



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING June 5, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

Andrea Macina, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 10.24am.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Tara Subeck

Andrea opted to make her Opening Remarks as Closing Remarks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Jessica Akaah, Treasurer

Jessica explained that the last month of school is always very tricky due to bills and expenses still coming in, hence the PTO closes its books on July 31st.

Income:

- Boosterthon FUNdraiser - Jessica revealed that we are projecting receiving \$34,000 from the event, and had budgeted \$25,000, so we are thrilled with how well it did.

Expense:

- AM Rec – the bill should be coming in soon.
- Outdoor Ed – the bill should be coming this month for that.
- Teacher Appreciation was paid this month. We were very slightly over-budget.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$51,537
- CD - \$57,743
- 8th Grade Fund - \$8,360

Boosterthon FUNdraiser: Andrea Macina, Nancy Detlefsen & Megan Waite

Andrea explained that this was a new event for the PTO, in lieu of the Letter Writing Campaign. It required thinking outside the box and taking a risk on something new. Andrea noted that at the beginning of the year, when she asked for volunteers and Nancy and Megan kindly stepped up, they had no idea what was in store for them! She added that everything came to fruition so beautifully because of their efforts. The success of the event (projections are that the PTO will make over \$34,000!) is largely due to their patience, perseverance and

willingness to listen and adapt. Andrea gave Nancy a small gift as a token of her appreciation, and will give one to Megan later today.

Andrea informed us that there are over 60 responses to the Survey. She stressed that in reviewing the event, the Chairs will take note of those responses and pull thoughts and feedback from Administration, along with using what they learned throughout the process. Andrea thanked the community for being open to something so different and noted that all feedback is welcome and will be listened to.

Nancy revealed that Dr. Sukenik had gone through a Boosterthon event at her previous school and reminded us that she had introduced the idea to the PTO. She explained that they hadn't known what to expect and that they really tried to make changes to modify it for our school. Throughout the process they adjusted the huddles due to feedback from parents and students. Nancy noted that the Chairs have thick skins and can handle negative feedback, so all feedback is welcome. She added that she was very excited about how much further reaching it was – it wasn't merely parents writing a check. Non-parent donations were over 52% of the proceeds.

Nancy gave huge thanks to the faculty and revealed that they are bringing lunch to both schools tomorrow to thank them. She reminded us that faculty had not encouraged pledging, but had very much encouraged participation in and excitement for the event.

Andrea added that they will sit down for a debriefing with Boosterthon in a few weeks.

Family Fun Night: Andrea Macina, TJ Brown & Jessica Akaah

Andrea reminded us that Family Fun Night will take place on June 13th. She explained that this was another out-of-the-box and new idea this year. An email blast will go out to families next week which will include a map illustrating where everything will be placed at the event. Andrea divulged that the Chairs and the Executive Board are really excited to see how this new event goes. If anyone has questions, please feel free to reach out to her.

School Supplies: Seong McGarry & Kendra Chilewich

Seong informed us that 63% of students have ordered supplies thus far. She reminded us that the deadline is this coming Friday, June 8th, for home delivery. The final deadline for ordering is August 1st. Seong revealed that parents can still order after August 1st, but noted that the order will take up to 10 days and will cost an extra \$5.95 per student.

Seong will send out an eblast in July reminding parents and new families to the District to order. She further revealed that she will attend the Kindergarten Open House, allowing parents to order there and then. Seong would welcome feedback from parents regarding this new vendor.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Andrea revealed that, due to the different timing of the PTO Meeting this month, Chief Lustig could not attend. He had asked her to relay his thanks to the PTO for allowing him to be a part of our meetings.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange reminded us that the last day of school is June 14th. He thanked everyone for giving recognition to Joann Tennenbaum's imminent retirement from District 29. He thanked the PTO for the nice gift for her. He revealed that it is difficult for Joann to walk away after 33 years in the District.

Dr. Stange thanked the PTO for the Fun Run and our FUNdraiser Chairs for listening to their requests for adjustments.

He thanked Andrea and the Executive Board for the PTO leadership this year and noted that all the new changes this year took some pressure off him! He added that evolution is necessary and that it wouldn't have been possible this year without Andrea's poise and understanding.

Dr. Stange thanked the parent volunteers who help carry out all the changes in the District.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Volunteer Assembly: Dr. Greene thanked the parent volunteers who attended this morning's Volunteer Assembly at MF. She noted that students even gave an infomercial about the upcoming Family Fun Night!

Upcoming Events: Dr. Greene noted that she can't believe we are already at the tail-end of the year, but reminded us that there are still about 12 events taking place in the District over the next 10 days!

- June 5: June Birthday Lunch
- June 6: Morning - 3rd to 4th Grade Transition Day at SRS
Afternoon - Kindergarten Visitation: Dr. Greene hopes that parents of new Kindergarteners will order School Kits at the event.
- June 8: Field Day: Dr. Greene noted that the 3rd Graders had performed a Field Day Superheroes skit at the Volunteer Assembly that was really cute and witty. She reminded us that the Rain Date is Monday, June 11th, and added that the forecast doesn't look great for Friday.
- June 11: 3rd Grade Portfolio Night
- June 13: PTO Family Fun Night
- June 14: 3rd Grade Graduation
Family Picnic

Class Information 2018-2019: Dr. Greene revealed that the incoming Kindergarten class size is currently at 46/47, but reminded us that that number is fluid. She divulged that she currently has 60 new students enrolled for next year, one of which is a 2nd Grade girl.

2nd Grade 2018-2019: Dr. Greene explained that 1st Grade currently has 15 girls and 38 boys, and that this year she experimented with having one all-boy class, and another mixed-gender class. Dr. Greene revealed that it worked well this year, but that next year they would spread the girls across the three classes and can always revert back to an all-boys class again for them in 3rd Grade if they feel it had worked best.

She divulged that she is sensing from the parents that the girls are worried that they are out-numbered in the Grade. Dr. Greene stressed that they are keenly aware of this and look for opportunities throughout the year to get all the kids together. She noted that, at this age, the girls don't just associate with the girls, and the boys with the boys, that they actually play across genders and that some girls have bestfriends who are boys. She added that she doesn't want to, in any way, promote gender stereotyping and assumptions. Dr. Greene informed us that they girls are relaying that the boys are saying they can't play soccer on the playground. She noted that this is not a unique situation and that boys have been telling girls they can't play soccer since she became Principal. She explained that the girls want to play soccer if their friends play too, and with only 15 girls in the

Grade, not all of them want to play soccer, so they are looking at having older girls be mentors. She stressed that the faculty is very sensitive to the complications of the situation and that these girls are strong girls and will grow up to be very strong girls because of this environment.

Dr. Greene explained that she and the staff look for opportunities that are fair to and can involve all genders and avoid having a different educational experience between the genders. They are looking for ways in which the girls can feel they are in the majority, not the minority, so next year they will have a day each week where it is an all-girls 2nd Grade MakerSpace recess, and notes that it will be interesting to see if all 15 of them show and interest in that. Dr. Greene explained that there is research showing that when it comes to Engineering and Math some girls are shy about trying it than boys. She added that they may introduce an all-girl Book Club before school, instead of a general Grade level Book Club.

Staffing: Dr. Greene reminded us that Mrs. Bell is moving to Kindergarten, and Mrs. Dekin will be returning, and the 3rd Kindergarten teacher will be Miss Dempsey. She explained that due to Mrs. Bell's moving to Kindergarten, her 2nd Grade position that has been posted for a while and Senora Dengsavang approached her and will now be taking that position, so now we need to post for a part-time Spanish teacher. If anyone knows of someone who would be great for that position, please let Dr. Greene know. She noted that the position would be posted publicly assuming the School Board approves everything.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Junior High Music Awards: Dr. Sukenik noted that the Awards Ceremony took place yesterday after school, thanks to the Whittakers, Truongs and Racines for sponsoring the event.

Upcoming Events: Dr. Sukenik agreed with Dr. Greene that the school year is nowhere near over, due to all the events taking place over the next 10 days.

- June 6: 4th Graders will give guided tours to incoming 3rd Graders
- June 7: 8th Grade have some Service Projects/Field Trips to Erickson Woods to clear brush and to Cradles to Crayons
4th Grade NORA Night – Dr. Sukenik gave a shout-out to Sarah Crawford, who was instrumental in planning this event. The kids have been really excited and have been making documentaries of their NORA friends. There will be different activities for kids, so we are inviting families to attend and participate.
- June 8: 8th Grade Beach Trip
- June 11: 8th Grade Awards Ceremony and Ice-Cream
- June 12: 6th Grade Field Trip to Feed My Starving Children
8th Grade Graduation
- June 13: Field Day

Thank You: Dr. Sukenik thanked Andrea and noted that her leadership, along with the Executive Board, has been inspirational to all of the faculty. She added that the teachers have felt honored and appreciated all year long.

8th Grade Graduation: Dr. Sukenik revealed that the event will be very, very full with limited seating, but festive. Tickets were sent home to families yesterday, and she noted that they are trying to reinforce that families should not bring anyone without a ticket. Dr. Sukenik explained that they wanted to still offer 6 tickets to families, but she wants to remind everyone that it will be a tight fit. She added that, after this experience, they may determine that they can no longer offer 6 tickets per family going forward. Dr. Sukenik informed us that, due to creating a walkway, one set of bleachers will be against the back wall, but 2 sets will be in use. The

teachers will be sitting on the stairs, so they are trying to maximize every inch of space. She noted that there will be 460 people there, and it will be live-streamed.

Teacher Representative:

There was no Teacher Representative this month.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: NANCY DETLEFSEN

Nancy reminded us that there will be a Board Meeting tonight and added that everyone is welcome at Board Meetings, the schedule is on the website. She noted that they aren't well attended but revealed that they are a great way to keep informed. Some topics tonight are: renting out our new space and how lovely it is, field usage, discussing the smoking/vaping policy (when they set the policy a number of years ago, there was no such thing as vaping, so the Board wants to ensure that they are crossing their "t"s and dotting their "i"s). Nancy suggested that if anyone is free on a Tuesday night, the Board Meetings are the place to be.

Nancy, on behalf of the Board of Education, thanked the PTO for their dedication and hard work over the past year. She added that we are fortunate to have such an outstanding community of parents and community members who support the PTO-sponsored programs at MF and SRS. As PTO President, Andrea provided leadership and countless hours of her time to ensure the successful execution of all the PTO-led activities this year. Nancy explained that without the leadership of the PTO, we couldn't accomplish the District's mission of cultivating a learning community that engages the hearts and minds of students, one child at a time. That has always been what Andrea has tried to bring in all of her work – Thank You!

Tom Whittaker said that this year the PTO totally thought outside the box, took huge risks and noted that everything Andrea accomplished this year, with the help of everyone in the room, was amazing. He added that throughout the year he had questions regarding PTO events that were answered and explained. He thanked Andrea for what she did for our District this year.

Closing Remarks from our outgoing PTO President, Andrea Macina

Through her tears, Andrea thanked everyone.

“One never knows what they are getting themselves into when they take something on. There are so many variables that go into an experience, that make it what it is. I am so fortunate, given my amazing variables: The Exec Board, every single one of the Chairs, Administration and School Board. Each contributed to the immense feelings of gratitude that I have for this community. Everyone leads busy lives with many to-do lists and little time to tackle it all, yet never once did I see or hear anyone complain about the time and effort they were dedicating to District 29. Instead I saw and heard excitement, creativity, problem solving, and an I-got-this attitude. Overall, I was surrounded by people who truly cared and was an example of selflessness at its finest. So I look back upon this year with such a warm heart and amazing memories of this Village coming together to make a difference. I'm so lucky, as are all who benefit from such generosity. I've been asked many times over the past month if I was happy the year is almost over, and my response has always been that I've truly enjoyed the experience given those I worked with throughout the year – but I will be happy to have one less to-do list soon! Honestly, it is such a cool response to be able to give, because when you have entered something all those months ago, you had no idea what was in front of you, and I feel so fortunate and thank all of you for that.

