

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Tuesday, September 8th, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Call to Order: None

Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Bridget Kennedy

President's Report:

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

Warm welcome to Mrs. Kiedaisch.

PTO Monthly Matters just came out. Thank you to Abigayil Joseph for helping with that.

Thank you Soo Moon for coordinating room parents. Grades will work together to simplify the process.

Going to do more Teacher Appreciation gestures throughout the year.

Family Action Network Report

Lonnie Stonitsch, FAN Executive Director

All speaker events are free and open to the public

All events will be via zoom. Attendees will need to register online.

We welcomed 4 new schools this year

Previous events are available to view on their website.

Treasurer Report:

Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Last year was a challenging year and we lost money because of no fundraising. We have about \$65,000 in the bank. We have collected about 35% of dues so far.

Committee Reports:

Ana Miyares, School Kits

399 school kits were ordered from Shane's. A \$5400 rebate check is being sent to the PTO and \$785 is being sent to the school. \$848 is being returned to the school as they were unable to source Clorox wipes. The contract with Shane's was renewed for 2 years.

Stephanie Stefanik, Winter Benefit

Hillary Bufalino, Kelly Caruso and Stephanie Stefanik are chairing the fundraiser this year. They are posed with a unique situation and are deciding on alternatives to a large in-person event as they are unsure of safety. In lieu of an in-person event, they are proposing a robust fundraising campaign. Looking to tap into supporters that normally would not attend the in-person party. They are planning on starting with a letter to play off the back to school excitement in the community right now. A lawn sign will be placed for any donation received, no matter how big or small. They feel there will be no wasted cost with this plan and no one will feel left out. They plan to host an event when the time is right.

Ana Miyares asked if we could do a party next year even though it is a non-benefit year. Stephanie answered that they have discussed that possibility. Ana asked if things are better in February or March could we still do an in-person event and Stephanie answered that they aren't in the position right now to move forward with that. Kelly Caruso added that they do not want to wait all year to see how things turn out and would like to do something now.

Tom Whittaker remarked on how successful the online portion of the auction has been in the past and Stephanie shared that they hope to do an online auction in some capacity but the items that historically make the most money are travel and sports, which are not options at this time. They also do not feel comfortable asking local small businesses that may be struggling. They hope to come up with experiences that people will be comfortable with that can be done safely. Tom added he thinks the lawn sign idea is a great idea.

Abigayil Joseph asked if we have a target amount to raise, can we detail specifically what money is going towards and can we have a participation goal instead of a dollar amount. Stephanie shared that the participation goal was in their plan. They would like to place thermometers around town to show participation. The goal is \$50k. PTO leadership will need to advise on how funds will be allocated.

Andrea Macina, Parent Connections (not present)

Jenny shared on behalf of Andrea that Parent Connections is an open meeting for anyone to attend. The first meeting will be held on 9/22 via Zoom and anyone may join.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

- Car burglaries continued throughout the summer. The age range of the offenders is 10 - 21 and they are coming from the city. The Northfield Police Department will not pursue the offenders. Reminder not to keep keys in the car.
- Ruse burglaries also continued. There were 4 over the summer. Do not let anyone in that you do not know.
- The Northfield Police Department monitors all schools in Northfield. New Trier West pays for an officer to be on-site to deal with juvenile offenses.
- Parents have asked why Northfield does not have a "Text a Tip" system. Chief Lustig explained that three years ago, all towns with less than 25,000 residents were forced to combine their dispatches. We combined with Glencoe, Winnetka and Kenilworth. "Text a Tip" requires funding so they are checking with the other communities to see if they are interested. If they reject the proposal, Northfield will evaluate if they can handle the cost on its own.
- When the Northfield Police Department makes an arrest for a felony, they need permission from the state's attorney's office before moving forward with the arrest. After the arrest, everything else is handled by the state. When you see people in our community that have been arrested out on bond, Northfield PD has no control over that.

- If you are upset with the police department, please call Chief Lustig directly to discuss instead of emailing or posting on social media.

Teacher Representative Report

Kellie Johnson

Thank you for the lunch and the welcome back signs. The teachers feel so supported.

Administration Reports

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

- Thank you to the PTO and the community for your support.
- About 13% of children have opted for remote learning. It averages out to be 10 kids per grade at Middlefork and 5 kids per grade at Sunset Ridge.
- Our ability to stay in session is a group effort and they are trying to be as conservative as possible right now. Please be patient and flexible with teachers.
- The Back to School Task Force is looking at a number of variables to determine the phase we will move to next.
- Avoca had a COVID-19 case and Cook County shut down their kindergarten. The county health department advises what happens at school when there is a positive case.
- The State has given each district 5 days for e-learning planning days. They are considering taking September 25th as a planning day.
- Thank you for all that have signed up for Parent Square to help improve communication.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

- Appreciates all the support and the warm welcome as new principal. Also, pleased with the high attendance at curriculum night.
- The students and teachers have been so creative in connecting in-person and remote learners.
- Kids are learning to social distance and still be creative.
- This week, 2nd and 3rd graders are doing MAP testing, which is done to collect data on how our students are performing.

Dr. Sukenik, SRS Principal

- The kindness coming through is so impactful. Thank you to the PTO for the support.
- Finishing up MAP testing this week, the majority of remote students came in to take the tests.
- D29Connect committee is working on the next SEL-PAC meeting.
- SRS is planning fire drills which will look different than they have in the past. Lockdown discussions will be had with the children.
- There has been about 50% participation so far for the Panorama Survey. They hope to get more. The results will be shared with the Back to School Task Force.
- Teachers are going above and beyond and so have the kids. The students have been very compliant with the expectations set.

School Board Report

Anne Peterson

- Thank you to everyone for the support.
- September 15 is the next board meeting.
- After every board meeting, a summary of the meeting, called “board notes,” are posted online within a week of the meeting. You can see them sooner than the minutes, which do not get approved until the next meeting.
- Board packets will be posted online before the meeting.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 10am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Jenny Gallagher, 9:02am
Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Erica Marinello

President's Report:

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

October PTO newsletter has been posted. Thank you to Abigail Joseph.

Thank you to the conference meal chairs who are working to prepare meals for the teachers for October 22nd parent-teacher conferences.

Thank you to Sara Thompson for helping with our school directory. We have chosen to change to Directory Spot and are hoping this will be a long term solution.

Thank you to the room parents, who are working with teachers to plan Halloween.

Ms Anderson wrote in with a shout out to her room parents, who fulfilled her request for sidewalk chalk.

Scholastic issued us a \$230.18 check from the book fair. We gave this back to the Middlefork library to use.

The American Contract Bridge league has donated \$15,000 to the PTO. Thank you for supporting our programs and thank you to the Subeck family.

We are looking for help keeping the PTO website updated. Please let us know if you are able to help with this.

Treasurer Report:

Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Our bank account balance is at \$93k.

We will cut checks for the room parents the week of October 19th.

