McGarry & Kendra Chilewich

Seong and Kendra: 25 additional kits ordered after deadline, which was not offered by our former company. School kits offering 15% for us to come back

\$2819 made off sales this year. Shane offering 12% back and bonus money to spend on office supplies which Seong will discuss with Exec board to decide how to spend it. Our plan is to continue with Shane.

Parent Connections: Tom Whittaker

Tom Whittaker: Opportunity to talk and bring ideas directly to the administration from parents, community...things that directly impact our kids. Platform for concerns, comments. 8:45 in conference room at SRS tomorrow, 9/12. Dr Stange facilitates and attends and it's a genuine chance to hear from the parents and for the parents to be involved with decision making as well.

6th grade social dance- Jenny giving report. First dance is 10/5.

FAN- Jenny- Gail posting events on website and adding them to Friday news.

Book Fair 10/16 and 10/17- Middlefork kids bussed over!

House and Grounds- Jenny given report- tree planted in memory of Kate Bowyer, with a plaque, with leaves which turn pink in the fall. Thank you to Corey for that help.

Middlefork Lunchroom-

Winter Benefit: Cathy Langford & Bianca Rose

Winter Benefit- March 2, 2019- North Shore Country Club – Looking for volunteers at this time. Link on website is available now with descriptions of small jobs/ help that the coordinators need to execute the event, rather than the chairs doing it all.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr Ed Stange- Thank you so very much for service of our Exec Board and PTO service.

Thank you for back to school lunch. New staff appreciate setting the tone for the year right on the first day and it's a wonderful welcome to the new year.

Excited about new staffing changes, new curriculum initiatives across almost all disciplines, which is so exciting.

New partnerships- theater opportunity with the park district is new for our younger grade kids.

Middlefork School improvements coming. "Final plans" in place for \$2M renovation of library, Makerspace, 4 new breakout spaces, security enhancements, as well as upgrading all plumbing.

Character Education- now become Parents Connections. Social emotional development, 'hot topics,' Please come! Enrollment Residency Verification- policies and procedures are going to be more complicated and complex in an effort to verify nobody taking advantage of tax dollars to send kids to school here.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Enrollment- 193 with kindergartener coming in October

60 Dedicated Dolphins this year! 3rd graders will have training this week for dismissal aides/ safety patrol.

3-4 weeks in, people finally figure out pick up and drop off procedures and it seems to be more smooth. Dr G appreciates everyone's cooperation in helping facilitate the driveway.

Safe place drills happening now- lockdown drill this week for first time. 3 fire, 1 lockdown, 1 tornado required by state.

Picture day Friday- and thank you to parent volunteers to comb and perk the kids up!

MAP Testing in 2nd grade this week.

K starts staying for lunch on 9/17. One more volunteer needed. Flyer going out today to K parents to solicit someone from K to fill the last spot in our lunch week.

Social Emotional Learning initiative happening at MF and will solicit volunteers soon.

Dina Donaldson and Joanna Brown came forward to suggest a Tuesday lunch recess “loose parts” program. Playing with and creating a play opportunity with ‘safe junk!’ It’s a movement started in UK to increase children’s play and using nature and ‘junk’ to build with their imaginations. Increased time for this recess to 35 minutes so they could actually build and create before having to tear their things down. Will solicit volunteers for helping/ supervising this event weekly.

Back to school night Thursday 9/13. Two 45 minute sessions for upper then lower MF grades. Specials teachers available and tech presentation will also happen.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Curriculum night at SRS was success. Great feedback.

8th grade parent meeting coming up soon- committee looking for volunteers to coordinate dance.

SRS will be screening movie ANGST for 6-8th grade, documentary on stress and anxiety. Community/ public will be viewing it on 10/2. Panel of psychologists and consultants will lead discussion after.

First service league is 10/19- we will need volunteers for that first meeting. Kids will be assigned to their leagues. Each one has two committee head teachers, that the parent volunteers will work with.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: JILL MIRKOVIC

Jill Mirkovic- Strategic Planning meetings happened over summer. Action plans are forthcoming next. Measurable outcomes that are meaningful for the project are getting more specific-

Teachers and staff have summer curriculum- meetings/ online courses....behind scenes to continue and enhance their ability to teach our students, FYI.