A small token of my appreciation to the amazing Exec Board, who as a team worked together beautifully. We listened to each other, we supported each other, we discussed pros and cons of various agenda

items in a very respectful manner, we problem-solved together, and most importantly, we laughed together and knew we had each others backs. You guys are amazing and I thank you for that.

Jenny, you are going to be amazing and cannot wait to see you in action. I will be here for you always, and a few simple words to you – When in doubt, smile. And may this gift remind you of that”. (She also handed Jenny the gavel).

Remarks from our incoming President, Jenny Damon

“You’ve given such an incredible year to the PTO this past year and we cannot thank you enough for your dedication to our District and your love for all our children. Now that you are officially retired, there are some special guests who are here to welcome you into retirement. May I introduce the past PTO Presidents of District 29”. Buggy O’Grady, Erin Charchut, Tara Subeck, Anne Peterson and Sarah O’Meara walked in wearing matching blue “29” jackets that Jenny embroidered and Jenny presented one to Andrea.

Jenny added that she wanted to give Andrea a little information about each President. “Sarah O’Meara, the President from 2 years ago, the biggest highlight from her year as President was having her sister, and my favorite sister, Kate, as her Treasurer. She was great with numbers, but even better with laughs. Every meeting was a blast, and Sarah considers her greatest accomplishment was having the fastest meetings of any President. This duo were the masterminds behind the amazing \$80,000 PTO donation to the new school.

Anne was President before that. She is best known for changing the old Ways & Means to the new and improved, streamlined PTO Gifts Program. Anne and her Exec Team conducted hours of research into crafting the new program and convinced the PTO it would be great. You may or may not remember that Anne cried the entire way through her last PTO Meeting. But it isn’t a problem for those of you who don’t know her, she plans to continue working with the PTO until her grandkids have graduated.

Tara was next. She had an incredible year and was the most organized. The problem was after her last PTO Meeting, her house got hit by lightning and fried her computer hard-drive and lost just about everything from her Presidency – luckily it was the night after she had downloaded everything for Anne onto a flash drive.

Erin was before Tara and she and her Exec Team were behind the new PTO logo we still use today. They conducted a student logo contest and Erin had all the entries taped all over her living room walls. The winner was Grace Joyce. Erin likes to say that she did such a nice job she doesn’t need to come back and hasn’t been seen since!

Or Buggy! During her reign, the PTO hosted an amazing 80s Prom at Temple Jeremiah, but I’m not old enough to have enjoyed that! Buggy was faced with a coalition of parents in the District who wanted school lunches to be organic. Buggy conducted lots of research into Bring Back Junk Food. Her tagline was If You Want Your Kids To Have Organic Food, Pack Their Lunch.”

Jenny asked if any of them had advice for Andrea. Tara informed Administration that Andrea is a qualified teacher and now that she is retired from the PTO she has time to go back to teaching. Dr. Greene asked if she speaks Spanish!!! Anne advised Andrea to not let the schools forget that she was President, as she has 3 more kids left to graduate and she gets seats at Graduation. Sarah hadn’t been aware of this perk!!

Consensus was that, wearing the jackets, all past Presidents should be lined up at the bar at Stormy’s ordering drinks.

Andrea closed the meeting by addressing the Administration.

“Ed, Mary Frances and Ivy, you are my Dream Team. You listened many times to new ideas, you provided guidance and support and often were known to say ‘Don’t forget to consider this’, which was so special for me to hear you watching out for me. Not once did I feel I couldn’t turn to you for assistance, and I find it a rarity that someone gets 3 for 3. You are the reason behind the great sense of community we see in the District, and that is such a gift that I embrace. Thank you for your support this year”. She presented gifts to each.

Andrea read the last paragraph of her final Agenda as PTO President:

Thank you for being so caring, thanks for being so loving, thanks for being so helpful, thanks for being so thoughtful, thanks for being so selfless, thanks for volunteering...your actions are priceless and my heart is full of gratitude. Happy summer!

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tara Subeck

Seconded by: Tom Whittaker



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING May 8, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

Andrea Macina, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.05am.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Tara Subeck

Andrea opened the meeting by reminding us that it is Teacher Appreciation Week. She thanked the Chairs for their effort and planning to make this week possible. Andrea added that it is such a special week and that we are blessed with such a wonderful group of teachers in our District. She had printed out some sentiments that reflected parents' thoughts in the District and had parents at the Meeting read theirs; some were hilarious, some were sweet, but all were spot-on!

PTO VOTE TO APPROVE THE PTO BUDGET FOR 2018-2019: Jessica Adams, Legislative

Jessica Akaah went through the Proposed Budget and compared it to the Current Year and Actuals. She noted that the biggest change under Income is that the Proposed Budget for the Mid-Year Fundraiser would be \$27,800 due to it being a Benefit year. Miscellaneous Income was decreased due to the majority of any foreseeable donations will be connected to the Benefit. Under Expenses, she separated out AM Rec and MF Coding. Gifts were also decreased as there are no scheduled retirements. The Fall Event and Past Expense were also decreased.

Jessica Adams noted that a quorum was indeed present, and asked for a show of hands to approve the Budget. It was approved.

Andrea Macina, Jenny Damon, Jessica Akaah, Jessica Adams, Joanna Soukoulis, Tara Subeck, Erica Marinello, Ana Miyares, Melissa Yeoman, Tom Whittaker, Bianca Rose, Kelly Duff, Liz Rowles, Laura Blair, Anne Peterson, Megan Waite, Bridget Kennedy

PTO VOTE TO APPROVE THE PTO BOARD FOR 2018-2019: Jessica Adams, Legislative

Jessica asked for a show of hands to approve the Slate. It was approved.

Andrea Macina, Jenny Damon, Jessica Akaah, Jessica Adams, Joanna Soukoulis, Tara Subeck, Erica Marinello, Ana Miyares, Melissa Yeoman, Tom Whittaker, Bianca Rose, Kelly Duff, Liz Rowles, Laura Blair, Anne Peterson, Megan Waite, Bridget Kennedy

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Jessica Akaah, Treasurer

Income:

- Mid-Year Fundraiser – Jessica reminded us that the Boosterthon FUNdraiser is our Mid-Year Fundraiser this year. She added that we are slowly getting to our goal.

Expense:

- Author/Event Speakers/Programs – the last Author Visit will be this month, and we should be in-line with our budget.
- House & Grounds – the Chairs will use some of their budget now that spring is arriving.
- Teacher Appreciation Chairs will be submitting their expenses this month.
- Hospitality – there had been a payment coded incorrectly, so Jessica fixed it this month.

School Supplies: Seong McGarry & Kendra Chilewich

Seong informed us that 168 students have ordered supplies so far. She asked that we remind SRS families to order Executive Functioning Kits. Dr. Greene added that she would let incoming Kindergarten parents know about ordering supplies, and may have Chromebooks at visitation so they can order while there.

Family Fun Night: Andrea Macina, TJ Brown & Jessica Akaah

Andrea reported that she and Jessica would be meeting with the Park District immediately after this meeting. Signup Genius is open and she noted that we are still looking for volunteers for family races and family bingo. She thanked everyone who has dropped off prizes. Andrea informed us that they are having a banner made for the corner at Willow and asked for everyone's opinions regarding yard signs. The consensus was to not do them.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig happily informed us that Northfield hasn't had a car burglary in 2.5 weeks. He revealed that intelligence from the City suggests the burglars do indeed attend school, so Chief is concerned about what summer will bring.

Chief divulged that on Saturday, a resident at Winnetka and Waukegan took his dog for a walk and left his garage open. He returned 15 minutes later to find a lot of jewelry had been stolen. There had been a lot of landscapers in the area around that time.

Chief informed us that officers have been training for the NT Graduation Party on June 3rd. The party is a lock-in at NT until 4am.

Chief reminded us that the Village will be doing a lot of road repairs in the area.

Joanna Soukoulis asked Chief if he knew anything further about a man being arrested at Wagner Farms yesterday. Chief didn't but looked into it and was able to confirm that the man had had an outstanding warrant for theft.

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

Teacher Appreciation: Dr. Greene thanked the PTO for the daily surprises. She added that the week really is special and much appreciated, and lends itself to a stress reliever.

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

- May 15: 2nd Grade Portfolio Night
- May 24: Spring Sing
- May 31: PTO Boosterthon FUNdraiser
- June 1: Kindergarten Portfolio/Luncheon
- June 5: Volunteer Assembly (followed by the PTO Meeting)
- June 6: 3rd to 4th Grade Transition Day at SRS
Kindergarten Visitation
- June 8: Field Day
- June 11: 3rd Grade Portfolio Night
- June 14: 3rd Grade Graduation
Family Picnic

Staffing: Dr. Greene noted that Mrs. Dekin will be returning to teach Kindergarten next year.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Teacher Appreciation: Dr. Sukenik thanked the PTO and parents for Teacher Appreciation. She revealed that the fridge is stocked with refreshments and the week is fantastic.

James and the Giant Peach: Dr. Sukenik thanked all who attended the Musical.

Upcoming Events:

- May 17: Junior High Band/Orchestra Concert
- May 22: Choir/Jazz Band Concert
- May 23: 6th Grade Field Trip to River Trail Nature Center
- May 30: Makerfaire & Evening with the Eagles
- May 31: PTO Boosterthon FUNdraiser
- June 4: Student Council Field Trip to the City
Junior High Music Awards
- June 7: 8th Grade Field Trip to Erickson Woods

June 12: 8th Grade Field Trip to Cradles to Crayons
4th Grade NORA Night
6th Grade Field Trip to Feed My Starving Children
8th Grade Graduation

Teacher Representative:

There was no Teacher Representative this month.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: JILL MIRKOVIC

Jill explained that the Board will start detailing action plans for the Strategic Plan. She noted that it is still on the website and that parents can still provide feedback. Jill revealed that the Board approved the dates for Board Meetings for 2018-2019.

Dr. Stange added that the Board had the first readings on Board Policy for vaping products, and added that Boards are doing this Township-wide.

*Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tara Subeck
Seconded by: Megan Waite*



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING

April 17, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

Andrea Macina, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.05am.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Tara Subeck

Andrea opened the meeting by saying that the death surrounding us doesn't make sense. If you knew Kate Bowyer, or you didn't, all our thoughts go out to Andy and their kids. Our love and prayers continue for them. She quoted Tuesdays With Morrie, saying that it is a book that regardless of where you open it, it speaks to you:

"Death ends a life, not a relationship. All the love you created is still there. All the memories are still there. You live on- in the hearts of everyone you have touched and nurtured while you were here."

Andrea informed us that that PTO is making a donation to Northwestern Memorial Foundation in memory of Kate, and may those who benefit be touched and affected by it.

PTO VOTE TO FUND ADDITIONAL AM REC AT SRS: Jessica Adams, Legislative

Jessica began by thanking Andrea for the beautiful words and said it is tough to move on from that to other topics. She 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 Funding raise their hands. All 18 Board Members present approved.

Andrea Macina, Jenny Damon, Jessica Akaah, Jessica Adams, Joanna Soukoulis, Tara Subeck, Erica Marinello, Ana Miyares, Melissa Yeoman, Tom Whittaker, Bianca Rose, Kelly Duff, Liz Rowles, Laura Blair, Anne Peterson, Megan Waite, Bridget Kennedy, Rozet Jido

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Jessica Akaah, Treasurer

Jessica informed us that next month we will vote to approve the Budget for next year, and reminded us that we will again need a quorum present to do so.