Vote on Teacher Appreciation Budget:

Jenny Gallagher

The budget for Teacher Appreciation Week was set in the spring at \$2k, not knowing the current climate. The Teacher Appreciation Committee would like to do events throughout the year and increase the budget to \$6,543. There will be many things we will not be able to fund this year that we normally do, so we have reallocated funds a bit.

Christie Caceres added that they would like the teachers to feel appreciated throughout the year.

Jenny Damon shared a document outlining the plan so that all could view on their screens.

Those in favor were asked to raise their hand. Jenny Damon tallied while the meeting continued.

Committee Reports:

Erica Marinello, Author Visit/School Programs Sunset Ridge

We have more opportunities than usual because of Zoom.

8th grade will visit with the author Claire Hartfield during the last week of October.
6th grade will visit with author Jerry Craft, thanks to the Book Stall.
4th, 5th and maybe 6th grade will visit with Dusti Bowling, author of the Cactus books.
The book fairs will look a bit different this year. Last year we were successful doing separate fairs. They have contacted 3 different vendors, all with different options. Depending on the climate in March, we may be able to do in-person. If we do virtual, there will be no need for Middlefork to do a separate fair.

Patricia Gainsburg, Alliance for Early Childhood (not present)

Jenny shared on Patricia's behalf that The Alliance has a program on October 15th, register online in advance if you are interested.

The newsletter will only be delivered electronically this year.

The Alliance is still planning 4 outdoor events this year. Register online in advance if you plan on attending.

Patricia Gainsburg, Author Visit/School Programs Middlefork (not present)

Jenny shared on Patricia's behalf that Suzanne Lang has been secured to do an author visit with Middlefork.

Bridget Kennedy, Teacher Gifts

Every year, the PTO donates funds for items that teachers may want that fall outside the district budget. PTO sets the budget for Teacher Gifts each year. No ideas are too big or too small. Past gifts are listed on the PTO website. Forms are due on the 13th.

Stephanie Stefanik, Winter Benefit

The Benefit Committee has come up with a plan that will start the last week in October and go through March.

We are working with a printer to do the yard signs.

Our goal is for the first letter to go out the 1st week of November.

We are going to have a Facebook and Instagram marketing campaign.

We will have a follow up in March.

The family support meters will be displayed at Middlefork, Sunset Ridge and in the center of town.

Andrea Macina, Parent Connections

The last Parent Connections meeting was on September 22nd. Ed walked us through the COVID dashboard, the survey on winter plans and travel plans.

The next meeting is on October 20th at 9am. We will discuss the next step in school plans.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

October 24th from 10am - 2pm is Drug Take Back Day. Anyone may bring old prescriptions to the Northfield Police Department.

Halloween will be from 3 - 7:30pm this year. We will have extra staffing as usual. The Health Department has recommended masks, social distancing and hand washing. Officers will not be passing out candy.

They just arrested 2 people for embezzling \$83k from local businesses.

We have had 5 recent car burglaries. In the Fox Meadow parking lot, 2 windows were smashed to get purses.

Met with the New Trier graduation committee. Will need to see what it looks like in 2021 because right now it is too high of a risk to have people exposed.

Talked to the Sunset Ridge 4th graders a few weeks ago and had great conversations.

Teacher Representative Report

Monica Brouillette

We have nothing to report but thank you to everyone. We feel the love!

Administration Reports

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

The Task Force met yesterday. The challenge is that everyone comes to the table with personal interests. No plan will meet everyone's needs. We discussed all options for the next stage and upcoming holidays.

New Trier just pulled the plug on returning to school in person.

We have had no in-school COVID-19 cases.

If you have feedback for the Board, you can always call or email a board member. We encourage your opinions to be known.

Parent Connections: At our last meeting, we discussed topics to discuss at upcoming meetings. If you have any ideas, please email Ed to add to the agenda.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Thank you for the Teacher Appreciation plan.

Thank you for all of the intangible gestures of appreciation.

We are maximizing our opportunities to go outside while the weather is still great and will continue as long as the weather allows.

The teachers have been creative in coming up with ways for the children to socialize.

Halloween will look different this year but it will be fun. We have made a teacher Halloween Task Force. We will have a Halloween costume parade with only staff, no parents invited. We will live stream it for other grades and parents to view. It will also be recorded if you would like to watch it later. Students can wear costumes to school. A letter will be sent with guidelines.

We would love a few decorations from the PTO for the Halloween parade in the gym. If items could be dropped off 2 days in advance, staff will put them up for the parade. Will follow up with Jenny Gallagher.

Dr. Sukenik, SRS Principal

Thank you for the ongoing support and generosity.

SEL-PAC will be up and running again. It is designed to be a parent learning committee on how we can best support our kids. Next meeting is planned for Tuesday, October 27th at 7pm. We

are combining Middlefork and Sunset Ridge to be 1 District 29 SEL-PAC. Tim Dohrer is coming to give an overview of how we can best navigate the impact of the pandemic on our kids. Picture retakes are on 10/28. We were pleased with the new vendor this year but please let us know your feedback.

“Partnering with the Principals” will be today. Families of remote learners can do a Q & A session with the principals. We will do another for all families in the future.

We usually do not do much at Sunset Ridge for Halloween and this year will be no different. The teachers will plan in-class fun.

School Board Report

Anne Peterson

Thank you for everything people are doing to help us get through this.

The board is discussing what to do regarding moving ahead with stages and holiday breaks.

Each stakeholder group has their own concerns and priorities. Board has to balance all of these.

Asking for understanding and patience.

The meeting is tonight and anyone can join.

Dr. Stange added that we are live streaming the board meeting tonight instead of Zooming as it has been found to be most effective. The link is on the website. If someone wants to make a public comment, you can join in-person or send an email ahead of time. The meeting recording will be posted on the website.

Vote on Teacher Appreciation Budget:

Jenny Gallagher

Jenny Damon did the vote tally. New Teacher Appreciation Budget was approved: Amanda Alpert, Gail Belian, Hillary Bufalino, Christie Caceres, Kelly Caruso, Jenny Damon, Allison Gaetano, Jennifer Gallagher, Abby Hurwitz, Abigayil Joseph, Bridget Kennedy, Yena Levinson, Andrea Macina, Erica Marinello, Soo Moon, Kori Pierce, Archana Piotrowski, Bianca Rose, Sara Thompson, Andrea Tingue, Eva Vlad, Seong McGarry

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:50am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Jenny Gallagher, 9:01am
Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Patricia Gainsburg

President's Report:

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

PTO Monthly Matters has been posted to Parent Square. Thank you to Abigayil Joseph. First author visit was last week. Author Jerry Craft visited with 6th graders. Thank you to Lauren Gray and Erica Marinello for coordinating these. On 11/17, Claire Hartfield will visit with 8th grade.

