

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Monday, April 8, 2024, 7:00pm
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Sandy Norbot at 7:01pm
Approval of March, 2024 Minutes – No corrections, stand as approved.**

Presidents Report:

Sandy Norbot, PTO President

Two very big items we will discuss tonight.

- Proposed budget for next year
- Slate of PTO board chairs for the upcoming year.

Reviewing tonight gives people time to review before we will vote on those items at the next meeting. These documents will be in the minutes section of the PTO website for review before our meeting next month. After our May meeting the slate and budget will be final for the 2024/2025 year.

Treasurer Report:

Yena Levinson, Treasurer

Total bank balance of \$ 95,998.11

Reminder to turn in reimbursement requests and to please cash checks that have been cut to you. After June 30th, we won't be doing any reimbursements for this school year so please get them in as soon as you can.

PTO Budget for 2024-2025 school year is very similar to this year. A few notes for the newly drafted budget:

\$40,000 for income for the mid year fundraiser, which is based on past performance.

-Increase in the board discretionary fund.

-Increase in house and grounds, that was long overdue. This is to beautify the seasonal planting and décor, so we gave that an increase.

-We also added \$150 for 8th grade graduation refreshments- served by the 7th grade parents who will be next year's 8th Grade PTO chairs.

-We added \$500 the 3rd grade graduation party. In previous years there was a party hosted by the room parents, but also collect from parents. We are going to contribute \$500 to help with that celebration.

-The last addition is \$150 for Read-a-Palooza.

Christie Caceres, Nominating Chair Report

Slate of 2024-2025 PTO Board

This is a fresh slate, so openings were available to all. A nominating committee was created and reached out to different people regarding interest to be on the PTO board. We are removing a few positions and adding a few positions

New positions:

Alumni Chair

Diversity and Global Citizenship

SRS Winter Break / Read-a-Palooza Café

Removed positions:

Communications -Website - updates and changes to the website are now going to be handled by the president elect and president.

TrueNorth liaison- TrueNorth is an organization that the district works with and they help us make our learning environment fluid for children with special needs. This PTO position has been inactive, but our school board of education has a member on their board. The PTO hopes to receive information and updates about TrueNorth through the district school board reps going forward.

Any additional questions please feel free to email Christie christiecaceres@me.com. Thank you to everybody who has volunteered in years past and for the upcoming year.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

We have hired another officer- a new female officer. She is out right now with her training officer. We have not had a female officer on the force in 9 years.

One of our Chicago officers has decided to go back to Chicago.

We are still trying to fill the vacancies, staffing is a problem across the country. Every police department is down staffing.

My budget goes before the board and hopefully will be approved next week.

There Is a game called paranoia which is being played right now by high school students. This is when students break up in groups and shoot each other with nerf guns. There was a car accident with students chasing each other last year, so we are working hard to keep everybody safe.

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Deferring everything to Jenny to talk about board meeting information.

Thank you for your trust in learning about the eclipse. It was incredible to see how the teachers handled the education. This was magical, incredible learning experience. Thank you for your trust.

April 12th is our 100th anniversary ceremony at 1:15pm. On the field of Sunset Ridge we will have a few speeches and form the shape of 100 and do an ariel photo.

April 24th at 7pm is the parent connections meeting. We have a guest speaker from homeland security speaking about Internet safety, a topic all parents should be aware of. I think it is a great opportunity via zoom. Sandy got a preview of the presentation, and it is very impactful, so much so, kids should not be in the background.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

The Eclipse was really exciting today. It was cool to see the students so excited about it, and so genuinely engaged.

I sent a parents square about a family focus meeting re: communication. The teachers have had great conversation, and there is a lot of commonality among the grades. The plan is to bring those commitments to a parent group, and then get your feedback. How will parents commit to showing up. April 25th at 10am at Sunset Ridge School- Please RSVP to me at sukeniki@srd29.org

8th graders are going to DC- on the 18th.