Safety around the schools is key to the Board. Looking PTO members to be leaders of the charge to keep the pickup and drop off safe, phone free, and prepare sitters/ grandparents to do the same.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tom Whittaker

Seconded by: Buggie O’Grady

Adjourn 10:00am



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING December 11, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

Jenny Damon, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.05am.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Tara Subeck

PTO VOTE TO ADD 2 BOARD POSITIONS - PICTURE DAY (MF & SRS): Jessica Adams

Jessica began by thanking everyone for attending and reminded us that the PTO must have a quorum present to hold a vote, meaning 17 Board Members. She asked that all who approve the creation of the two Board positions by raising our hands. All 19 Board Members present approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ewa Vlad, Treasurer

Jenny first informed us that since Boosterthon are categorized as a Professional Consultant, not a Professional Fundraiser. Thus, we would never have needed to have our books audited and we can, going forward, use Boosterthon should we choose to.

Income:

- PTO Dues – We are still trying to collect Dues. Eva revealed that emails have gone out to parents who have not paid.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$45,000
- CD - \$27,000
- 8th Grade Fund - \$ 6,000

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PTO Gifts: Erica Marinello

Erica thanked everyone for their feedback and reminded us that the PTO Gifts Committee would meet immediately after today's PTO Meeting to decide on which Proposals would be funded. She revealed that Proposers would be notified afterward.

Junior Great Books: Margie Huber

Margie informed us that, due to Lauren Gray's SRS Book Clubs for 4th and 5th Graders, we would not offer JGB at SRS this year. At MF, 2nd and 3rd Graders can sign-up. She reminded us that flyers went home in backpacks and the deadline is December 19th.

Winter Benefit: Cathy Langford & Bianca Rose

The Benefit is set for March 2nd. Bianca informed us that the Big Reveal would take place at the Winter Concerts. She reminded us that they are still seeking donations.

Parent Connections: Sydney Clark

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 17th at 8.45am at SRS.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig divulged that there had been 12 car burglaries in Northfield the night before. He noted that all the cars were unlocked and reminded us that we should be locking our cars.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange thanked the PTO for the Conference Meals, which were great. He reminded us that they are in the midst of Collective Bargaining. Dr. Stange revealed that at the School Board Meeting they would discuss the District Calendar for 2019-2020, and reminded us that the State mandates 176 days, so they try their best to follow the NT calendar and account for possible snow days. This time they are also considering hosting Parent/Teacher conferences earlier in the fall trimester.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Dr. Stange spoke for Dr. Greene.

Upcoming Events: Details are on the School Calendar on the website.

December 19: Winter Sing – Grades 1, 2, 3

January 17: Winter Sing - Kindergarten

3rd Grade Graduation: Given the snow day, our last day of school will be June 6th. Graduation will also take place that day.

Recess: The children have been using a system of ‘rock, paper, scissors’ to determine who goes on the swings. It has gone very well and has created a completely level playing field.

Dedicated Dolphins: They will be fundraising for those affected by the California forest fires.

Winter Parent Book Club: Dr. Greene will send out a survey to parents before Winter Break to determine the interest level. She is also deciding upon the book.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Vaping Presentation: Dr. Sukenik thanked everyone who attended on December 6th. She informed us that the video-link will be on the website today for parents who could not attend. She noted that it was very informative. Dr. Sukenik suggested that if anyone has requests for presentations on Community Education topics, please let her know.

Concerts: 5th Grade Band & Orchestra Concert will be Thursday, December 13th. The Junior High Concert Season will be Tuesday, December 18th, with an afternoon concert in addition to the evening one.

Fall Sports: Boys and Girls Basketball is underway with 6th Graders playing their first games this week, and 7/8th Graders having theirs after Thanksgiving.

Service Leagues: Dr. Sukenik revealed that we met the goal for our Transportation League. The focus for January and February will be on Family & Children.

Disney Trip: The Disney Trip will be in January for 6th, 7th and 8th Graders who have opted to go.

Student Council: Dr. Sukenik informed us that the Student Council is very busy. They are hosting a movie night on Friday, December 14th and are screening Home Alone for 4th, 5th and 6th Graders.

Dr. Sukenik reminded us that next week the Student Council have organized Spirit Week.