There is a FAN event tomorrow at 7pm. "The Mutant Project: Inside the Global Race to Genetically Modify Humans". You can register for this + future events on their website. Recordings of their past events are also posted online.

Treasurer Report:

Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Our bank account balance is at \$85k.

We are at 66% participation for dues. Still trying to collect.

Jenny Gallagher added that they are still working on getting 8th grade fees as well.

Committee Reports:

Stephanie Stefanik, Winter Benefit

Letters will be going out this week.

Lawn signs are here and ready to go.

The letter mailing will kick off the campaign.

Hillary Bufalino had JULIE come out to mark spots that the thermometer signs will be placed.

These signs will monitor community support. Will be placed at Middlefork, Sunset Ridge and in town, thanks to Tom Whittaker.

Sara Thompson, Directory (not present)

Jenny shared that the new directory will be launched this week. Information will be posted on Parent Square and families will receive an email to sign up.

Bridget Kennedy, Teacher Gifts

This Friday 11/13 will be the final day to submit proposals. Anyone can submit - staff or parents. We already have some great proposals.

The gifts committee will meet on 12/4 to go over proposals.

Proposals will be posted on the PTO website and feedback is welcome.

Thank you to Bianca Rose for helping post these on the website.

Andrea Macina, Parent Connections

The next meeting is 11/17 at 9am. Topic is the Advanced Learning Program (ALP). Monica Brouillette and Matt Wilkinson will share a presentation on ALP. The December topic will probably remain the same and will be a debrief of what was discussed.

Kirsten Lestina and Kerri Melzl, Holiday Projects (not present)

Jenny shared that the holiday gift drive is underway. We will be collecting gifts for 45 families through the Northwestern Settlement House. An email will be posted on Parent Square with info. Gifts will be due 12/10 and on 12/11 gifts will be brought to the Northwestern Settlement House.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

Last week there was a forced entry burglary on the 200 block of Riverside Drive. We try to figure out what attracted the burglars to the house. Packages piling up on the front porch is a potential draw.

Reminder to keep kids at Middlefork in the back seat of cars with seat belts fastened.

Joggers and walkers are reminded that it is getting dark earlier and reflective clothing should be worn.

Halloween went very well. No crime was reported and people were wearing masks.

Teacher Representative Report

Neha Varughese

Thank you to the PTO for the conference meals and for recognizing those with dietary restrictions.

Administration Reports

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

There was a notice sent to families today that another staff member tested positive for COVID-19.

Thank you to the PTO for the conference meals.

Every day is an interesting day. The prevalence of COVID is growing and growing.

If you look at our dashboard, the top layer is everything out in the world and that is all red lined.

The bottom half is what is going on inside our district and that is ok right now.

3 staff members and 2 students have tested positive for COVID since the beginning of the school year. Tracing has identified that these were transmitted outside of school. There is no evidence of any cases being transmitted in school.

The task force met and is trying to think of what other mitigation strategies can be implemented.

Adaptive Pause is one strategy in our arsenal but not our only strategy.

As of now, Cook County is saying it is a local decision on whether to stay open.

Right now, our plan is to be open.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Thank you for all the little and big things the PTO has done in the past month. We loved the decorations for the Halloween parade.

Thank you to the room parents for a great Halloween.

Regarding mitigation strategies, one of our biggest strategies is being highly conservative in sending and keeping kids and staff home for illnesses. We appreciate your patience in this process.

We have moved away from calling breaks “mask and movement” breaks as kids are keeping their masks on for those breaks outside.

Indoor snack breaks have started. We have a structured schedule for these, using the large and small gyms. Masks are removed for snacks and then put back on right after.

Kids have done so well with masks and social distancing.

The full remote schedule will look a bit different from our current schedule. There will be 5 hours of daily instructional time. The day will begin at 8:30am. Children will be working with teachers throughout the day. The day will end around 3pm, slightly earlier for kindergarten.

Teachers are aware that parents do not want children to be on a screen all day but they still have to be accountable.

The current schedule has core classes in the morning and specials in the afternoon. If remote, there will be 1 live special in the morning and 1 live special in the afternoon.

Dr. Sukenik, SRS Principal

We are grateful for the support and for the author visits.

The author visits have been so cool to do remotely.

Northwestern Settlement House will be continued this year. Sunset Ridge students will not be able to do a field trip to shop this year. Gifts will need to be purchased and wrapped outside of school.

The Veterans’ Day Concert is a yearly tradition that brings together our school and community. Mindy Golub has spent a lot of time curating videos from past performances and recording new videos of students. The video is about 15 minutes long and will be shared with children at school and emailed to families.

Regarding mitigation strategies, adolescents have a harder time distancing. We are going to be tightening up on our mask breaks outside. Students will be wearing masks at all times except when eating or drinking.

We will most likely not be doing any indoor snacking but will communicate the plan this week.

We have to be super careful with illnesses. Thank you for being understanding so we can stay in school.

When we go full remote, the expectation is that kids are in school all day.

On Tuesday 11/17 at 5pm, we will be doing another “Partnering with the Principals” meeting, where all parents are invited to ask any questions regarding remote learning.

At the last Parent Connections meeting, we discussed the book “The Distance Learning Playbook.” We will be sending out a survey to gauge interest in reading and discussing this book.

School Board Report

Anne Peterson

We are grateful for the PTO for supporting the fact that school can be fun.

Tonight the Education Committee meets and will be discussing ideas for reviewing curriculum.

This is not an official board meeting as it is a committee and anyone can participate.

The board meeting tonight will mostly discuss metrics and how those influence what we are doing.

Additional Comments

Bridget Kennedy asked if we can block YouTube from the Sunset Ridge School Chromebooks.

Dr Sukenik said that they use YouTube for some classes so if we block it we will lose that content. She said they will talk to the tech dept for some other ideas.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:36am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Jenny Gallagher, 9:01am
Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Andrea Macina

President's Report:

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

Thank you to all for being here.

Monthly Matters was posted to Parent Square yesterday. There are a few events from FAN and The Alliance for Early Childhood listed. Online registration is required.

We have two author visits this week: Dusti Bowling at Sunset Ridge and Suzanne Lang at Middlefork.

We have received thank yous from the teachers thanking the teacher appreciation chairs for all the Thanksgiving treats.

Treasurer Report:

Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Our bank account balance is at \$108k.

We have about \$27k that is deposited in the bank so far from the fundraiser.

Committee Reports:

Ana Miyares, School Kits (not present)

Jenny shared that Shane's Kits has gone out of business so we will no longer be able to use them for our school kits. They have given all of their business to Write Stuff. We are waiting on a proposal from Write Stuff, which we should receive in January. Will also be getting another quote to compare.

Kirsten Lestina and Kerri Melzl, Holiday Projects (not present)

Jenny shared that the gift drive is wrapping up this week. Gifts are due on Wednesday and will be delivered at the end of the week.