Income:

- PTO Dues - \$5k is being transferred into the 8th Grade Fund. She revealed that she is adding a line item to separate 8th Grade Dues from regular PTO Dues.

- Mid-Year Fundraiser – Jessica informed us that she paid for the FUNdraiser t-shirts for all students.

Expense:

- Author/Event Speakers/Programs – SRS had the Spanish Dancers.
- Conference Meals – we paid some conference meal expenses, but are under budget.
- Miscellaneous – we had to rewrite some checks. Jessica asked that we please cash checks we receive from the PTO and try to not lose them.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$44,572
- CD - \$57,719
- 8th Grade Fund - \$8,360

Nominating: Andrea Macina for Jenny Gallagher

Andrea thanked Jenny for doing a wonderful job on the slate. She divulged that it will be shared beforehand and approved at the May PTO Meeting.

Family Fun Night: Andrea Macina, TJ Brown & Jessica Akaah

Andrea reported that she and Jessica have been working with the Park District and things are moving along. This week, and email blast will go out to the District with 2 links attached: a link to the brochure and a link to Signup Genius for positions (bingo, beer tent, end of line of the races, etc.). Jessica Adams informed us that on the School Calendar on the website it still show the Family Fun Fair for June 3rd, which was the event and date last year.

School Supplies: Seong McGarry & Kendra Chilewich

Kendra and Seong are busy getting things ready for next year. The PTO is working with a new company that Sarah Crawford introduced us to, lists have been finalized by faculty, and sales will go live on May 1st. Parents will purchase directly through Shane, while SRS Executive Functioning Kits will be ordered in bulk through Office Depot and will be available to purchase via MySchoolbucks.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig divulged noted that sometimes his news isn't happy. He revealed that over Spring Break there was a series of break-ins on Churchill: 5 unlocked cars were burglarized, 1 was stolen and the perpetrators drove it to Skokie and proceeded to commit several other crimes using it. Chief explained that there has historically been some correlation between crimes on the North Shore and Chicago Public Schools being on Spring Break. Over Spring Break, Wilmette had 20-30 car break-ins, Northbrook also. Chief is worried about crime escalating this summer and schools being out, as it seems to be intensifying. He revealed that a couple of weeks ago, a 20 year old was caught robbing a car in Kenilworth, he was chased through other villages, caught a train to the city and when faced with an Officer he attempted to get the gun from the Officer's holster.

Chief informed us that these gangs call the North Shore "Candyland" as residents keep leaving their car keys in their cars. They are protected by the juvenile system, as juveniles won't be jailed unless they commit a heinous crime or murder – car burglaries do not qualify. Kids say it is a big joke when you get caught by Northfield Police, as you just get some sort of community service as a punishment.

Chief divulged that he received a call from a resident who accused him of reducing property values by putting these crimes on the Police Blotter, as it makes Northfield out to be a crime hub. He informed us that he has increased patrols, and officers are going down the side streets between 11pm and 4.45am with lights on the

cars that light up the entire block. He is trying to come up with creative solutions. He sincerely hopes that one of the areas around us does not end up in a gun battle between burglars and officers.

Jessica Adams asked if the Police could write tickets for residents who repeatedly leave keys in unlocked cars. Chief responded that the Village is currently looking into that, but he is not sure a \$50 ticket is enough of a prevention mechanism.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange reminded us that the MF Capital Improvement Meeting is tomorrow. Renderings from the Architect will be available for viewing, and they hope to vet them with the Board and the community. He updated us that at SRS they are currently doing landscaping, the paver outside the front door will be replaced, and the paths will be completed. He noted that in order to complete the SRS work, temperatures need to be consistently 50 degrees through the night.

Dr. Stange thanked the Chief and the Police Department and revealed that Chad has been at both schools making training videos for officers. He explained that Police have access to the school's interior cameras, although the Fire Department does not. Dr. Stange also informed us that if the Police arrest a juvenile from our District who is attending our schools, the Police can share that information with Administration to help identify possible future threats.

Dr. Stange revealed that the Board approved a posting for a third Kindergarten section. They are continuing to monitor numbers, but it looks like there will be 46 Kindergarten students, and if that remains so there will be 3 sections.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Staffing: Dr. Greene updated us that current Kindergarten enrollment is at 45/46 – she added that one or two families have registered but haven't fully decided if their child, who has a summer birthday, is ready. Dr. Greene divulged that she will begin to interview for a 3rd Kindergarten teacher, with the position pending enrollment. Dr. Green also informed us that Mrs. Kelly, a Kindergarten substitute, needs to take 4 days off so as to avoid violating her retirement agreement.

Bike Safety Week: Dr. Greene informed us that Bike Safety is taking place this week. She explained that she hadn't wanted to combine it with PARCC Testing, despite every child passing their Bike Safety Test – she was worried that they would be extra stressed about it. Starting Monday, kids can ride their bikes to school independently, they have made maps of their route and are supposed to walk across major driveways and intersections, and must wear a helmet. Dr. Greene added that she hides at St. Philips to monitor the kids. She asks that if parents have questions, please feel free to call her.

Dedicated Dolphins: Dr. Greene revealed that Dedicated Dolphins are hosting a Bookmark Sale. 3rd Graders have renewed their relationship with North Shore Senior Center's House of Welcome and will be visiting on Friday afternoon from 1.30pm-2.30pm. She noted that they could use a couple of chaperones, if parents are interested.

Vocabulary Parade: Dr. Greene reminded us that this will be the 15th annual Vocabulary Parade, and it will take place on May 7th. Flyers have been sent home in backpacks, and the information is on the website.

3rd Grade End of Year Events: Dr. Greene revealed that parents will receive a letter explaining all the end of year events. She noted that the information will also be on the website.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

New Baby!: Eleanor Neuhausel has arrived!

Feed My Starving Children: 8th Graders will visit on Wednesday.

DC Trip: 8th Graders will head to DC for their annual trip on Thursday.

PARCC Testing: Testing is just finishing up, make-ups will be complete by the end of the week.

Hack a Thon 4/24: Sheri Styczen reconnected with a high school friend who works at Amazon Web Services. After touring SRS, he was so impressed with all the computer science offerings we have, and asked her if she was interested in hosting an Alexa Hack-A-Thon with 20 7th and 8th graders. Sheri worked with Lauren Gray, Kim Hellenbach and Meredith Rice, and offered a variety of robotics activities during National Robotics Week including flying drones, navigating sphero robots and participating in a grade level challenge of creating a robot to push a whiffle ball across the floor. Every time a student participated in an activity, they had their name entered into a drawing to participate in the Alexa Hack-A-Thon. An engineer from Amazon Web Services is flying in from Texas to host the Hack-A-Thon with a few other team members that work here from Amazon Web Services. It's being sponsored by a partner of AWS who is taking care of all costs. 20 names were drawn and these kids will work in groups of 4 learn how to code Alexa to perform any task they'd like her to perform (turning on/off lights, reading the lunch menu to them in the morning, telling them what is on the parent/student calendar for the day, etc.) Then in May, we'll come back together and the teams will show off what they have coded Alexa to do and the winners will most likely receive an Alexa from the guys from Amazon Web Services.

Science Assessments: 5th and 8th grade Science Assessments will take place next week.

Field Trips: 5th Grade will attend Naper Settlement, and 6th Grade will attend Hot Ground Gym on 4/25. 6th Grade will also attend Outdoor Ed overnight on 4/26.

Arbor Day: Our Arbor Day Celebration will take place on 4/27 at SRS.

Paradigm Challenge: The Challenge will take place on 4/28. Students were tasked with coming up with a way to promote health and wellness.... they came up with the miracle mile.... people have been running or walking 12 or 25 miles over the past month or so. On the 28th we will all meet at MF Park district to run the final 1.2 miles together. To participate, the runners or walkers just need to bring a pair of shoes to donate. Anyone can come, even if they haven't done the miles! It will be a wonderful morning that was orchestrated by four amazing 5th graders; Aidan Andrew, Ben Keefer, Ben Zieziula and Nolan Darnieder! Come one come all! Bananas and water will be provided at the end of the race.

Round Tables: Dr. Sukenik reminded us that she will be hosting Round Tables for parents to discuss next year.

4th and 5th grade: 4/30 at 9:00am & 6:00pm

6th and 7th grade - 5/7 at 9:00am & 5:00pm

James and the Giant Peach: Our School Musical is fast approaching. Showings will be as follows:

5/3 at 2:00pm & 7:00pm

5/4 at 9:30am & 7:00pm

Teacher Representative:

There was no Teacher Representative this month.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: JILL MIRKOVIC

Jill explained that the Board is working on the Strategic Planning.

STRATEGIC PLAN: DR. ED STANGE

Dr. Stange began by informing us that parents who sat on the Committee were Andrea Macina and Charlie Pick. The Committee met with Joe Porto, and digested a lot of quantitative data from testing and surveys to determine District strengths and opportunities for growth, and looked at disconnects between results. The Committee then put those into themes to determine goals and come up with a Mission. They worked on the Beliefs and spent a lot of time on the Formula for Success. The Strategic Plan will be posted on the website, with a mechanism whereby parents can give feedback anonymously. The Goals and Strategies will each be assigned to an Administrator or pair of Administrators.

Dr. Stange revealed that he will host an evening to discuss the Strategic Plan in detail.

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



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING March 13, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

Andrea Macina, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.07am.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Tara Subeck

Andrea opened the meeting by informing us that there will be some new PTO endeavors in May and June. She explained that she released a little information about it in Monday Matters, but wanted to briefly talk with us to relay how the changes came about.

With Boosterthon, she said it is a little early to release all the information, but reminded us that by this time of year, on non-Winter Benefit years, the PTO would have kicked off a Letter Writing Campaign. This has had varying degrees of success in recent years. Over the summer she was informed about the Boosterthon Program, did a little research, and ultimately the PTO Executive Board determined that this would be a great replacement for sending out a letter, and is something in which the kids would participate and enjoy. Andrea revealed that it is 9-10 day experience with team huddle days for individual grades, ending in a Fun Run at each school. Students will get sponsors for each lap completed, and Boosterthon is guiding us through this process. Andrea divulged that parents will receive more information about it around the third week of April, and also a week before the event parents and kids will be able to visit the website. Andrea realizes that this is scary and new and has the potential to flop, but she explained that the Executive Board feels that it is worth taking a risk on as it has been a fun, successful experience in many schools like ours.

Family Fun Night was also presented in the last Monday Matters, but Andrea realizes that not everyone reads it. She explained that the PTO is deviating from the traditional Fun Fair, while creating an opportunity to bring the community together. She divulged that attendance has been declining over the past number of Fun Fairs, and the PTO lost quite a bit of money on it last year. She revealed that the PTO Executive Board began talking with the Park District in partnering with them. Andrea explained that thanks to Jessica Akaah, TJ Brown, Bill and Nada at the Park District, the new Family Fun Night will take place on June 13th at Clarkson Park. There will be Family Bingo, a Farmers Market, Running Races, Food Trucks, a Beer and Wine Tent, Panic at the Costco will perform, and they are working with Record a Hit so there will be 3 bouncies (2 are unique), a DJ, and a Gaga Ball Pit. She asked everyone to pray for good weather, but reminded us that there will be a rain plan regardless. Andrea would like anyone who has questions to reach out to her.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Jessica Akaah, Treasurer

Jessica informed us that there will be a Budget Meeting in April, starting with the Executive Board and then also with Administrators. She revealed that the PTO will vote on the proposed Budget at the May meeting.