Monday - Ugly Sweater Day

Tuesday - Winter Hat & Crazy Hair Day

Wednesday - PJ Day

Thursday - Winter Sportswear Day

Friday - Animal Dress-up Day (Dr. Stange revealed that the alternative pitch was for Bring Your Animal To School Day)

5 Essentials Survey: Parents and staff will be able to complete the Survey after Winter Break. It is administered to parents of all SRS students. When asked if it should be completed for each child or once per family, Dr. Stange answered that the State says it should be for every child, but he does not expect that of parents. He noted that the results go on the School's Report Card, but he also revealed that it gives Administration great feedback on what is and is not working.

School Board: Jill Mirkovic

Jill shared that there would be an Education Committee Meeting at 6pm tonight, before the School Board Meeting at 7pm. Jill also noted that in considering options for the District Calendar for 2019-2020, they also need to incorporate the fact that MF will be under construction next summer, so they want to give as much time as possible to that. Jill revealed that NT's summer school calendar also affects the District Calendar.

Teacher Representative: Dr. Beth Pauls

Dr. Pauls thanked the PTO for the delicious Conference Meals.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tara Subeck

Seconded by: Tom Whittaker



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING

January 15, 2019

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

Jenny Damon, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.05am.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Tara Subeck

Jenny opened the meeting by thanking Marie LaPlante and Stacy Baker for their fantastic work on Holiday Projects – it takes a huge amount of work. Not only do they assign families to classes and organize the gifts, but they also shop to ensure that all families and family members receive a gift or two. Jenny reminded us that Marie and Stacy have chaired this for the past number of years and asked that we thank them when we see them.

She also thanked Erica Marinello for chairing PTO Gifts and for ensuring it ran incredibly smoothly.

Jenny informed us that slating is coming up for the PTO Board for next year and reminded us that Megan Waite would be running it. She reminded us that anyone who has a position this year has right of first refusal for next, and if anyone is interested in a position to let Megan know.

Treasurer's Report: Ewa Vlad, Treasurer

Income:

- PTO Dues – We are still trying to collect Dues and Classroom Fees. Eva revealed that emails have gone out to the 17% of parents who have not paid.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$45,000
- CD - \$28,000
- 8th Grade Fund - \$ 6,000

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PTO Gifts: Erica Marinello

Erica thanked everyone for their feedback thanked the teachers for their proposals. She informed us that all those whose proposals were approved have been notified and that they are currently in the process of purchasing. Erica had fun working with the teachers and is thrilled about the PTO being able to provide such great extras for both schools.

Winter Benefit: Cathy Langford & Bianca Rose

Jenny spoke for Cathy and Bianca and asked that everyone purchase their tickets online – the link is posted. The event is Saturday, March 2nd at North Shore Country Club. They are still collecting auction items and would like to have the majority in by the end of January. Erica added that the space and the decorations will be really great and fun. We will have full use of all of the amenities at the club. Tickets are currently \$95 each. On February 17th the price will go up to \$110 and will be \$150 each at the door the night of. The venue will only give us access, however, to a really cool adjacent bar if we have 200 or more attendees.

Parent Connections: Sydney Clark

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 17th at 8.45am at SRS. Family Service Night is the topic under discussion this month, and will take place on March 5th.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig divulged the good news that some of our detectives and the FBI arrested one of the leaders in the car theft ring, which impacted activity in the area.

Chief informed us that Village Hall will now be displaying art from local artists. Students at our schools would also be displaying artwork in March and April.

Chief notified us that he is now in the process of Budget talks. He asks that residents who are unhappy with services please reach out to him before turning to social media. Sometimes residents only hear one half of a story and post negatively on social media. In one instance, residents were ripping apart an officer – who had saved a woman and her daughter from being run over at the side of the freeway. Chief is more than happy to talk on the phone with residents who have complaints or are generally unhappy with the level of service.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange thanked the PTO for Holiday Projects with Northwestern Settlement House and for all that we provide for our district.

Dr. Stange informed us that at the School Board meeting they will be approving bids for the MF Capital Improvement Project. The good news is that the bids came in \$160,000 under budget, but the flip side of that is that they have \$304,000 of extras they would like. The Board will also likely approve the calendar for next year.

He also divulged that the Board would be discussing the upcoming Village Board noise ordinance agenda item.