Bridget Kennedy, Teacher Gifts

Last Friday, the gift committee met and approved most of the gifts that were proposed. Some of the other gifts will be covered by the school district. The SRS Student Council is re-working their proposal to give a better idea of what they are asking for.

Stephanie Stefanik, Winter Benefit

We have had 150 donors so far.

We have raised \$32,425.

Our expenses should be less than \$2k.

Jenny Gallagher will be sending out an email to those families from the school district that have not yet donated.

We have had 8 families that have donated \$1000.

12 families that have donated are not part of the school district and are members of the Northfield or Northbrook community. They were reached through the Instagram ad campaign. We will eventually be sending out text messages to the families that have not donated. Kelly Caruso added a thank you to all on this call who have generously donated.

Andrea Macina, Parent Connections

The next meeting is 11/15 at 9am. At the last meeting, we saw a presentation on the Advanced Learning Program (ALP) from Monica Brouillette and Matt Wilkinson. This meeting we will debrief.

Regarding school supplies, the committee should reach out to Sarah Crawford who has handled this in the past and may have other companies to look into.

Ed Stange added that the presentation on ALP from the last Parent Connections meeting is on the website for anyone to view if interested.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

We get alerts from all of the surrounding communities and both identity thefts and ruse burglaries are up.

Unless you call someone to your house, do not let them in. Call the police if the visitor is persistent.

There was a 4 car accident at Willow and Latrobe last week that a number of people called about. The driver was texting and in possession of drugs. Others involved in the crash only had minor injuries.

Teacher Representative Report

Joe Lewis

The teachers are working very hard putting together distance learning. We feel supported.

Administration Reports

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Anne Peterson is not here today so I will also discuss school board updates.

Thank you to the PTO for your support.

Update on COVID in the district: Metrics are posted on our website, numbers are still high.

Local metrics have trended down just below 8%. We will continue to send notices for positive cases of staff and students as they are reported.

We are preparing for a January 11th return to hybrid.

The documents for the education committee and school board meetings are posted online.

At the school board meeting, we will discuss the 2021-2022 proposed calendar. This is just a first draft and we will finalize in January or February.

We will be discussing a tax levy tonight.

The litigation against Jeul will also be discussed. Legal council has presented this to District 29 and it would be at no cost to the district. We have had students caught vaping in school. The board needs to decide if we want to get involved.

Tom Whittaker added that we have had 71 new COVID-19 cases in Northfield in the past week.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

On behalf of Dr. Sukenik, we both want to express our appreciation for the support of the Northwestern Settlement program.

Thank you to the PTO for helping fund "The Distance Learning Playbook." We had over 80 families request this book. Next Monday, we will discuss the book at the SELPAC meetings. You do not need to have read the book to join the conversation.

Our remote learning program has really evolved in this past week and 2 days of being remote. Breakout rooms are helping teachers connect with kids. Students are staying on Zoom while doing independent work as they know their teachers will be nearby to help if needed.

Introducing live specials for kindergarteners has been fun.

The teachers are being so creative to connect home and school.

Thank you to the PTO for helping arrange the author visits.

Dedicated Dolphins are still meeting virtually.

Next week will be Spirit Week.

Dr. Sukenik, SRS Principal

Homework Club has been a very successful endeavor. About 10 students per day access the Homework Club. A link is posted on Parent Square to receive the Zoom link.

We are very excited for this week's author visit.

Additional Comments

Tom Whittaker asked if we can reach out to parents who have not yet paid their PTO dues as some lose track. Jenny Gallagher said we will do a final push.

Andrea Macina said that she has texted Sarah Crawford, who confirmed that she does have school kit info from research done in prior years. She will connect with the School Kit Committee.

Patricia Gainsburg said that author Troy Cummings has been secured for an upcoming visit. He is a Monarch Award Winner.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:29am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

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

Meeting Called to Order: Jenny Gallagher, 9:01am
Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Erica Marinello

President's Report:

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

Happy new year!

The newsletter has been posted to Parent Square.

We have a few upcoming FAN events that you can see on their website.

We had some issues with the November Teacher Appreciation gifts. Some of the Amazon gift cards did not work. We think we have resolved all of the non-working cards but if you hear of any more that did not work, please let us know.

Thank you to the school board and administration for our return to hybrid.

Treasurer Report:

Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Our bank account balance is at \$116k.

Donations from the fundraiser are at about \$38k, which includes some expenses. The letter writing campaign was a success.

We have collected about 70% of dues, 85% of 8th grade fees.

Committee Reports:

Bridget Kennedy, Teacher Gifts

Last month, the Gifts Committee approved gifts for the Distance Learning Playbook for Parents, two Buddy Communication Devices, Multicultural Reading Books for 2nd Grade and a digital book fund for SRS.

SRS Student Council had asked for a gift of \$6k for school spirit apparel. We are working with them to rework their proposal and resubmit next year. They plan to use the following year to work on a proposal for a student store.

We received a nice thank you note from the 2nd grade teachers.

Ana Miyares, School Kits

We are waiting for one more proposal but are leaning towards 1 specific vendor because they have been great to work with. Both companies we are getting proposals from do not require contracts.

In the past, we have used School Kits as a fundraiser. We will not continue that as we felt it was not clear to the parents.

We have discussed putting a box at each of the schools to collect extra supplies to donate or repurpose.

Patricia Gainsburg, Author Visit/School Programs Middlefork

The Suzanne Lang author visit was great.

Troy Cummings is coming at the end of the month.

Candace Fleming is coming in March.

Erica Marinello, Book Fair + Author Visit/School Programs Sunset Ridge

Sunset Ridge and Middlefork will work together to do a virtual book fair. We are shopping with past vendors to find the best option.

Every grade has been visited by an author except for 7th grade so we are working with the teachers to find the best fit. We still have money in the budget so will continue working to use the funds.

Stephanie Stefanik, Winter Benefit

189 families have donated. That is 58% of families.

We have raised just less than \$40k, not including expenses.

If you have already donated, you are not getting any more communication.

We are going to send handwritten notes next to those who haven't donated.

We have no doubt we will get to \$50k.

Andrea Macina, Parent Connections

1/19 at 9am will be the next Parent Connections meeting. Jen and Ed will discuss the Middlefork Kindergarten Program.

Ed Stange added that we expect to give an overview of our program in January and at the February meeting we will get feedback. If we decide to make changes, we will have many discussions beyond these meetings.

Community Update:

Jenny Gallagher

Chief Lustig is out on medical leave.

Tom Whittaker

Bill Lustig had COVID-19, he is now on the rebound, will be focusing on getting better and returning to normal.

Gerald McCulloh, Northfield Deputy Chief of Police

Acting chief while Lustig is out on leave.

We are excited that the kids are back in hybrid.

Martha, our crossing guard at Willow and Wagner, has resigned. The job has been posted as we are searching for her replacement. It pays \$18.21/hour.

We are going to be involved in a social media blast with surrounding towns to remind people to lock their cars.