Jessica also explained that we are having some issues with our Accountant. He had told us he had filed an extension on our taxes, but we received a letter stating that it hadn't been done and a fine would incur. The accountant is filing the extension today and both Jessica and Ewa Vlad, Assistant Treasurer, are researching accountants, as this one had no explanation as to why he didn't do it.

Income:

- Misc. Income – Jessica received some donations this month.

Expense:

- Author/Event Speakers/Programs – we had another Author Visit.
- Conference Meals – we paid some conference meal expenses, but are under budget.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$48,649
- CD - \$57,707
- 8th Grade Fund - \$8,360

8th Grade Graduation: Melissa Yeoman & Laura Felicione

Melissa informed us that 8th Grade had a fun Paddle Party on February 24th. She revealed that the planning process has begun for all the upcoming festivities.

Parent Connections: Sydney Clark

Sydney thanked everyone for the donations and attendance at Family Service Night. She also thanked the Administration and Faculty who attended. She asked that if anyone has suggestions or feedback, please send them her way, or to Andrea.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig divulged the Police Department met with the Village Board last week regarding the Budget, which will be voted upon at the April Village Board Meeting and go into effect on May 1st. Chief informed us that the Deputy Chief retired and will now be Chief at Harper College. A new Deputy will be sworn in at the Village Board Meeting, and they will hire a new Officer. A new Crossing Guard, who is a college student, will be seen by many in the coming weeks.

Chief reminded us that there will be student walkouts tomorrow, March 14th, pertaining to the Florida school shooting. He said that kids want to express themselves, but he is stressed about potential copycats while students are all assembled outside the school. He revealed that Northfield Police Officers will be present at New Trier's West campus, while Winnetka Police will take care of the East campus.

Chief explained that students at New Trier are mixing liquid marijuana in vaping pens, and are doing it in class at the New Trier West campus. He informed us that the Police Department has ordered additional testing kits. He said he is not sure that Winnetka Police are finding at the East campus, but typically it would be cocaine, heroin and marijuana. He added that drugs today are much more powerful, it is more difficult to get kids off them once they start. He revealed that Officers are also carrying Narcan.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange thanked Andrea and the PTO for all the work on Boosterthon. He added that, as someone who has been involved in a lot of change in the District, she and the PTO are doing an admirable job. He said that Administration is very conscious of pressures to fundraise at school, and it takes courage to try something different.

Dr. Stange thanked everyone for Family Service Night. He revealed that the highest attendance at any given time was 310, which is the largest turnout he has seen in his tenure here. He noted that parents came to him and asked how he managed to put it together and he responded that it is a community effort that involves working closely with parents in the District.

Dr. Stange divulged that Administration will be making a lot of staffing decisions over the next 2 months; new hires, transfers and some faculty who won't return next year. He added that the consultant working with the District on our Strategic Plan said you have to "get the right people on the bus, the wrong people off the bus, and the right people in the right seats on the bus". He also said they would be soon deciding on whether Kindergarten will be 2 or 3 classes next year.

Dr. Stange informed us that they are looking at getting a new website and thanked the parents at Parent Connections for their feedback. The goal of a new website will be to ease up navigation – the survey revealed that parents visit the site at least once/month, whereas faculty need to go to a second site to monitor their pages, which is adding another time-consuming step.

Dr. Stange asked if he could spend 15 minutes at the next PTO Meeting discussing the Strategic Plan – to which Andrea readily agreed.

Dr. Stange explained that the recent police activity at SRS is due to the Police Department coming over to video the inside of the school for training Officers. Dr. Stange added that he feels we are in really good stead.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

PARCC Testing: Dr. Greene reminded us that testing will take place after Spring Break. She explained that there are rules as to the number of uninterrupted weeks over which testing must take place, and noted that we try to keep consistent. She informed us that 3rd Grade will begin on Wednesday, April 4th, and will sit 7 tests over 2 weeks. She added that parents will receive a note by the end of this week.

3rd Grade Graduation: Dr. Greene explained that the plan was to move it to the last day of school as it times well with the ½ day and the school picnic. She revealed that she had queried the teachers, who agreed, so it will likely be held on June 14th.

Kindergarten Enrollment: Dr. Greene stressed that she doesn't yet have exact numbers, but divulged that she is looking at having 3 sections. She reminded us that a School Board decision won't be made until next month.

Class Placement for 2018/2019: Dr. Greene informed us that she sent out a letter to parents asking for their thoughts. She reminded us that she doesn't take Teacher requests, but any academic or social/emotional issues are considered.

Spring Coding: Dr. Greene explained that the online registration began lastnight at 6pm. She revealed that, as of this morning, 40 students had registered and noted that registration will close once 45 students are registered as it is 3 classes of 15.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Robotics Competition: Dr. Sukenik was pleased to announce that SRS came 1st in the State and now will go to the World Championships in Louisville, KY, where 400 teams from around the world will compete. She explained that the kids worked really hard and that everyone is in a state of shock, but she is so proud of them. She revealed that only 4 teams from Illinois get to complete, and that SRS is the only public school competing from Illinois. She divulged that SRS had the highest STEM Research score! She informed us that it is all about teamwork, with prizes for teamwork and various other factors.

Music Festival: Dr. Sukenik revealed that, beginning today, SRS is hosting other schools coming to our school to be judged and coached in clinics. She added that Mrs. Logan planned the event to honor a colleague who had previously organized this annual event but passed away.

Concerts: Dr. Sukenik reminded us that the 6th Grade concert is this week, and 5th Grade's concert is next week. She informed us that the Mazurs are making a video of all our concerts.

Teacher Representative:

There was no Teacher Representative this month.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: JILL MIRKOVIC

Jill explained that the Board is currently in the Strategic Planning process and will discuss it further at tonight's meeting. Jill also revealed that Sheri Styczen will present a Tech Plan to the Board tonight.

Jessica Akaah asked why Snow Days aren't built into the calendar. Dr. Stange explained that there are 2 ways to do it – the State says that the first 5 days you close have to be made up, anything longer than that is forgiven. He informed us that we can add up to 5 days for closed days after the last day.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tom Whittaker

Seconded by: Tara Subeck



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING February 13, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

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

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Tara Subeck

Jenny opened the meeting by explaining that Andrea Macina, PTO President, could not attend today.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Jessica Akaah, Treasurer

Jessica informed us that there was very little activity in January.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$51,795
- CD - \$57,695
- 8th Grade Fund - \$8,360.45

School Supplies: Seong McGarry & Kendra Chilewich

We are switching providers to Shane Office Supplies this year. Our District teachers have received emails and are already sending us their updates as to what supplies they would like next year. We will begin taking parent orders from May 1st, and parents will be able to order until June 1st.

Family Fun Night: Megan Waite & Nancy Detlefsen

The Family Fun Night will still take place on June 13th. The kids were thrilled by having a Snow Day, but it means that there will be an extra day of school this year, so the 13th is the night before the end of school.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig divulged that he took a complaint from a parent pertaining to another Mom texting in the school pick-up line, and revealed that the complainant had wanted the Mom arrested. Chief said that that would not happen, but that he would notify Dr. Sukenik of the complaint and let her handle it.

Chief notified us that Police Department Budget discussions are still taking place, and will do so until the end of April. He revealed that he is trying to hire a Crossing Guard.

Chief informed us that there was an attempted burglary on the east side of town, after which he put out a description so that residents would be aware. He explained that the description is always what it is, regardless of whether the person is white or purple. He divulged that a group of residents had complained about the description being “a black male”, and said that this is the second time he has received this type of pushback.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange revealed that due to the recent Snow Day, the plan is to add it to the end of the year. He explained that the Board will have to approve that at the meeting tonight. He further noted that we keep Presidents Day on hold for a snow day, but given that the snow day was just a week prior to Presidents Day, it was a little tough to organize for this year. He informed us that all end of year school events would still take place on their scheduled dates.

Dr. Stange revealed that Administration has met with construction managers regarding Middlefork Capital Improvement and that they are taking tours of schools that have completed renovation projects.

Dr. Stange divulged that 234 parents and 66 staff had completed Strategic Planning Surveys, which is a fantastic result. He noted that last time they only received surveys from 150 parents. He revealed that the Board will discuss the results at the meeting tonight, and that the results will be posted on the website very soon. Dr. Stange explained that the Steering Committee will consider all sorts of data on MAP, PARCC, etc. He expects to have that completed by mid-March, and will come up with themes and base goals. He noted that there will be a lot of opportunity for parents to give input, and that there is a link to send email to the Board on the Home Page of the website, if a parent didn't complete the Survey but has thoughts and ideas they would like considered.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Kindergarten Registration: Dr. Greene revealed that current registration numbers is 44/45, which is a really good number for this time of year. She explained that she isn't sure whether or not there will be 2 or 3 classes, but said that she is probably leaning toward 3.

Progress Reports: Dr. Greene divulged that Progress Reports were mailed and noted that it is a revision, not a new report. She explained that the Standards were updated to reflect Illinois Learning Standards and that the Academic Development descriptors are now clearer. She also noted that they have added school pictures to the front!

2nd Cup of Coffee: Dr. Greene reminded us that there will be a 2nd Cup on Thursday at 6.45pm and that the focus would be on Curriculum.

Poet Day: Dr. Greene thanked the PTO for the Poet visit, and explained that having him for 2.5 days was more impactful than a 1 hour assembly.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Robotics Competition: Dr. Sukenik was pleased to announce that SRS had a 1st Place team – Evie Detlefsen and John Gregorio! She explained that it requires a tremendous amount of teamwork and collaboration.

Bees: Dr. Sukenik congratulated Connor Koy for winning the Geography Bee for the 5th year running, and noted that he also won the Spelling Bee!

Varsity Basketball: Dr. Sukenik congratulated the Varsity Girls team on winning the Championship! She divulged that she is looking at getting some cool banners for the gym.

SIT Conference: Dr. Sukenik revealed that 12 SRS students had participated in the Students In Technology Conference this year. She explained that is a fascinating conference whereby kids present to other kids on subjects such as space, genetics, HQ Trivia, robots.

James & The Giant Peach: Dr. Sukenik revealed that rehearsals are now underway for the show, and that the stage crew kids are enjoying learning about lighting and set design, and much more.

Music: Dr. Sukenik informed us that students had attending 2 musical festivals at New Trier and Glenbrook South.

Parent Group: Dr. Sukenik divulged that a Parent Group will be discussing kids with technology. She noted that the topic is pertinent and reminded us to RSVP.

Random Acts of Kindness Week: Dr. Sukenik congratulated the SEL Committee for putting together a fun element for the stuff, which is similar to a Secret Santa.

Student Council: Dr. Sukenik revealed that Student Council is working hard on lollipop sales and penny wars at the moment, and noted that the winning grade gets a pizza party. She explained that there is Pie In The Face and Roulette for Administration! She divulged that they are preparing to welcome incoming 4th Graders and are working on building school spirit and community service.

Roundtable Discussions: Dr. Sukenik revealed that she will host a few roundtable discussions after Spring Break about will happen next year in regards to staffing, etc. She noted that there will be several opportunities for parents to come in.

Teacher Representative:

There was no Teacher Representative this month.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: JILL MIRKOVIC

Jill explained that Dr. Stange had covered everything.

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



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING January 16, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

Andrea Macina, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.04am.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Tara Subeck

Andrea opened the meeting by notifying us that there are some exciting changes to the PTO that will be announced later this month. She hopes that everyone will embrace these changes. Andrea brought along the hand-written Thank You Notes that students wrote the PTO after the Wonder screening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Jessica Akaah, Treasurer

Income:

- Book Fair – Jessica received the check from Anderson for \$3,076.10.