Dr. Stange reminded us that Kindergarten enrollment is extremely important and timely and will take place next week.

He also reminded us that they are in the midst of Collective Bargaining.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Dr. Greene thanked the PTO for the PTO Gifts.

Upcoming Events: Details are on the School Calendar on the website.

January 17:	Winter Sing - Kindergarten
January 23:	Kindergarten Registration
January 24:	Parent Book Club – The Gift of Failure
February 1:	PJ Day

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Dr. Sukenik thanked the PTO for the PTO Gifts and informed us that she had never seen teachers spend money so quickly!

Disney Trip: The Disney Trip – the kids are leaving on Thursday, returning on Monday evening. There are 65 students and 13 chaperones.

Service Leagues: Dr. Sukenik reminded us that this Friday is a Service League day. They are looking for book donations for the Literacy League and old t-shirts for animal shelters.

Sports: Varsity Basketball starts on Wednesday – the girls are undefeated and a lot of the girls were on the Championship team last year, and on the undefeated volleyball team earlier this year.

Robotics: Dr. Sukenik informed us that Saturday will be the first robotics tournament for our students.

8th Grade: 8th Graders will have a mid-winter party at Wilmette Bowl.

Heart Health Month: Dr. Sukenik informed us that Nurse Curry has established February as Heart Health Month and will have different events for the teachers every day.

NT Registration: NT approached SRS about piloting a new approach to registering kids for high school. NT Counsellors will come to SRS to enroll kids in classes on February 11.

Author Visit: Dr. Sukenik thanked the PTO and Tom Whittaker for the upcoming Kwame Alexander visit for Lauren Gray. Lauren received the final confirmation for the visit and is very excited.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tara Subeck
Seconded by: Tom Whittaker



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING

February 12, 2019

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

Jenny Damon, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.05am.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Erica Marinello

Jenny opened the meeting by explaining where PTO donations go. The PTO has an annual budget, which is a little more than \$40,000, which is divided into 3 categories of items.

The first category of monies, 45% of the budget or about \$18,000, go toward Student Education - things that would not happen without the PTO for the enrichment of your children's' education. This includes coding opportunities at Middlefork, the Shakespeare Theatre trip for 7th and 8th graders, outdoor education, new library materials at both schools every year, special assemblies, programs and author visits (e.g. Kwame Alexander, Dear Evan Hansen, PJ Day programs). These experiences are above and beyond what you would get in another district.

The second category comprises about 35% or \$14,000, and goes toward relationships we build in the Community, e.g. Northwestern Settlement House holiday project we do annually, AM Rec at SRS, the Fall Event, Ice Cream Social, Family Service Night, Online Directory and updates to the school grounds at both schools.

The third category, 20% or \$8,000, goes toward Teacher Support – including meals on Parent Teacher Conference days, Teacher Appreciation Week, etc.

Jenny reminded us that we have 55 PTO Chairs. She added that because of successful fundraising, we have money left over which is divided into 2 different buckets; PTO Teacher Gifts Grant Program and MF/SRS Capital Improvements. Jenny explained that PTO Teacher Gifts is a long-standing tradition whereby teachers/administration submit proposals for student opportunities that fall outside of D29's normal operating budget. In the past we have granted music instruments, Makerspace enhancements, Math games, field trips, new tools and technology, a fitness agility course, evolutionary social studies materials, a weather balloon project, virtual reality, books, picnic tables, and many more.

Additionally, the PTO is committed to supporting D29's efforts to continually improve our school infrastructure. In 2016, the PTO donated \$80,000 to assist in the building of the new SRS. We hope to donate a large amount toward the capital improvements at MF this summer. This will, however, be solely dependent upon how much we raise at the upcoming Benefit.

Treasurer's Report: Ewa Vlad, Treasurer

Income:

- Winter Benefit – our income is up a little due to money coming in toward the Winter Benefit.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$50,000
- CD - \$27,000
- 8th Grade Fund - \$ 6,000

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Winter Benefit: Cathy Langford & Bianca Rose

Cathy reminded everyone to purchase their tickets, on February 18th the price will go up to \$110 and will be \$150 each at the door the night of. She also asks that we donate items. There is a volunteer sign-up for help the night of the event. We have sold 122 tickets so far.

Bianca notified us that they added a Benefit page to the website.