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Thank you to the teachers for our remote program and for getting back to school.

Thank you to the parents for the trust, support and feedback. There was so much positive support for the teachers through the survey and it was so meaningful.

COVID-19 metrics are on our website. State/county is still in the red zone, our district is in the yellow zone.

Vaccine Update: There has been lots of work being done for Category 1b (teachers are in that group). We are trying to group together with all schools in our township to become a vaccine site. We hope to have a plan in the next couple weeks.

Last week we had a school board meeting. We have about 4 - 6 kids per grade quarantining right now due to travel. They are now able to participate in remote learning. It is a challenge logistically but we are thankful for the efforts of all.

Received emails and calls from parents over the weekend regarding concern over crossing pods. We are very conscientious of taking small steps forward.

At the school board meeting tonight we want to approve the 2021-2022 calendar and start talking about strategic planning.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Thank you for coordinating holiday gifts for students in lieu of class parties.

Thank you to Patricia Gainsburg for the author visits.

We appreciate everyone's support over remote learning.

Yesterday, we began doing some live specials class and there was wonderful energy with the kids.

Kindergarten registration is next Wednesday, January 20. We are asking parents to sign up for a time to drop off their registration documents.

Dr. Sukenik, SRS Principal

We are off to a smooth start. We adjusted the timing of 4th and 8th grades and it is going great.

Thank you to the room parents for coordinating the holiday gifts. A special shout out to the 8th grade parents.

We have 5 new SRS students that enrolled after break.

We have been offering Zoom basketball, both before and after school. We have more than 40 students participating.

We are also offering Homework Club and we encourage kids to attend for support.

Information on 7th grade student advocacy groups will be coming soon. These are completely student driven.

Thank you to JoAnn Tennenbaum, a retired SRS teacher who has returned to teaching and has been Ms. Albright's sub while she is out on maternity leave. Jordan Bauer is also going on maternity leave shortly and will be covered by another former SRS teacher.

Ms. Gray was married over winter break.

School Board Report

Anne Peterson

Thank you to Ed for covering what the school board will be doing.

The Finance and Facilities meeting is tonight at 6pm.

If you have any comments for the school board meeting tonight, please email them to Ed by 4pm.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:38am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

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

Meeting Called to Order: Jenny Gallagher, 9:01am
Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Bridget Kennedy

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

We have to approve a Nominating Chair. Chrissy Geraghty has been slated. Chrissy has an 8th grader, 6th grader and 2nd grader. She is familiar with the PTO and has volunteered in past positions. Jessica Adams was the previous Nominating Chair and wrote a letter in approving Chrissy's nomination

President's Report:

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

February newsletter is up. Thank you to Abigayil Joseph.

We hope to have new and old parents that are interested in joining the PTO. Those interested should reach out to Chrissy or myself.

There are many upcoming FAN events (2/8, 2/10, 2/16). You can register on their website.

The Alliance for Early Childhood has 2 events coming up on 2/18 and 2/20. You can sign up on their website.

Thank you to the Teacher Appreciation Chairs.

Treasurer Report:

Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Our bank account balance is at \$115k.

Donations from the fundraiser are at about \$39k after expenses.

Please submit your PTO expenses if you have any outstanding.

Committee Reports:

Ana Miyares, School Kits (not present)

Jenny shared that First Day School Supplies has been chosen as our vendor for next year.

Conference Meals, Rebekah Bader

Our October plan for teacher conference meals worked well so we are doing the same for the next round of conferences. Staff will receive individual boxed meals from Foodstuffs.

Erica Marinello, Book Fair

We will be doing 1 book fair for both Sunset Ridge and Middlefork. We have decided to partner with Barnes and Noble. There will be the option of shopping in-person at Old Orchard or online. Barnes and Noble will not be able to do any special in-store events as they have in the past (for example, face painting) but there will be signage. Everyone will receive a code to shop with. Hoping to do this right before spring break but, if not, right after.

Stephanie Stefanik, Winter Benefit

We have 193 donors, \$41k raised.

Andrea Macina, Parent Connections

At our 1/19 meeting, Mrs. Kiedaisch did a presentation on our kindergarten program. The presentation is posted on our website. We have also sent out a survey looking for feedback on our kindergarten program. At our 2/16 meeting, we will be debriefing the presentation and reviewing results of the survey.

Ed Stange added that we have only received feedback from about 30 families and are hoping for more. Also, at the March meeting, we hope to go over transgender issues.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

Thank you to the PTO for your gift card.

Thank you to Ivy for the note and get well cards from students.

Shared his personal COVID-19 experience and stressed the importance of wearing masks and getting vaccinated.

New Trier Township will be hosting vaccinations tomorrow, 2/10.

We have a new crossing guard, Dave Harper. Dave is a long time community member and father of PTO board member Stephanie Stefanik.

At 5:20pm one evening last week, there was a burglary on Bracken Lane.

Yesterday there was a burglary in Wilmette and the 3 suspects were arrested.

One of the methods being used is the burglars are putting on utility worker vests and knocking on doors.

Right now is budget time in local police departments.

Reminder that it is always important to support our local businesses.

Teacher Representative Report

Joe Lewis

Nothing specific to report other than a thank you from all the teachers for your support.

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

New Trier Township Superintendents are very frustrated by the back door deals going on regarding vaccinations. NT Township created a vaccine site with Jewel for 2/10. The Township received 500 vaccines for teachers and 1100 for the community. District 29 will receive 19 of those doses. Only 12 staff members have not been scheduled for a vaccine at this time. We expect everyone to be fully vaccinated by mid-March.

We will be sending a survey soon regarding third trimester plans.

At the Task Force meeting yesterday we discussed the possibility of extending the school day.

We need to come up with a schedule that is good for the kids and meets contractual obligations of teachers. We will need to ask for help from parents if we extend the day to include lunch.

Cook County has announced that they will match the City of Chicago's Travel Guidance Policy.

An email was sent out to the district this morning regarding this change.

If you have public comments for the School Board meeting tonight, please email them to me. One agenda item for tonight's meeting to highlight: Currently, 4th - 8th graders pay a \$55 technology fee, which goes towards any costs incurred if your child damages their device. There is no fee for K - 3rd grade. We have looked at our policy and the policy of surrounding districts and are recommending a change that you would only pay a fee if you break something.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Thank you to the Teacher Appreciation Committee.

Thank you to the room parents.

Thank you to Patricia Gainsburg for the author visits.

Second and third grade Dedicated Dolphins have created a digital Family Fun Activity Book. If you would like a copy to download, you can fill out a form in the Friday news and donate to a local charity in lieu of bringing in cash.

In-person PE, Learning Centers and Spanish has been wonderful.

Dr. Sukenik, SRS Principal

Thank you to the Teacher Appreciation Committee.

Thank you to the room parents.

Last week we had a SELPAC meeting regarding screen time and happiness. We are looking to screen the movie "The Social Dilemma."