Expense:

- Holiday Projects – we spent about \$925.59, which is under budget.
- PTO Gifts – we paid for the Wonder screening and party.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$50,540.83
- CD - \$57,683
- 8th Grade Fund - \$8,360.45

Junior Great Books: Kelly Duff

Kelly is hoping to begin classes next week. She is still receiving a few more registrations. If anyone is interested in registering or volunteering, she asks that we reach out to her – and spread the word.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig divulged that car thefts and burglaries are still occurring sporadically, and a contributing factor is owners leaving their keys in their cars.

He also notified us that ruse burglaries are still happening; with one occurring just last week in the apartments beside Walgreens. A senior opened the door and had over \$30,000 in jewellery stolen.

The Chief warned us that we should be wondering where our children are when they leave the house with groups of friends. Four 8th graders and a freshman had been TPing houses and throwing soda cans at them. One house in particular is owned by new residents in the District, whose 9 year old daughter was afraid to be in the house because of the vandalism. The parents are an investigative journalist and a litigator and they were worried they were being targeted. The Police Department installed cameras and caught the kids.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange revealed that he will be sending out an email to parents and staff about the upcoming Strategic Planning. He announced that the District has contracted with School Perceptions, who have conducted 4 surveys for us in the past and will be conducting another. The window for completing the Survey will be a couple of weeks, and in mid-February the Board will be identifying themes and goals. He asks that we check our emails for the Survey, and our Spam in case it goes in there.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Winter Sing: Dr. Greene reminded us that the Winter Sing for Kindergarten will take place this coming Thursday, January 18th.

Kindergarten Registration: Dr. Greene revealed that registration will take place next week, on January 24th.

PJ Day and Poet Visit: Dr. Greene reminded us that PJ Day will be January 26th, with a presentation by Bill The Poet. He will also stay for another couple of days, working with the different classes.

Cafeteria Wash Station: Dr. Greene was pleased to announce that there is a new Handwashing Station in the MF Cafeteria, and added that the kids seem to be very excited by it and are thorough in their handwashing!

New Baby and Substitute: Dr. Greene divulged that Mrs. Doebler had a baby boy last Monday. He arrived a little earlier than expected, but happily revealed that Mom and baby are doing great. She is thrilled to have Shelly Kelly as substitute; Shelly worked with Dr. Greene many years ago at Avoca. Shelly was a Kindergarten teacher for 26 years before retiring last year. She starts the day by playing the guitar with the students, who all seem to taking the change very well.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Dr. Stange spoke for Dr. Sukenik. She thanks the PTO for the fun Holiday parties. She wanted to remind parents that the Geography Bee would take place this afternoon, and the Spelling Bee would be on Friday afternoon. She updated us that the Disney trip would take place in January 2019, and the introductory meeting took place last week. She wanted to remind us that the Varsity and JV Basketball tournaments will take place next week, with SRS hosting the girls' tournaments for the first time.

Teacher Representative:

There was no Teacher Representative this month.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: JILL MIRKOVIC

Jill updated us that, with regard to Capital Improvement, the Board will be conducting a feasibility study through May.

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



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING December 12, 2017

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

Andrea Macina, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.05am.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Tara Subeck

Andrea opened the meeting by remarking on Thank You notes the PTO received from 4 classes who attended Wonder. She was very touched by them and will bring them to the meeting next month for everyone to read.

She added that during Teacher Conferences, she walked into the SRS Teachers' Lounge and was instantly transported to a calm and soothing room with flowers, candles and lights turned down. She noted that it reinforced to her how we have people who care and make a difference in our PTO.

Andrea reminded us that students will go to Northwestern Settlement House tomorrow. She also revealed how excited she was that the PTO could give so generously to Teacher Gifts this year, and revealed that the website showcasing the gifts as the teachers receive and use them with students.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Jessica Akaah, Treasurer

Income:

- PTO Dues – Jessica noted that the Dues number is high as some needs to be transferred to the 8th Grade Fund. She reminded us that some families have not yet paid, and said she would reach out to them.
- Book Fair – Jessica revealed that we are still waiting on the check, but that it will be for \$3,076.10. She added that she was thrilled that we raised a little more than the \$3,000 budget.

Expense:

- Conference Meals – we spent about \$760 on meals. Jessica added that the chairs did a really great job of getting discounts and divulged that they got a lot of food through The Cheesecake Factory, who donated heavily.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$550,192.26
- CD - \$57,671.57
- 8th Grade Fund - \$8,360.45

PTO Teacher Gifts: Jenny Damon

Jenny revealed that the Committee had met and had discussed the 19 applications, which included a Ninja Course to a Music Rug to a Tilt Brush, and more. She reminded us that the approved Gifts are on the website.

Junior Great Books: Kelly Duff

Registration is open and Kelly is hoping to have received all the Applications by next Friday. She revealed that she will be seeking volunteers after the New Year. She divulged that she has been working with Dr. Greene and there will be one difference this year at Middlefork – all participating students must buy lunch, due to allergies. Kelly informed us that 3rd Grade will meet on Mondays, 2nd Grade will meet on Thursdays. She and Dr. Sukenik are working on the schedule at SRS.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig began by discussing gifts that parents should NOT be purchasing. He informed us that State Law and Cook County Ordinances prohibit the use of Segways on streets and sidewalks. He revealed that a few years ago a parent tried out a motorized skateboard on the street, and broke his leg. He noted that they can be used on your own private property, but if you leave it, you are in violation of the law.

The Chief divulged that there were 12 car burglaries over Thanksgiving weekend in our surrounding areas, but none took place in Northfield itself. He reminded us that crime is rampant until mid-January, and revealed that there have been purse thefts in the parking lot at Carson's in Wilmette. He also asked that we be careful going downtown.

The Chief explained that the Police Department will be in budgeting discussions until April, with the budget to be approved in May.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange began by thanking the PTO for the Conference Meals. He revealed that it is a stressful time for teachers, and having a quiet, welcoming haven is nice.

He further thanked us for the Teacher Gifts, and revealed that he had been asked to write a year-end review for the newspaper, in which mentioned the generosity of the district.

Dr. Stange reminded us that our Holiday Gifts program for Northwestern Settlement House has been going on for about 25 years. He thinks it is a great program and thanked us for continuing to organize it.

He revealed that punch list items are being finished at SRS. The landscaping is in, and the challenge now is to make it our new home, not merely our school.

Dr. Stange divulged that the Board is working on Strategic Planning. He added that Dr. Joe Porto, past Superintendent at Avoca School District and who worked on the past 2 strategic plans for us, will meet with the steering committee on Thursday.

Dr. Stange noted that the Board of Education discussed the Annual Assessment Report at their last meeting. He added that "Not everything that counts is measured, and not everything measured counts", and that there is a lot in our District that is special that doesn't get factored into an assessment.

He informed us of how Snow Days are decided – the decision is made as a township, with other feeder schools in the area, such as Glencoe, Avoca, Kenilworth, and Wilmette. He noted that New Trier tends to prefer "late starts" to closing for the day, but informed us that that doesn't work for our District. We added that we are unique as we have no buses, and we have emergency shelters (church) across from both schools for if the heat

went out, etc. He revealed that the township Superintendents begin discussions the day before, and talk intermittently throughout the night, and finally a decision is made at 3am and a call goes out to parents at 5am. Dr. Greene added that she has a friend in Gurnee, which is a huge District, and in very cold temperatures some of the diesel buses will not start and kids are at bus stops waiting in the cold. Dr. Stange reminded us that the decision is based on staff and student safety.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Winter Sing: Dr. Greene reminded us that the Winter Sing for Grades 1-3 will take place on Thursday evening. The Kindergarten Sing will take place on January 18th.

Kindergarten Registration: Dr. Greene revealed that registration will take place on January 24th. She divulged that the current count is mid to high 30s.

Junior Great Books: Dr. Greene revealed that the allergy policy has tightened up, and as a result, on the days JGB meets, there will be a dairy-free lunch available for purchase.

Poet Visit: Dr. Greene thanked the PTO for ensuring that the upcoming visit will go for 3 full days, starting with PJ Day. She added that the dates are January 26th, 30th and 31st.

Computer Science Program: Dr. Greene divulged that at tonight's Education Committee Meeting, there will be an update on the development of the computer science program from K-3. She added that the January meeting will feature an update on the K-3 Writing Program.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Dr. Sukenik thanked the PTO for Conference Meals and noted that the generosity of the PTO with Teacher Gifts is amazing. She revealed that Ms. Horne has said that the Tilt Brush is beyond their wildest dreams.

She added that the Northwestern Settlement House holiday program is a very special tradition, and everyone is thrilled to participate.

Dr. Sukenik reminded us that next week will have special days at SRS; Monday is Blizzard Day so wear white, Tuesday is University Day, Wednesday is PJ Day, Thursday wear Fuzzy Socks, and Friday is Ugly Sweater Day.

Dr. Sukenik reminded us that the ensemble for Grades 6-8 will take place on Tuesday. She revealed that Project Lead The Way, which is a curriculum to apply STEM in a structured way, will come to see what SRS students are doing in the design studio. Other Districts will also come to observe 2 classes, and she and Dr. Greene will be on the panel too. She noted that a lot of high schools have this curriculum, but not many elementary and middle schools, so it is exciting to showcase.

Teacher Representative:

There was no Teacher Representative this month.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: JILL MIRKOVIC

Jill began by reminding us that the meeting tonight will feature an update on the Computer Science Curriculum for K-8. She added that the Board will discuss wrapping up Capital Improvement at SRS, and will approve the 2018-2019 Calendar.

Andrea ended the meeting by saying she had just received an email from Hilary Logan with a photo of the guitar purchases for Teacher Gifts. It was delivered while Joey was in class. Dr. Stange agreed that it is a really incredible guitar.

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



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING November 14, 2017

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

Andrea Macina, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.05am.

Motion to Approve: Megan Waite

Seconded: Tara Subeck

Andrea opened the meeting by saying that every month, with all the different initiatives, she is wowed by the work everyone puts in. She quoted “The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers”.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report: Jessica Akaah, Treasurer

Income:

- School Kits – we received \$3,790, which is not reflected yet on the Performance to Budget.
- PTO Dues – Jessica divulged that we are still receiving checks for Dues, and she has been writing checks to the Room Parents. Some of the funds need to be transferred to the 8th Grade Fund.
- Book Fair – Jessica noted she would have final numbers from Anderson by the December PTO Meeting.

Expense:

- Author Visit – Jessica revealed that she had paid for the latest Author Visit.

PTO Teacher Gifts: Jenny Damon

Jenny reminded everyone that, thanks to the very successful Spring Benefit, the PTO is able to give \$50,000 to Teacher Gifts. She noted that she received 19 great proposals, which were spread evenly between the 2 schools, totaling \$42,000. She revealed that the Teacher Gifts Committee would meet today at 11am. She said the Committee would decide whether or not to fund all of the proposals at that meeting. She reminded us that any remainder of the \$50,000 would remain in our accounts.

School Programs: Andrea for Tom Whittaker & Amy Schutz

Amy asked Andrea to divulge that Bill, the poet, will be at Middlefork for Pajama Day. Amy is waiting for his contract and will submit it and get a check from Jessica.

Tom asked that Andrea reveal that the Author Visit from K.A. Holt, at SRS, was amazing. Lauren said that the kids were very interested in her works and they were a wonderful audience. Lauren and Tom are already planning the next Author Visit for after the holidays.

6th Grade Social Dance: Andrea for Lisa Challenger & Mamtha Sharma

Lisa and Mamtha asked Andrea to remind everyone that 6th Grade has 2 remaining Social Dances; Friday the 17th and December 1st. One of our new families, the Goldmans, will be hosting a pre-party on December 1st for all the kids and their parents. The kids are still working on perfecting the Merengue, and so far have had a few fun surprises like Thriller, and a Dia de Los Muertos celebration where the kids wore masks they made in Spanish class.