Jenny informed us that they will be selling tickets at the Parent Teacher Conferences, and passed around a sign-up sheet to volunteer to help that day.

NSSD: Sarah Crawford

Dr. Stange spoke for Sarah and reminded us that Daniel Habib will be coming to SRS on March 4th – the information is on the website.

Parent Connections: Sydney Clark

Jenny reminded us that Family Service Night will take place on March 5th from 6.30pm-7.30pm. The theme is Bring Something, Do Something, Make Something.

Teacher Appreciation: Lisa Challenger & Mamtha Sharma

Jenny applauded Lisa and Mamtha for their preview of Teacher Appreciation Week at SRS yesterday – SRS was having a “Heart Health Awareness Week”.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig introduced Officer Brian Strand, who has been with the Department for 6 months – he noted that Brian is also an attorney, so don't bother trying to argue case law with him!

Chief told us that we have a new Crossing Guard, Martha – she's been a Crossing Guard for 30 years. Chief divulged that since February 1st we have had 8 car burglaries and 2 residential burglaries (both homes were unlocked). Please lock-up.

Chief informed us that last week he met with about 24 Police Chiefs and Village Presidents from the surrounding areas to meet with the States Attorney regarding these burglaries because it is mostly juveniles committing those crimes. The problem, Chief says, is predominantly socio-economic. These are inner city kids with no after-school programs. They don't need to be arrested, they need to be educated. In the meantime, please lock-up your cars and homes, and if you aren't going to lock your car, please stop leaving valuables in it.

Chief reminded us that we have coyotes – please try to remove the food source. If you are feeding birds, you will attract mice and deer. Coyotes love mice. Loud noise scares them off. If we get trappers, who are expensive, who will pay for it? It is about \$1,000 per pelt. If they are attacking domesticated animals, we will need to take action.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange thanked everyone for completing the e-Learning survey. He also reminded us that June 7th is the last day of the school year. The 2019-2020 calendar is approved and on the website.

Dr. Stange also reminded us that in inclement weather, if we feel it is unsafe to drive to school, just don't do it. We understand.

Dr. Stange explained that the State didn't stipulate what exactly is a school day, hence the ability to try out e-Learning Days. There is a panel holding discussions about changing the definition to be 5 hours of teacher-student contact. If that happens, we will have to redo the calendar as we will not be able to have early release days. We will monitor that and keep you posted.

Per school code, if you release a teacher you must do so in March. Dr. Stange reminded us of the importance of enrolling kindergarteners early so that we can get accurate numbers.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Dr. Greene thanked the PTO for the PJ Day program. The storyteller comes every number of years and was a huge success. This week we have a ceramicist working with all MF classes over 2.5 days, without any disruption of classes.

This is the first year that D29 has established a residency procedure for enrollment of new students, which is going pretty well. Dr. Greene informed us that we are in the low 40s for kindergarten, which would mean 2 sections, but usually with this number enrolled in the spring we tend to end up with 3 sections of students by August.

Upcoming Events: Details are on the School Calendar on the website.

February 13:	Parent Book Club
February 21:	Kindergarten Family Math Night

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Solo/Ensemble: Last weekend, over 25 SRS students participated in this contest in Highland. Our kids did really well.

SIT Conference: Last weekend, students participated in this conference where it is students teaching students STEM. Parents are not allowed in.

NT Class Registration: Last night we piloted NT Class Registration in SRS, versus deciding by mail. Counsellors came to SRS and we had 100% participation.

Energy Activists: The Museum of Science & Industry Leadership Group has brainstormed about how we can learn from our new building, and get kids invested in it. In each grade level, there will be a lesson regarding energy and science and each grade will have "activists". Training will take place next week.

After Hours: On February 20th at 7pm we are trying out a 2nd Cup conducted online.

Foundations: We are determining the 4 core values of SRS – we would love parents to choose their core values at Parent Teacher Conferences. We will provide stickers and you choose your value.

School Board Report: Jill Mirkovic

Jill informed us that at the last School Board Meeting they discussed MF Capital Improvement and approved bids and extras since they came under budget.

Teacher Report: Robin Zogby

Thank you for parents volunteering in Service Leagues. Next year the kids might rotate throughout the Leagues.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tara Subeck

Seconded by: Tom Whittaker