Thank you to the community for supporting the 7th grade projects.

Thanks to Mr. Lewis, we will be putting on two plays this spring.

A small group of students is leading a teacher "self care" week this week.

Next week is Random Acts of Kindness Week. Our empathy ambassadors are giving each grade activities to complete.

School Board Report

Anne Peterson

At tonight's meeting, we will be discussing technology fees, strategic planning and getting back on path to full time days. Join us at 7pm.

Additional Comments

Patricia Gainsburg said that The Alliance will email you the recorded Molly Pope event if you are unable to join.

Stephanie Stefanik said that all of the tax receipts for those who donated to the benefit should be received by the end of this week.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:39am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

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

Meeting Called to Order: Jenny Gallagher, 9:02am
Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Patricia Gainsburg

President's Report:

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

Thank you to the Conference Meal team.

Thank you to Soo and the room parents for coordinating Valentines Day celebrations.

The Teacher Appreciation team is meeting to plan for the rest of the year.

We have been talking with Mrs. Kiedaisch and Ms. Kasper about planning Bike Safety Week.

The Park District is doing their Annual Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3. They are also looking for CITs to work at the camp this summer.

There are upcoming FAN events. You can register on their website.

Treasurer Report:

Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Our bank account balance is at \$116k.

We are finished with fundraising.

Please turn in your receipts. Receipts not turned in before the end of the year will not be reimbursed.

Committee Reports:

Patricia Gainsburg, Author Visit/School Programs Middlefork

Candace Fleming is doing an all school visit on 3/24. We are working with the Book Stall so that people may order books.

Patricia Gainsburg, Alliance for Early Childhood

The Parent Series was very helpful. It is uploaded to YouTube or anyone to view. The next one is on 4/8. If you sign up, you will get the link and can listen later.

On 4/10, there is a cardboard fort building event.

Teacher Tributes are a nice way to recognize teachers, especially during this hard time.

Ana Miyares, School Kits (not present)

Jenny shared that they have received all the teacher supply lists and will start getting the info out after spring break.

Margie Huber, Book Fair

We are doing a joint Middlefork and Sunset Ridge book fair. Will be both online and in store with Barnes and Noble. Will be held after spring break. We have a couple events in the works to promote the book fair.

Jenny Gallagher

Thank you to Stephanie Stefanik, Hillary Bufalino and Kelly Caruso for all their work on the fundraiser. They did a fabulous job of raising \$40k for the PTO. It is not too late to donate.

Andrea Macina, Parent Connections (not present)

The next meeting on 3/16. Will be addressing gender identity issues. Zoom link is on the website and in the Friday News. A video of the presentation will be posted after.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

Reminder to everyone that the coyotes are out. It is mating season and they will be more aggressive when the babies are born soon.

Burglaries are still active on the North Shore. Report anything suspicious.

Teacher Representative Report

Kim Albright

Thank you for all the treats and showering of love. We appreciate it greatly.

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Thank you for all the gifts and for the conference meals.

At the next Parent Connections meeting, we will be talking about how the district deals with gender identity.

At the last couple of Parent Connections meetings, we have been talking about kindergarten. We will be discussing kindergarten at the board meeting tonight. You can email any thoughts you have on this.

Friday was the deadline for the spring enrollment survey. Two dozen families have not yet filled it out. Please fill out the survey so we can move forward with our planning.

One 4th grade class is quarantined. Nurse Marci Peck is working with the health department on every choice on how we quarantine. We follow their guidance. The only time we do not follow their lead is when we choose to be more conservative.

Marci Peck added to please stay the course the best you can outside of school.

Ed continued that we keep things confidential but please be honest.

The District has run a 3 year strategic planning cycle and we are about to come to an end of this cycle. We are getting ready for the next 3 year cycle and are using an outside consultant to assist in the planning.

I do not get involved in election stuff but I do provide new members with help orienting and training. This IASB training happens at the end of March before the election is finished. It is virtual and anyone can watch.

Amanda Alpert-Knight added that regarding the board training, it is interesting for the community to watch and find out what is and isn't the responsibility of a board member. This understanding may help the community understand what the board's role really is.

Patricia Gainsburg added that she appreciates that everything is virtual now.

Ed said that is something that we have been discussing on trying to continue, particularly with parent-teacher conferences.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Thank you for the conference dinners. We are so grateful for the attention to dietary needs.

The Student Council is doing a clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons.

Mrs. Kiedaisch and I attended our first HEROS meeting, which stands for Healing Everyday Racism in Our Schools. HEROS seems like a great way for community members to be involved to tackle racism. Check out their website <https://heros.community> for more information.

We are getting ready to return to a fuller day and we are confident in our strategies.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Thank you for the meals and the nice little touches.

We are really excited for our 3/24 author visit with Candace Fleming.

Thrilled that we will be adding 13 in person students in the spring.

Middlefork lunch and recess plan: We are able to fit one grade at a time sitting 6' apart, except for kindergarten which will have seating that extends to the foyer. Teachers are working on a seating chart. We will have shields on the tables. Recess will have designated zones outside.

One grade will be out there at a time except for 2nd and 3rd grade which will overlap for 10 minutes but in separate zones. All will have masks on for recess. We are really excited and appreciate the support.

Additional Comments

Jenny Gallagher thanked the board, teachers and staff for getting us where we are. Thank you to Abigayil Joseph for getting our letter posted.

Patricia Gainsburg asked Eva Vlad if she needs any more receipts from author visits.

Eva said she will check and follow up.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:37am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Jenny Gallagher, 9:02am
Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Bridget Kennedy

Vote on Middlefork Sound System Upgrade:

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

The District has been working on improving the A/V system in the Middlefork School Gym. They have received a number of quotes and have asked the PTO for help paying for an upgrade to the sound system. The new sound system will cost \$11k. If we vote to go forward with the sound system, they can start working on it this summer and it will be ready for the next school year.

New sound system was approved by: Soo Moon, Eva Vlad, Tom Whittaker, Jenny Damon, Patricia Gainsburg, Hillary Bufalino, Christie Caceres, Brent Payne, Marina Payne, Andrea Macina, Rebekah Bader, Jessica Akaah, Kori Pierce, Nicole McLachlan, Erica Marinello, Andrea Tingue, Kelly Caruso, Abigayil Joseph, Amanda Alpert Knight, Seong McGarry, Yena Levinson, Gail Belian, Stacy Fitzgerald, Allison Gaetano, Jenny Gallagher, Bridget Kennedy

Jennifer Kiedaisch: Thank you to the PTO. We are looking forward to using this new sound system both instructionally as well as for celebrations.

President's Report:

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

The newsletter is posted in ParentSquare.

Clarkson Park will be finished soon. The opening event will be on June 23.

On May 6, there will be an author visit for 7th and 8th grade. Thank you to Erica Marinello and Lauren Gray.

The nominating committee is still working to fill positions, especially someone familiar with Wordpress to work on the website.