Teacher Conference Meals: Andrea for Jen Kyriakopoulos & Lori Racine

Andrea divulged that Jen and Lori are requesting conference meal help for February's Teacher Conference luncheon at SRS, to assist Lori and Stephanie Johnson.

The team is also looking for additional volunteers to bake something for their first cookie walk. They feel this can turn into something annually for the teachers. They did get a great response from the first ask, but since they are doing it for both schools, they need lots of cookies and bars. Their plan is to split up everything they get between both schools. Items can be homemade or store bought, and dropped off at SRS on Monday, November 20th, between 9am-2pm. Parents should email Jen if they are planning to donate.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig began by stating that Halloween went really well and added that parents seemed to have enjoyed themselves also. He informed us that the Happ Road bridge should be completed before Thanksgiving. He divulged that IDOT is considering leaving the temporary traffic lights at Happ and Winnetka for another year.

The Chief notified us that, as of January 1st, one of our Crossing Guards will be joining the Wilmette Department. He said he hopes to fill the position with members of his department.

Chief reminded us that car burglaries have started up again – a car was stolen last weekend. He stressed that from now until January we should watch for package deliveries on our porches as packages will be stolen. He revealed that on Friday at Marianos 3 men and a woman were trying to commit fraud with gift certificates and credit cards. The men escaped in a vehicle, but the woman was caught on foot on the bridge – she had been wanted in 3 States.

Chief explained that Northfield is surrounded by forest preserves with squirrels, minx, coyotes etc. If said that if chimneys are not capped, raccoons can nest in them. He informed us that coyotes do not get as big as a Great Dane. He revealed that the biggest we've had is 48lbs, and will only go within a 30 mile radius. He warned us that if we provide them with a food source, they will stay in the area. He added that he has noticed that typically nocturnal animals like coyotes and skunks are out during the day, but reminded us to steer clear of them, particularly if they are walking in circles as that would indicate distemper.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange began by saying that they are trying to get the last remaining sod in before winter. He informed us that the landscapers have to grind and pulverize the dirt before laying the sod and need a couple of dry days to be able to do that.

He noted that students may be discussing heat – some heaters are not working correctly and circuit boards are blowing. ComEd say that the voltage coming in to the building was too high, so are working on that.

Dr. Stange reminded us that \$2 million was allocated to MF Capital Improvement, which will hopefully be performed during the summer of 2019. He divulged that the School Board would tonight discuss the selection of an architect and construction manager. In the spring, they will do a feasibility study, which will be brought to the community for feedback, with final plans being made over the summer, and it would then go to bid in the fall.

He divulged that there are 2 items in the Board packet; the calendar for the upcoming school year and the proposed property tax freeze. Regarding the calendar, Dr. Stange said we will follow New Trier, but start students on the 23rd and end on June 5th, which will allow for more time over the summer of 2019 to work on the MF construction. This would mean starting a week earlier than other feeder schools. As for the property tax freeze, he realizes that homeowners are supportive of it, but for the District it would equate to about \$500,000 per annum. It will be voted on in January. He noted that the SRS project was built on the assumption of a certain amount of income, but a freeze would obviously have a major impact.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

MF Capital Improvement: Dr. Greene divulged that, between 2010 and 2012, a District wide study was performed to identify priorities, other than air conditioning, which has since been addressed. Last summer they had another study and the results were remarkably similar. The primary request is for instructional space for small groups, as currently that has to take place in the hallways. Plumbing is a necessary priority.

Enrollment: Dr. Greene revealed that enrollment is up to 195 as MF got a new 1st Grader a couple of weeks ago.

Visitor ID System: Dr. Greene explained that MF will be implementing the same Visitor ID System that SRS has. She asks that parents bring their Drivers Licenses to PT Conferences, as they would begin then.

Halloween: Dr. Greene thanked everyone for the Halloween parties, and thanked Pinterest for the extra ingenuity. She added that there are such limited possibilities with food restrictions, but that the kids now focus on the games and having fun, and that the limitations of popcorn and fruit doesn't seem to have any impact.

Winter Sing: Dr. Greene reminded us that the Winter Sing for Grades 1-3 will take place on December 14th. Kindergarten will have a separate Winter Sing on the 18th.

Homeless Lunches: Dr. Greene thanked parents for the homeless lunches and gave a special shout-out to Buggie O'Grady who delivers them.

Curriculum: Dr. Greene revealed that they are implementing new and different methods in teaching writing. She added that every teacher is excited about the K-5 program. She noted that at the Education Committee Meeting they will do an outline of the program.

Tardiness: Dr. Greene referred to the Back To School letter, which emphasized getting to school on time. She reminded us that kids are allowed enter the school at 8.15am, and when they enter the classroom at 8.25am they

can start working. The bell rings at 8.30am. Today 30 kids came 5 minutes late, but that 5 minutes turns into 15 minutes by the time they get their coats and backpacks hung up and are settled. By then, the other children have had number corner and the late child affects everyone in the classroom while they get caught up. Dr. Greene stressed that it is more than setting good habits early. She is welcome to ideas if anyone has suggestions on how to get parents to better understand the impact of a late arrival.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Dr. Sukenik divulged that SRS has the opposite problem to MF – the students are showing up too early!! She explained that there is no supervision until 7.30am. Some of the disconnect is communications about the intramurals schedule, etc. She explained that if band starts at 7.30am, and a sibling has a 7.15am lesson, the other can sit by orchestra until 7.30am.

Dr. Sukenik revealed that having kids playing on the playground before SRS students are dismissed is still a problem. Every class is looking out onto the playground, and there is no supervision out there until 3.20pm.

Dr. Sukenik thanked everyone for the Book Fair and Halloween parties.

She noted that the first concerts were held in the new space and learned a lot about different procedures we should have in place. The Veterans Day performance was fantastic.

Dr. Sukenik noted that part of the Girls On The Run program is a service project. They will have Cradles For Crayons, information will be in the Friday news.

The first basketball games start today.

They are coordinating with Northwest Settlement House for the Holiday Project, which will be later this year, and students won't shop until just before winter break.

Dr. Sukenik informed us that Hour of Code begins the week of December 4th.

Teacher Representative:

There was no Teacher Representative this month.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: JILL MIRKOVIC

Jill began by saying that the Education Committee meeting will take place tonight, and school assessments will be discussed.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tara Subeck

Seconded by: Megan Waite



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING October 10, 2017

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Andrea Macina, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.04am.

Motion to Approve: Tom Whittaker

Seconded: Tara Subeck

Andrea opened the meeting by thanking everyone who has a role on the PTO. She extended a special Thank You to Bianca Rose and Bridget Kennedy for their work on the new PTO website and our social media. Bridget couldn't attend the meeting, so Andrea directed the following poem to Bianca:

Back in May an idea was shared over coffee and talk, should we create a new website or try to work with what we've got?

We got researching other Districts and after taking a peek, we knew best that to start new was what we should seek.

After an Exec Board approval we breathed a big sigh and then started a site map to develop from scratch, oh my!

My eyes grew big as many ideas flew and I was thinking "how in the world is this really going to come through?"

Well, never fear, because Bianca is near! She provided the knowledge and the skill in such a level-headed way, that "You are simply amazing, this is wonderful, and THANK YOU" is all I could say.

She guided Bridget and I each and every day, asking for content or photos in the kindest of ways. We shared, she built, and lo and behold, the website was complete and we were all sold.

Bianca, my friend, kudos and bravo to you! You made this all happen and made it look rather seamless too.

Now parents can easily find PTO news, lunchroom guidelines and such, for all that and more I thank you a bunch!!

Andrea presented Bianca with a gift from the PTO and said she would present one to Bridget when she next sees her. She also asked that everyone feel free to pass her feedback on the new website.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Lonnie Stonitsch, FAN co-Chair and Executive Director

Lonnie began by saying that if Bianca is looking for a paid gig, let her know, as the FAN website could use a lot of improvement. She congratulated the Administration and PTO on the new school. She said that she had watched the video on the website, and if the video speaks at all to the school itself, it is fabulous for our students. She added that Amy Yurko of Brain Spaces, who worked on the new construction, is a good friend of hers and she was thrilled to see Amy's work in our District.

Lonnie passed out the flyer itemizing all the upcoming scheduled FAN presentations. She divulged that it is likely not at all complete, as last year FAN had 26 speakers and over 25,000 attendees, and reminded everyone that programs are free and open to the public. Lonnie noted that there were 5 presentations in September, there would be 5 more in October, but only 1 is scheduled for November thus far and there are none for December. She revealed that the biggest change for her, as Executive Director, was leveraging speakers for more and more opportunities while here in Chicago. She added that now speakers fly in and have multiple speaking venues, including the new Evanston one, and luncheon events. Lonnie would welcome any topic or speaker suggestions, and said that we should reach out to Gail Belian or Anne Peterson, our FAN PTO Reps, with ideas.

What the Qur'an Meant: And Why It Matters – Garry Willis, Ph.D

October 12th at 7pm, Evanston Township High School Auditorium

Becoming Brilliant: The Science of How Children Learn – Roberta Michnick Golinkoff, Ph.D.

October 27th at 9.30-11am, Church of the Holy Comforter, Kenilworth

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Jessica Akaah, Treasurer

Income:

- PTO Dues – Jessica divulged that she had hoped to have Dues paid by October 1st, but there are still families who have not yet paid. She believes that switching to MySchoolBucks has had an impact, with families getting used to the new system. Jessica informed us that we have collected \$3,000, out of the \$4,500 expected.
- The 8th Grade Fund – Jessica noted that about 90% of the 8th Grade fee has thus far been collected.

Expense:

- Programs – Jessica paid for the Middlefork STEAM Museum.
- Hospitality – Jessica paid the remaining balance for the Back to School Luncheon.
- Miscellaneous Expense – Jessica noted that the expense pertains to the creation of the new website.
- Storage Locker – The annual fee has been paid.
- Welcomers – The Ice-Cream Social was paid for.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$56,077.72
- CD - \$57,635

PTO Teacher Gifts: Jenny Damon

Jenny revealed that faculty and administration are currently thinking about and submitting proposals. Administration will have all proposals vetted and Jenny will ensure that those being submitted will be on the website by the next PTO Meeting. She divulged that the Committee will meet shortly thereafter.

School Programs: Tom Whittaker & Amy Schutz

Amy asked Tom to thank all the volunteers who participated at the STEAM Museum. She revealed that Bill Buczinsky, the poet who visited the schools last year, will present a program on PJ Day at Middlefork.

Tom noted that Lauren Gray, SRS Librarian, is doing a fantastic job and has been integrating Author Visits with her own program. He added that the upcoming SRS Author Visit for 6th, 7th and 8th Grades, with K.A. Holt, will take place on October 24th. She will have presentations and workshops for students.

Book Fair: Joanna Soukoulis & Jessica Tomlinson

Joanna reminded us that the Book Fair will take place on November 5th, from 11-5pm, and on November 6th during recess, lunch and also from 3-6pm. She revealed that she and Jessica are in the process of finalizing times and volunteer positions, and should have a Sign-Up Genius sign-up sent out to parents soon. Joanna added that there will be concessions on Sunday with some special guests in attendance. She divulged that they have reached out to faculty for some fun entertainment.

PR / Communications: Bianca Rose & Bridget Kennedy

Bridget asks that we reach out to her should we need something posted to the PTO social media, and if you don't hear back initially, please feel free to email her again.