Green club has been partnering with Go Green Northfield. April 25th is the clean up day and all grade levels will clean different areas of Northfield. Hopefully we will also get some support with crossing streets from the police department. They will also be presenting at tomorrow night's board meeting as spotlight on students.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

So much wonder and awe today during the eclipse. It was spectacular to share in this momentous occasion with our students. I was terrified to bring them outside, but I should not have doubted that the teachers had practiced with them and prepared them beautifully. It was magical.

Our cookies and conversation in March was focused on homeschool partnerships.

- Transparency and trust – Two way communication

The goal is to have a common vision, so that every activity and communication is reflected around this vision.

The second graders and third graders will be coming to SR for the musical. 3rd graders will be doing Ride to the ridge, and we included the 2nd graders who will walk to the Ridge. I Will be looking for parent volunteers on that nice walk along Old Willow Road on May 10th.

While we are still working out the details, we have an interest in doing a volunteer appreciation breakfast. Ways to make it meaningful and building connections among parents, stay tuned for more details.

School Board Report

Jenny Damon

Green club, we will be highlighting them at the board meeting at 7pm.

The finance facilities meeting will be at 5:15pm. We are having two different presentations. First is the architects, who share a wide range of options about what we can possibly do to upgrade the facility. The second will be how we can go about paying for those capital improvements.

We will also be voting on some policy updates, renewing the contracts for our nightly custodial service and organic life. We will also be voting for our tentative approval of next year's budget as well as the board meeting schedule. Please join in person or on zoom.

[Board of education page has the live zoom link.](#)

Committee Reports:

100 Year Anniversary committee, Jeanine Rashkow

Plaque and tree will be complete mid July. We are having a nice turnout with the alumni communications and their participation in the anniversary celebration. Alumni seem enthusiastic about attending events and supporting the school. We won't have tree or plaque yet, but we will have some visuals there during the ceremony.

School Supplies, Robin Decker

The school supply kits are available for purchase on 1st day school supply website- two links, one for both schools. The information was also sent out in the latest Parent square email, on the District and PTO website as well. You only have till July 1st to get them on time.

[1st day school supply link](#)

SRS Book Fair, Ranjini Shankar

The Sunset Ridge Book fair is going to be held May 21st and 22nd. During the school day till 4pm, and some evening hours on the 21st (5-7pm). It will be open before the concert. We are going with Anderson's books- hoping for a great selection for 4th-8th graders. We are going to be looking for volunteers.

Teacher Appreciation week, Yena Levinson

May 6th-10th is teacher appreciation week. We are in great shape, a few meals planned and some treats and lots of goodies for the week.

Maker Faire volunteers, Sandy Norbot

During the evening with the eagles- May 30th we will be asking for some volunteers to help out. There is going to be a Tie dye station and paint by number mural. We are looking for some volunteers, set up, help work, and the clean up. There will be some 7th and 8th graders running the stations, but would be great to have some adults to help out as well. Will be a SignUpgenius coming out.

Family Fun Fair, Robin Decker and Jeanine Rashkow

Family Fun Fair will be on June 4th, last day of school. 3:30-6pm. This year we have inflatables, Stormy's for food, Kona ice. New for this year we have touch a truck- Fire, police and a village vehicle starting at 3:30pm. Pottery painting that the library is going to do for us. Special for this year, we are going to have an area for Mr. Parks and his family- set aside, so people can stop by and wish him well on his retirement. We will need volunteers and will send out a SignUpgenius next month.

Welcome Program, Sandy Norbot

We connect new families with a mentor family. Most of new families are kindergarten families... but could be any new family to the district. Mentor is a family who has been with the district for at least a year. We have started to recruit for mentor families- had a google form for you to get some more info and sign up to volunteer. This will help the welcome chairs. If this is something you think you are interested in, look back at last PTO newsletter to get that form, and we will get that link in the mins as well- [FORM HERE](#)

Parent Connections

Next Parent Connections meeting is

April 24, 2024 @ 7:00pm

Topic: US Dept of Homeland Security Presentation - Online Safety

*This event is live via Zoom only.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82438569277?pwd=WnVXUGozbG9NTHN3d0dmMXI6Zk15dz09>

Meeting ID: 824 3856 9277

Passcode: 581059

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned -7:45pm Adjourned by Sandy Norbot

Minutes compiled by : Emily LeMire, Secretary