Our 8th Grade Chairs, Gail Belian and Stacy Fitzgerald, are hard at work planning for the upcoming graduation.

June 1st at 9am we will have our end of year PTO celebration.

We are hoping to have a new family ice cream social celebration on June 3rd.

Treasurer Report:

Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Our bank account balance is at \$113k.

We are working on our budget. Please let us know if you had any struggles staying in budget this year.

Please turn in your receipts.

Committee Reports:

Libby Galin, School Kits (not present)

Jenny shared a thank you to Sheri Styczen and Bianca Rose for getting the website up for school kits. July 1st is the deadline to order kits.

Erica Marinello, Book Fair

Barnes and Noble Book Fair is coming up.

We are holding a bookmark contest with 4th, 5th and 6th graders to design a bookmark that will be available at the checkout counter in-store.

We are also having a contest with 7th and 8th graders to name a signature drink that will be available in the Barnes and Noble cafe.

Online shopping will be available through 4/29.

Christie Caceres, Teacher Appreciation Week

We are getting ready to kick off Teacher Appreciation Week on May 3rd.

We will be doing events every day, having banners and signs outside, catered lunch, all COVID-friendly.

We will be sending a template for students to write teacher appreciation letters that will be taped up in the teacher lounges.

Soo Moon added that she emailed the teachers a rundown of their plans last night and they can tweak as needed.

Andrea Macina, Parent Connections

The next meeting is on April 20 from 9 - 10:30am. We will be giving updates on the kindergarten plan, summer programs and fall school.

The last topic was gender identity. The slides and video are posted under the Parent Connections link on the website.

Jessica Akaah, Family Fun Fair

We are thinking about doing a virtual Family Fun Fair since we couldn't do anything last year. Considering 5/22 or 5/23. Would do different events throughout the day, people can pick and choose which to attend, each about 45 min - 1 hour in length (contests, baking, exercise, etc). Looking for feedback.

Patricia Gainsburg: Why can't we use outdoor space at school and have people sign up for time slots:

Jessica Akaah: We are totally open to that. We also talked about doing a walk or bike ride but people like to socialize at the Fun Fair and it may be difficult to spread out.

Ed Stange: We would want to work with the village on health guidelines. Would need to be cautious planning an in-person event with rising metrics.

Jessica Akaah: Yes, and we would not want to exclude people that are not comfortable attending an in-person event.

Nicole McLachlan: Could you do this event in the fall?

Eva: I think we have had enough virtual events.

Patricia Gainsburg: The Alliance has safely had in-person events. We could have a virtual component for those not wanting to attend.

Jessica Akaah: We would need many volunteers for an in-person event.

Brent Payne: Seems like a lot of work.

Jessica Akaah: I would be happy to do something closer to the time of back to school if we delay.

Amanada Alpert Knight: I agree and the board would probably need to be involved in a decision like this.

Jenny Gallagher: Please email us any additional comments you may have.

Andrea Macina: I agree on waiting and think you could wait until next spring and go big.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police (not present)

Tom Whittaker filled in for Chief Lustig.

Residential burglaries have been occurring in town quite frequently. Call 911 if you see a car sitting outside your house for a while.

Car burglaries are active in town. Police recently caught 3 14 year olds and 1 17 year old on Willow Road that had stolen a car in Skokie.

Ruse burglaries are on the rise. Call the police if you feel like something is not right.

Teacher Representative Report

Joe Lewis

The transition to more in-person has been going smoothly. We are so proud of the staff and kids. Thank you for the support.

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Thank you for approving the Middlefork sound system

Thank you in advance for Teacher Appreciation Week.

The metrics are going up. New Trier Township is slightly lower than the broader area.

At tonight's school board meeting, Jen Kiedaisch will propose a full day kindergarten for the 21/22 school year and is looking for school board approval.

At the meeting, we will also be discussing a proposal for a plan to have a "Jump Start" to the 21/22 school year over the summer. We are proposing 2 weeks in August, Monday - Friday, 9am - 12pm, free of charge.

This will be Anne Peterson's last PTO meeting, we thank her for her time.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

We are very excited to be taking the next steps with the kindergarten program.

Thank you to the PTO for your support of the new sound system.

Thank you to parents for the encouragement and support of the extended day.

3rd Grade Bike Safety Week is next week. We will have an outdoor course and Mrs Kasper has planned a great week.

3rd Grade will also be doing standardized tests next week in the morning. 3rd - 8th grade will be taking the tests.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

We have had some terrific author visits this year and hope to continue them in the future now that virtual visits are an option.

Monday night we will be screening "The Social Dilemma" with SEL-PAC. Information will be sent out soon.

We are very excited for Teacher Appreciation Week.

We are looking at all the options for end of year events, such as 8th grade graduation.

We are working on facilitating a 3rd to 4th transition day.

School Board Report

Anne Peterson

We are so impressed with the ability of the PTO to come up with creative events under these circumstances.

Ed Stange: There have been some differing opinions on gender issues happening in the district and we will have some public comments to be read at tonight's meeting. You can always email me comments to be read publicly or email the board privately.

Additional Comments

Jenny Gallagher: Teacher wish lists will be available online at the book fair.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:46am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Jenny Gallagher, 9:02am
Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Patricia Gainsburg**

Vote on 2021/2022 Budget:

Jenny Damon confirmed we have a quorum.

Jenny Gallagher shared her screen to show the proposed budget.

Eva Vlad: The way we developed this is based on historical data. The only increases were in Hospitality and Teacher Appreciation, at the request of those chairs.

Amanda Alpert Knight: The item 8th Grade Programs has a significant decrease. I have concerns.

Eva Vlad: We received a donation from a family a long time ago and we use \$2500 from that every year for 8th Grade Programs. This was the last year we could use the \$2500. Next year, we have \$860 to use and then that fund will be depleted. It was not our money, the chairs next year will have to decide what to do.

Amanda Alpert Knight: Did the donation say to use \$2500/year?

Eva Vlad: Yes.

Amanda Alpert Knight: I think there will be pushback. I am an 8th grade chair. It will rub the 8th grade parents wrong to be asking for more money than in the past.

Eva Vlad: We will have to figure out a way with the parents.

Patricia Gainsburg: We are running into the same problem with the third graders. There has never been a budget for the 3rd grade graduation. Can we add a line item?

Amanda Alpert Knight: 8th Grade Fund is not just for graduation, it is for programs all year.

Tom Whittaker: If I understand, next year will be \$860 but after that there will be \$0? Can we start supplementing through PTO funds?

Jenny Damon: That is a valid point but would kindergarten parents who donate want to be funding 8th grade programs? The issue is who should be paying.

Tom Whittaker: Overall, the PTO should be doing best for the entire community.

Patricia Gainsburg: I agree with Tom. It shouldn't matter who is funding what.

Amanda Alpert Knight: We should have a baseline and then 8th grade parents can supplement.