My School Anywhere Directory: Andrea Macina for Libby Galin & Ana Miyares

The Directory should be going out to parents next week.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig began by stating that Northfield has very heavy traffic. He revealed that last week there was an accident on Sunset Ridge Road before school, and added that it was very fortuitous that Anne Peterson and Sydney Clark happened to be walking by at the time and were able to help calm the children in the car until Police arrived on the scene. The Chief noted that he tries to be at the schools in the morning and afternoon, and stated that parents are entering the driveways too fast. He reminded us that children are unpredictable, and with parents driving at 10-15 mph, it could end badly. He asks that we slow down.

Anne Peterson asked if the Chief was soliciting retirees as Crossing Guards. The Chief responded that he has advertised in the Pioneer Press and at the Senior Center, and added that the problem is that it is an hour and a half crossing in the morning, which is a long time in the cold in the winter. He has recruited one of his dispatchers, and noted that staffing Police as Crossing Guards has an impact on his staffing levels, with 4 crossings every morning in the community. He noted that the pay isn't great, which isn't much of an incentive in recruiting retirees. Tom Whittaker suggested that we help recruit, since as parents in the community, it affects us and our children.

The Chief divulged that the Middlefork Crossing Guard at Willow and Wagner will be replaced soon. He noted that car thefts and burglaries are starting up again, with one over this past weekend. He reminded us to lock our cars and houses. The Chief added that he anticipates more thefts in the coming spring.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Dr. Greene relayed that enrollment is at 193, which is actually 1 more than last year. She added that there are a number of substitute teachers this year, with Mrs. Victorn replacing Mrs. Schieffer, and Senora Dengsavang also having a substitute. She noted that the Spanish substitute is working out wonderfully and has been complimentary of the program Senora Dengsavang has created and of the students' accents. Dr. Greene revealed that the advantage of have a 3 day flex program is that, while it doesn't build fluency, it does help develop a natural Spanish accent. Dr. Greene divulged that Mrs. Mertes will be on medical leave for a month, until November 6th. Mrs. Dekin has taken a leave of absence for the remainder of the school year, but has been replaced by a teacher that Dr. Greene worked with at Avoca and who is much sought after, so they have been very lucky to get her.

Picture Re-take Day: October 18th. Hopefully we will get the initial photos soon!

October Birthday Lunch: October 20th.

STEAM School Program: Dr. Greene thanked the PTO for the program. She divulged that she hadn't known what to expect, but was pleasantly surprised by how engaging it was for the children. She added that the program was very hands-on, with enough stations that students didn't have to wait around to try them out, even when the entire Grade was there. She thanked the parent volunteers who stayed there all day.

Halloween: Dr. Greene revealed that the Friday News today will have information for parents on the procedure that day with Halloween parties and the parade.

Fort Building: Dr. Greene reminded us that there is a wonderful workshop this weekend in Winnetka for children. She will have information in the Friday News.

Fishing: Dr. Greene noted that the NT Fishing Club was fantastic, with 4 NT students showing up twice to work with our students. They provided the equipment and bait and were wonderful with the children, of which about 25 attended.

Early Dismissal & Day Off: Dr. Greene reminded us that October 26th will be a half day due to School Improvement Day, with no school on October 27th due to Teacher Institute Day.

FAN: Dr. Greene referred to the upcoming Roberta Golinkoff presentation: *Becoming Brilliant, the Science of How Children Learn*. She noted that it will discuss what science tells us about raising successful children and that there will be, along with the parent presentation, a teacher program.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Dr. Sukenik divulged that the traffic situation continues to evolve, but has been getting smoother. She added that parents need to pay attention. She hopes that opening the Willow access will further improve the situation, but noted that with winter approaching, less students will be walking and biking to school.

Dr. Sukenik revealed that the student Clubs are in full swing, with Book Clubs, Green Club, etc. She added that the Tech Club members will attend the School Board meeting tonight for the Spotlight on Students. She particularly likes how 4th Grade initiated Read & Watch Book Club.

Dr. Sukenik informed us that there will be a Vision Committee meeting on October 19th. The first topic will be Homework, with parents and teachers coming together to discuss it. She needs parents to RSVP by tomorrow.

Author Visit: Dr. Sukenik reminded us that K.A. Holt will join 6th, 7th and 8th Grade on October 24th, and revealed that everyone seems very excited for the upcoming Book Fair.

Teacher Representative:

There was no Teacher Representative this month.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: JILL MIRKOVIC

Jill began by saying that the SRS Capital Improvement Plan will soon come to an end, and got off to a great start. She divulged that the Board is discussing solutions to the SRS traffic issue, and will be opening the access from Willow today.

Jill revealed that the School Board will be discussing the Strategic Plan tonight and added that the Finance & Facilities Committee will also meet tonight. She added that the Education Committee will meet next month and will discuss the PARCC and MAP results.

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



SUNSET RIDGE/ MIDDLEFORK PTO MEETING

September 12, 2017

CALL TO ORDER/ APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

Andrea Macina, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 9.04am.

Motion to Approve: Tara Subeck

Seconded: Tom Whittaker

Andrea opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and asked that everyone introduce themselves. She then relayed the following quote: "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they have the heart." Andrea acknowledged that everyone present, and on the PTO Board, is making a difference by having an active part in District 29.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Jessica Akaah, Treasurer

Jessica asked to approve the 2017-2018 Budget.

Motion to Approve: Tara Subeck

Seconded by Megan Waite.

Income:

- PTO Dues – Dues are starting to slowly trickle in. Jessica informed us that this year we are collecting Dues via MySchoolBucks. The login is the same as that for lunchroom accounts, from there you enter School Store, Browse All Items, filter by PTO and you'll see the Classroom Dues and Fees icon. On a mobile phone, the Dues and Fees are on the third page of the Store. Jessica will soon be sending out an instructional email to parents. Andrea added that working with the company had been very easy, and their adding a drop-down menu of your children makes the process much less time-consuming for parents. Seong McGarry asked if children's accounts within the same family are pooled, and Jessica responded that Dues are not taken from lunchroom accounts, they need to be purchased separately. Bianca Rose asked if there is a transactional fee like that of the lunchroom account, to which Jessica responded that the PTO is covering the cost of the fees, and added that parents can still pay Dues via cash or check. Andrea noted that the company is working on producing an App, which will make the process easier on mobile devices.
- 6th Grade Social Dance – Jessica is in the process of paying some of the deposits.

- The 8th Grade Fund – Laura Felicione (8th Grade Chair) asked where the monies they collect from 8th Grade families get held. Jessica responded that there is a separate account for 8th Grade. As an aside, the PTO contributes \$2,500 per year from a surplus account, until that account is depleted.

Account Balances:

- Main Checking - \$44,429
- CD - \$57,635
- 8th Grade Fund - \$ 9,233

Welcomers: Erica Marinello & Amy Allen

Erica reminded us that Welcomers match all new families in the District with current families. She revealed that she and Amy worked with the new Middlefork Secretary, Melissa Draka, who has been fantastic throughout the process. Erica noted that lots of current families stepped-up to mentor this year. There was a Welcome Coffee on the first day of school for new families, and she reminded us that the upcoming Ice Cream Social will take place at Clarkson Park on October 5th, from 6:30PM-7:30PM.

Room Parents: Joanna Soukoulis

Joanna informed us that all volunteers are in place and guidelines have been received by them. She added that every teacher in the District has accurate information for the year. Joanna reminded us that 5th-8th Grades now have Room Parents per grade, not by class, which is new this year.

PTO Teacher Gifts: Jenny Damon

Jenny reminded us that Teacher Gifts used to be called Ways & Means. She revealed that the Benefit was so successful in the spring, raising \$65,000, that it enables us to dedicate \$50,000 to Teacher Gifts this year. Jenny informed us that she is currently working with faculty and administration, who are working on their proposals.

School Programs: Tom Whittaker & Amy Schutz

Tom is working on School Programs for SRS, while Amy has the lead on MF School Programs. Tom informed us that the District formed a partnership with the Book Stall in Winnetka, which will be great as they provide author visits free of charge, and give discounts to teachers. He revealed that the first Author Visit is, in fact, taking place today at SRS. Tom added that the new Librarian at SRS, Lauren Gray, has proven to be very resourceful and helpful.

Amy asked Tom to share that she is currently seeking Parent Volunteers to help out all day at the upcoming STEAM Program at MF on September 29th. You need not have a child at MF in order to volunteer.

Book Fair: Joanna Soukoulis & Jessica Tomlinson

Joanna revealed that she and Jessica attended the Anderson Bookfair Seminar yesterday, where they received great information and a fantastic list of books that will be coming to our Fair. She added that they have been meeting with both Librarians. Joanna reminded us that the Book Fair will take place at SRS on November 5th and 6th.

PR / Communications: Bianca Rose & Bridget Kennedy

Bianca is taking care of Communications, while Bridget covers PR for the PTO. Bianca informed us that she has been working on a completely new website, which will not be part of the District website. She noted that this will give us more flexibility to add information and will enable us to have calendars and volunteer sign-ups on the site. She added that she hopes to have the site up this week.

Bridget revealed that there is a new PTO Instagram page ([sunsetridge_middlefork_pto](#)). She noted that the only problem she has encountered is that some parents have non-name screen names, and she has been slowed by confirming that requests to follow the page are from District parents. Bridget reminded us that the PTO Facebook page is still the same.

FAN: Anne Peterson & Gail Belian

Anne informed us the FAN Representatives Meeting is currently taking place, and Gail is in attendance, so they will have more information after that. The first PTO Meeting of the year usually has a presentation by Lonnie Stonitsch, FAN Co-Chair & Programming Chair, but since she is also at the Rep Meeting, she will instead present at our October PTO Meeting. Anne added that the FAN website ([familyactionnetwork.net](#)) is a great resource for information on upcoming presentations, and stated that going forward she would have Bridget put the information on our Facebook page also.

Sing, Unburied, Sing: A Conversation with Jesmyn Ward

September 13th at 7pm, Evanston Township High School Auditorium

Blurred Lines: Rethinking Sex, Power, and Consent on Campus - Vanessa Grigoriadis

September 14th at 12pm, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

(RSVP requested: www.bit.ly.com/FAN/Grigoriadis)

September 14th at 7pm, New Trier High School/Northfield, Cornog Auditorium

NSSED: Sarah Crawford

There is no report this month.

Alliance for Early Childhood: Ellen McCue

There is no report for this month.

My School Anywhere Directory: Andrea Macina for Libby Galin & Ana Miyares

Andrea revealed that Libby and Ana are currently collecting information on families, and noted that, to date, 217 out of 283 families have been updated. 5 new families have not yet added their information. After all the information has been updated, the printed Directory will be distributed.

6th Grade Social Dance: Lisa Challenger & Mamtha Sharma

Lisa revealed that invitations will go out on Friday. The first dance will be on the first Friday in October, and will have a Thriller theme. Lisa informed us that they have planned line dancing, holiday themes, etc. She added that she hopes, since it is a very small Grade that most kids will participate. She asked if she can request that parents provide snacks for each dance. Debbie Papas and Jill Mirkovic replied that on the years their children participated, the parents signed-up to provide the snacks.

House & Grounds: Andrea Macina for Kerri Melzl & Jenny Gallagher

Andrea stated that there is no update, per se, but that Kerri wanted to inform everyone that Corey Dreher, Director of Buildings & Grounds, has gone above and beyond at MF. Andrea revealed that we will send him a special Thank You from the PTO.

Parent Connections: Andrea Macina for Sydney Clark

The next meeting will take place on September 26th at 8.45am at SRS. Andrea noted that everyone is welcome and that it is a great way to gain information about and participate in the District.

School Kits: Sarah Crawford, Seong McGarry & Kendra Chilewich

Sarah revealed that distributing School Kits has been challenging this year, to say the least. She informed us that there were many missing supplies, which they are working with the company to provide. Sarah noted that the company had a technology change this year, which apparently affected distribution to our school and others. There was some glitch where some parents thought they had ordered for both MF and SRS, but that the SRS order didn't go through, so some kids were without supplies on the first day of school. Their parents had to run to Staples and Target that day to get supplies. Sarah revealed that those parents had received confirmations, but hadn't opened them and therefore didn't realize that only the MF orders were confirmed. She said that the company recognizes their fault and is providing us with an additional 10% rebate, which amounts to about \$1,000.

Seong stated that this coming year, Seong and Kendra will likely send the master list of orders to parents in June, have parents check that their orders are on it, and if not, there will be a 2 day grace period during which they can place last minute orders. Seong added that she plans to resend the final master list a few weeks before school starts, so that parents will have that time to purchase supplies if they had not ordered. Seong said that she will endeavor to negotiate better pricing with SchoolKits for this year.

Jill Mirkovic asked if we could order supplies via MySchoolBucks. Jessica Akaah responded that that would be a lot of work and then parents would incur a transaction fee.

Sarah revealed that because SchoolKits is an Illinois company, this year we were charged State Tax, which we hadn't been charged in prior years. She added that they found this out very late in the process, so the PTO paid it rather than charge the parents, but noted that this coming year parents will incur that charge.

Andrea revealed that every teacher in the District was affected by SchoolKits problems, whether it be missing supplies, or children crying because they didn't have Kits. She added that, as a PTO, we felt we needed to thank them in some special way for their patience. She asked Dr. Greene and Dr. Sukenik to distribute \$25 Amazon Gift Cards to each teacher on behalf of the PTO. Andrea added that since Sarah spent hours and hours working on fixing the problems, and gave her a \$25 Amazon Gift Card from the PTO to thank her for going the extra mile and for keeping everyone smiling.

COMMUNITY UPDATE: CHIEF LUSTIG

Chief Lustig began by saying that he likes to start the year with something positive. He revealed that on the first day of school he enjoyed over-hearing a child at MF excitedly point out the mascot and Principal to her Mom.

The Chief revealed that people ask him "Where are the Police?" He informed us that there are 2 shifts of 5 officers, and 1 shift of 4. He added that this summer 20 communities around us experienced crime sprees. He noted that the offenders would come up from Englewood, go through open cars and steal them to commit other crimes. If, during this process, they encountered Police, they would jump in the cars and not stop. The Chief

noted that they do not do police chases back to Englewood. The Chief divulged that people are still leaving ATM cards, computers and purses in unlocked cars with the keys in them – there was another theft just last week at the Park District. He added that this gang’s MO is to only go through unlocked cars. He revealed that there was 1 police chase, where one of the offenders was 12 years old, and the others 16, 17 and 18/19. They crashed and took off, and were not caught. He noted that juveniles do not get the same treatment as adults. The Chief believes that the only platform to inform the public is via public education. He held a Town Hall Meeting in July, which was extremely well attended.

The Chief stated that the construction on Happ Road, and its being closed while the bridge is repaired, is causing a mess. He revealed that he had 3 officers working on it this morning. Adding to the problem, Loyola and New Trier start 5 minutes apart. The Chief allowed that there are certain times when the Department’s staffing is diminished and stated that they are trying to make accommodations as much as possible, within their budget. He added that if you want to learn more, or address the budget, the public can attend those meetings. The Chief revealed that he has only 19 officers, who also have sick time and take vacations. He added that he will have to contact both high schools to have them start paying for off-duty officers performing traffic duties during this construction.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Dr. Ed Stange, Superintendent

Dr. Stange welcomed everyone back and said it was nice to see so many new faces this year. He thanked the PTO for everything we do. He noted that the District’s mission of “educating the hearts and minds of students, one child at a time” begins with cultivating a learning community, and he believes that PTO Teacher Gifts and SchoolKits fit that mission perfectly

Dr. Stange thanked the PTO for the Back to School Luncheon. He revealed that the District has 18 new staff, including many new Teacher Assistants.

SRS Construction: Dr. Stange informed us that the new building is functional, yet they are still going through an 11-page Punch List of items still to be completed. He divulged that while there are construction workers in the building every day, the District requires a background check for each, and reminded us that those workers are never present in the classroom.

Dr. Stange added that the North-South road will be complete by the beginning of November, and he expects the playfields to be ready and sodded by Halloween. When asked if the kids would be able to play on the fields, he responded that due to the donations of parents, they are able to sod them versus seed and that recess can take place but playing field sports will probably not happen until the spring.

Dr. Stange acknowledged that traffic has been a nightmare at drop-off and pick-up, but reminded us that it is merely 10 minutes, though empathizes with parents who need to get to after-school activities, etc. Dr. Stange noted that the District works with the Cook County Sheriffs Department in directing traffic, since we are not allowed direct traffic on public streets. He revealed that he has discussed with Chief Lustig the possibility of us taking over Crossing Guard duties, but reminded us that there are laws, and if we see Mr. Kramer as Crossing Guard it is because he is employed and trained by the Sheriffs Department to act in that capacity. Dr. Stange asks that parents refrain from arriving for pick-up too early.

Dr. Stange added that SRS Construction has been a 4 year process. The focus now will be the MF Capital Improvement.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Dr. Stange reminded us that the ceremony will begin at 5pm this evening and will take about 25 minutes. He revealed that they randomly selected students from within each Grade to participate in the actual ribbon cutting.

Lunchroom Accounts: Dr. Stange revealed that if you have been on the tail-end of a phone call from Dr. Greene or Dr. Sukenik regarding your lunchroom account being in arrears, it is on him. He divulged that some students are over \$500 in arrears, which the District has to pay for. He stated that, going forward, if a student's account is \$30 or more in arrears, his/her lunchroom account will be deactivated and that child will be served milk and a cheese sandwich every day. He acknowledged that some students may be embarrassed by this, but said that parents need to keep money in the lunchroom accounts. He added that if anyone has questions, please call him. If there is a financial need, reach out to him.

Andrea asked what parent volunteers should do if a child with a tray of food is in arrears. Dr. Stange responded that volunteers should not deal with telling a child that they can't get that food, only administration should do that. When asked if he feels the kids are aware of their status, Dr. Stange replied that Notices have been sent to parents, the Principals have called all parents affected, and MySchoolBucks also sends notices.

Teacher Appreciation: Dr. Stange stated that Julie and April "knocked it out of the park".

New School: Dr. Stange revealed that he will conduct rotating tours of the new school that night. He reminded us that Evening With The Eagles is merely an open house, and everyone is welcome. He disclosed that Administration is moving to Middlefork the week of June 19th, and will be there for the summer. He added that Open House should take place in late August, with an official Dedication for the new school in September.

School Board: Dr. Stange disclosed that there will be 2 policies up for approval at the Board Meeting tonight.

- SB100 – driven from a consent decree, makes it more difficult to suspend or expel students.
- Bussing Survey – there was a tremendous response to the survey, which revealed that there is some interest. The bigger issue is what parents are willing to pay, and the caveat of the inability of busses to go down the lanes in the District.
- Employment Recommendations – tonight he will propose employment recommendations for 3 staff; a Special Education teacher who has a Masters in Counselling and over 10 years' experience; a Computer Science teacher, and a 7th Grade Language Arts teacher. Dr. Stange added that he is very excited about these hires, and feels the District is getting "rock stars".

Bike Safety: Stephanie Dohrer asked if Dr. Stange could remind parents that students should wear helmets.

PTO News: Dr. Stange said that parents should have received the PTO Friday News Extra yesterday. He revealed that he and Andrea are still decided whether it will be separate to his Weekly News, or attached, and stated that if it is separate it may be sent on the first Monday of the month. Anne Peterson asked if we could embed the news, rather than having a link, so that parents can easily access it.

Dr. Mary Frances Greene, MF Principal

Dr. Greene relayed that they are off to a great start. She divulged that they started the year with 193 students (which is what they ended last year with also) – there are 47 Kindergarteners this year, and 12 new students in 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grades. Dr. Greene stated that they are currently getting into their routines, performing Safe Place Drills, Bus Safety Drills and the children are learning the rules.

Lice Checks: this coming Friday, September 15th.

Picture Day: September 22nd.

Curriculum Night: September 28th.

STEAM School Program: September 29th. Dr. Greene revealed that the students are excited for it and added that there will be Grade level segments.

Dr. Greene noted that the Winnetka and Northfield school districts are the primary members of the Alliance for Early Childhood. She revealed that the National Alliance is coming to the area on November 6th for a presentation on outdoor play and to observe our recesses. They will also observe at the Nursery School. Dr. Greene divulged that she is always looking for ideas on how to improve recess options.

Dr. Greene revealed that 2 teachers are expecting at the end of September - Mrs. Schieffer and Senora Dengsavang. She revealed that she and Dr. Sukenik spent many hours finding substitutes this summer, and they are very pleased with the experience of the subs they ultimately chose. Mrs. Victorn, a SRS alumnus who taught 6th-8th for many years at SRS, will substitute for Mrs. Schieffer.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Dr. Sukenik divulged that Dr. Stange was being modest when he said the new building is merely ‘functional’. She said it is magnificent. She revealed that 5th Grade ate outside yesterday for the first time, and added that the playground is now complete. She noted that the students did great with indoor recess last week, whether they went to the Maker Space Room, or Learning Center, or Gym.

Dr. Sukenik thanked the PTO for the Back to School Luncheon. She added that SRS welcomed 22 new students last week and noted that current students have been exceptionally welcoming and inclusive with them, which she feels is a testament to the parents in the District.

Dr. Sukenik revealed that students are voting on what to call the Learning Stairs, and noted that “Stairs” is actually a misnomer. They took an initial survey of 7th and 8th Graders, and then sent the top 3 results to the rest of the student body for votes. She said it is neck and neck right now, so it will be very excited to see the final result.

Dr. Sukenik informed us that students have evidently found locking their bikes to be particularly challenging. She asks that we remind our kids to walk their bikes on school property to the road. Lisa Challenger asked if there had ever been any thought given to have a SRS Safety Patrol of sorts. Dr. Sukenik responded that she doesn’t think that might go very well given that the worst offenders seem to be the 8th Graders themselves.

Author Visit: Dr. Sukenik reminded us that the first Author Visit of the year would take place today, which has the kids very excited. She added that she believes the new relationship with the Book Stall will be fantastic.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Dr. Sukenik reminded us that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony would take place this evening at 5PM, and it will also feature the world premiere of the students’ film project. She revealed that the students had a lot of fun making the film, and a lot of takes! She added that she will post it to the website.

Lice Checks: Thursday, September 14th.

Safety Drills: Friday, September 15th.

Picture Day: Friday, September 15th.

MAP Testing: Dr. Sukenik revealed that testing will take place on September 18th. She noted that because all the kids now have chromebooks, and the school has doubled their bandwidth, SRS will be able to test everyone at the same time.

Curriculum Night: Tuesday, September 19th.

Extracurriculars: Dr. Sukenik revealed that Extracurriculars will begin after MAP Testing. She added that 4th Grade has been meeting with her to set-up new clubs.

Second Cup: September 26th – for 8th Grade parents.

Spiritwear: SRS Spiritwear is currently on sale through the end of the month on MySchoolBucks.

Teacher Representative:

There was no Teacher Representative this month.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: JILL MIRKOVIC

Jill revealed that the School Board is currently working on a Strategic Plan for the next 3-5 years. She informed us that they kicked-off the process with a Board Retreat at SRS on Saturday. Jill added that they will be seeking parent, faculty and administrative input throughout the process, which is expected to take a year.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Tom Whittaker

Seconded by: Tara Subeck