Eva Vlad: Currently, 8th grade parents are paying a \$100 fee. Next year it will have to increase.

Erica Marinello: We are heading into a potentially dangerous situation using PTO funds to pay for parties.

Tom Whittaker: Parents did not understand that the parties were being paid for by a donation.

Jenny Gallagher: Thank you for all opinions. I think we should discuss this going forward and vote now knowing we can discuss this over the summer.

Amanda Alpert Knight: This grade will have leftover fees that were not spent from 6th grade social dance because of COVID. Can we use those fees?

Eva Vlad: I am not sure how that works. We can try and figure that out.

2021/2022 Budget was approved with 23 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 1 decline to vote.

Vote on 2021/2022 Slate:

2021/2022 Slate was approved with unanimous vote.

President's Report:

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

Thank you to the Teacher Appreciation Team.

Thank you to the Book Fair team. We will have totals at the next meeting.

Thank you to Chrissy Geraghty and the Nominating Committee.

FAN has a few events coming up. Go to the PTO newsletter to find links or the FAN website.

Northfield Park District is excited about their grand opening on June 23. The summer music schedule is also posted.

We have decided not to do anything this year with the Family Fun Fair.

Treasurer Report:

Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Our bank account balance is at \$115k.

The budget closes on 7/31 so please send your reimbursements ASAP.

Committee Reports:

Libby Galin, School Kits (not present)

Jenny shared a reminder to order school supplies. Only 40 Middlefork and 60 Sunset Ridge orders have been received so far.

Patricia Gainsburg, Alliance for Early Childhood

We have two more events this school year. Can sign up online for spots.

Andrea Macina, Parent Connections

The next meeting is on May 18th from 9 - 10:30am. The Zoom link will be posted on the website. We will be doing a wrap up of this school year and will talk about what is ahead. We are also looking for Parent Connections topics to cover in the next school year.

Jenny Gallagher, Welcomers

We were not able to do the ice cream social that we normally do in the fall to welcome new families. We are going to do it at the end of this school year at Clarkson. Will be able to have 100 people max and individually wrapped ice creams. Will require RSVPs so can track numbers.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

We have received complaints about cars going too fast down Willow Road. We have been out there trying to enforce and reduce speed.

Reminder to be aware of ruse burglaries.

The new police reforms are coming up in July.

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Thank you for Teacher Appreciation Week. It has a big impact every day.

Thank you for the book fair.

Received mixed reaction emails about the New Trier vaccine clinic email that was sent out.

Spots for the clinic filled in 7 minutes. They will be opening up more spots soon.

There is lots on the agenda for tonight's school board meeting regarding the future of our district. We have decided to go with an external vendor for assistance with strategic planning.

Tom Whittaker added that Cook County will be adding spots for vaccines.

Reminder to come to the Parent Connections meeting with topics for next year. The Kindergarten full day change stemmed from a Parent Connections Discussion.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Thank you for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Thank you for the Neal Shusterman author visit. COVID has given us great access to authors.

Thank you to the 8th Grade Committee for planning wonderful events. Graduation is on June 7.

MAP Testing is coming up next week at Sunset Ridge as well as for 2nd and 3rd graders at Middlefork.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Thank you for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Has been working with Ms Kasper on a Field Day. Unfortunately, parent volunteers can not be invited this year.

Thank you to Seong McGarry and the 3rd grade room parents for collaborating on 3rd grade promotion. The celebration will look different but we do have plans to celebrate.

Jenny Gallagher: Christie Caceres has just volunteered to be PTO President Elect for the 2021-2022 school year.

School Board Report

Abigayil Joseph

At tonight's meeting, we will be discussing:

- The new positions for board members
- The recommendation from the Return to School Task Force to the meeting
- Strategic planning
- Full day kindergarten and a potential half day transition
- Our COVID recovery plan and a recommendation that grow our mental health department
- Summer academics
- The large current 7th grade class size and their transition to 8th grade and how this will affect staff

Additional Comments

Jenny Gallagher: The PTO meeting wrap up will be on June 1st via Zoom.

Dr Stange: Addressing a comment in the chat from Brent Payne, we are not going back on the full day kindergarten plan, just adding a potential transition with some half days.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:59am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Jenny Gallagher, 9:03am
Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Bridget Kennedy

President's Report:

Jenny Gallagher, PTO President

Thank you for being here for the last meeting of the year.

The 8th grade picnic is today. Thank you to the 8th grade chairs and room parents.

The new family ice cream social is this Thursday at 6pm. Please remind any new families you know to RSVP.

Clarkson Park reopening party is on 6/23 at 6pm.

There are a few upcoming FAN events. Info is on their website.

We received over \$1500 from Barnes and Noble from the book fair. Thank you to all who shopped.

Update on the 8th grade funds: At the last exec board meeting, we decided not to add to the 8th grade fund. Will let the 8th grade chairs decide what they want to do. There has been around \$6k spent each year and they should be able to cover that with the yearly 8th grade fee.

Treasurer Report:

Eva Vlad, Treasurer

Our bank account balance is at \$103k.

Please send your reimbursements ASAP.

Committee Reports:

Libby Galin, School Kits (not present)

Jenny shared that only 76 Middlefork and 102 Sunset Ridge orders have been received so far.

They are going to send reminder flyers home in backpacks to remind of the 7/1 deadline.

Patricia Gainsburg, Alliance for Early Childhood

The last event of the year is happening right now. We are getting ready for next year.

Soo Moon, Teacher Appreciation

We had some money left in the budget so we gave each school an Amazon gift card to purchase what they need.

Andrea Macina, Parent Connections (not present)

Ed Stange shared that at the last and final meeting of the year, we solicited topics to cover next year. Special Ed and assessments were brought up as two suggestions.

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Thank you to Jenny for your leadership this year.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Thank you to the PTO for your support this year.

Thank you for the extra funds from the teacher appreciation committee.

Last week we were able to welcome incoming kindergarteners and their parents into the school.

Tomorrow we will have Field Day. Two grade levels will be outside at a time.

We are looking forward to being able to involve parents again.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

We were able to have our 3rd to 4th grade transition day.

We are planning a tour for current 4th grade parents to see the school. Will be with Ed right after school lets out this year.

The 8th grade committee has been incredible. At the picnic today we have a magician and a donut truck.

Graduation is on Monday at 6pm. Each family is assigned a parking spot. Kids will be sitting together up front. Families will be in their parking spot.

Thank you to Jenny and the exec committee. We have felt so supported this year.

School Board Report

Abigayil Joseph

We have chosen a vendor to consult on strategic planning. We are currently negotiating costs.

At the last meeting, we discussed having a 2 week transition to full day kindergarten as well as enrollment issues.

Additional Comments

Bridget Kennedy: On behalf of the exec board and the PTO, thank you, Jenny, for all of your hard work this year.

Jenny Gallagher: Thank you to all PTO volunteers this year.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:25am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary