

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO**  
**Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am**  
**Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Sandy Norbot at 9:01am**  
**Approval of February, 2023 Minutes – No corrections, stand as approved.**

Presidents Report:

*Sandy Norbot, PTO President*

**Fundraising campaign**

Big thank you to everybody who have donated so far- all 18 families so far! Slow start, hoping for more donations over the next two weeks. Log into [Myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com)- go to mid year fundraiser, you can donate that way. Or you can write a check to the Sunset Ridge Middlefork PTO- any contribution is appreciated!

Spring break- next meeting April 8<sup>th</sup>- last evening meeting of the school year. It is a big one, we present the proposed budget for next year. Another reason to have the fundraising wrapped up by spring break. We also present the slate for the PTO for the following year. We will vote on the budget and slate in May, where it becomes official for the next school year.

Treasurer Report:

*Yena Levinson, Treasurer*

Total bank balance of \$94,426.67. The report shows what has been spent and also what is going to be spent throughout the remainder of the year. Left with about \$44,000 at the end of the year, especially if there are no additional funds raised from the letter campaign.

Please cash the PTO checks in your possession.

If you have any ideas for your position, like if the budget should be bigger or decreased or ideas for other events/activities. We want the budget as accurate as possible for the following year.

Legislative Report:

*Tricia Gainsberg*

Re-emphasize that this is the perfect time to address if your board position requires a bigger budget, or you are not utilizing your budget. We would like to see the board reports all updated and accurate. This helps us to understand how a position may have changed during the year. Also, the more information we can put on the website the easier it is for future board volunteers to understand the roles. Please update your board report by **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Template for the board report on the [website](#).

Community Update:

*Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

Police department working on our budget as well, hopefully approved in April and starts May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Last three years has been a never ending process of hiring officers. On Friday, I will be swearing in a new officer, and presenting her to the board in the April board meeting. We have not had a female officer in 9 years, we are thrilled about it.

We had somebody write a check for \$118,000 and left with a car at the Fields dealership. There were no funds in that account to support that car. The car was then totaled in an accident, and she did the same scam again in Naperville. She was charged with felony theft, you do not have to post bond so was released her right away, she is a serial car thief, hopefully she will show up in court.

One of our state unfunded mandates beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 is that each officer will be required to have a body camera. We were able to get some grants so we can have the tech up and running by the deadline.

Staffing levels report, we have about a month left of the study to determine if our staffing levels are sufficient for our department.

Scooters, not getting much better. Watched three boys on Riverside pull right off sidewalk into the street and block the road. The boys were not looking at traffic, and they don't belong on the street. Please help me make this safer for our kids and cars in Northfield. Any ideas on ways to enforce this without sending an office our, please reach out.

Administration Reports:

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

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024- 100 Anniversary commemorative ceremony. Very important celebration with some speeches, an ariel photo. 1:15-2:15pm in the afternoon. More to come

5 essential survey for parents is out. Please see the Friday news to view the links to complete the survey.

The most recent Parent connections in person meeting, we spoke about how the district can improve in communication, support for parents and involvement of families. Feedback about the zoom format, defeating the dialog engagement. How can the parent connection format be more engaging.

Board meeting: E-learning plan on the board agenda. What this means is after the pandemic, the state allowed school district get approved a plan for e-learning plans – if you decide to close for weather (for example) you have an option to do e-learning for that day vs. making up at the end of the year. It is a good insurance policy to have. We would like to have one on file for the state board of ed as an Insurance policy just in case we need it.

The Board of education committee meeting topic is World Languages, thank you for all your feedback on the programs. 5:30pm tomorrow night we will talk about what info we have collected on World languages, and we will make a decision about next steps.

*Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal*

Thank you for the PTO for sponsoring Megan Freeman's author visit. Alone is a wonderful book!

Starting next week is IAR testing at SR for most grade levels. We have 3 math tests, and 3 ELA tests. Please make sure your kids are sleeping and eating a good breakfast!

Friday news last week noted we are starting to work on classes for the 2024/2025 school year. Parents please send either one of us any relevant information that would help in building classes for next school year.

Ensembles are performing on Thursday night.

Student Ambassadors have been collecting notebooks and now switching to bars of soap.

Next week we have phenomenal PTO leaders coming in to do some work with our students for Teacher Appreciation. They are working on some really nice things for teachers, which will be funny and meaningful.

We just ended the second trimester so we will be contacting families who have kids had a higher than 10% absence rate. We want to make sure families are aware if their child has an excess numbers of tardies. How many days is 10%? I think it is 12 days cumulative.

*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal*

Introduce you to a Middlefork Teacher, Lauren Chasenski, our reading specialist. She has made such a huge impact on our students reading growth. We are grateful to have her on our staff.

Author visits, we have a virtual author visit in 2 days Maddie Frost, who is the Author of Wombats! graphic novels series. We have two more in April, and one in May. Of those three, one is live theater, thank you to the PTO for bringing live theater to us.

Thank all the parents who continue to step up day in and day out, including the extra ones in the lunch room for the Green initiatives. You would be really impressed to see how the kids are

responding to sorting the trash, and learning about all the ways our green initiatives are helping our earth.

Cookies and conversations is tomorrow morning at Middlefork at 8:45am. Small group opportunity to chat in person about family engagement. Learn a little more about everybody's hopes and dreams. If you are interested please come by Middlefork at 8:45am.

We are reaching out for parent input for the following school year and class building. Looping has been brought to the attention of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parents – this is where your child would continue with the same class from 4<sup>th</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. You have an opportunity to opt out of the program.

Last half day before spring break is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are planning a special day, with lots of school wide and grade level community building activities. Reading buddies and bucket drumming, to name a few. Specials team has been working with me to plan this special day.

3<sup>rd</sup> graders will participate in the IAR testing the week of April 8<sup>th</sup>

Save the date for our Student showcase/spring concert on K-1<sup>st</sup> is May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2-3<sup>rd</sup> grade is May 28<sup>th</sup>. Combination of Portfolio night, art show and spring concert. One night where we celebrate the whole child.

Question on looping -there were questions and discussion regarding looping, the potential disadvantages and the benefits, as well as the process for creating classes and resolving issues

### School Board Report

*Jenny Damon*

School board meeting is tomorrow at 5:30pm, regular meeting is at 7pm. Regular meeting will be discussing the athletics no cut policy. What are the guidelines for a large cohort interested in playing a sport? Collective bargaining is making good progress and hope to have agreements soon.

### Committee Reports:

*Nominating Chair, Christie Caceres*

Thank you all for raising your hands and volunteering your time for next year. We started with a clean slate again this year and that works really well. We have a great line up that we will present next month- one committee that is a little short for next year is the family fun fair. Please let us know if that one is of interest to you.

Board reports are important to help us navigate creating the new slate for the following year. We will be coordinating knowledge transfers, so new board members can hear any best practices from the past position holder.

More to come on the slate at next meeting.

Sandy: There are so many ways to volunteer and participate- everything adds up and so helpful for the heads of the chairs. Do not hesitate to reach out and help in any way you can.

*100 Year Anniversary Committee, Jeanine Rashkow (House and Grounds, Spring fun fair chair)*  
Currently working on looking for the perfect tree, reaching out to Alumni, and creating some fun  
Thank you to Jeanine Rashkow, who is heading the committee. The tree is in a sunny spot, near the soccer and basketball field- any ideas are welcome.

*Parent Connections, Dan Friedman*

Survey results review at the next meeting. Are the videos being watched?

Is there a mechanism to document who watching the slide deck or watching the recording? Can they give feedback on the information?

Google form, recommended by the parent.

Dr. Stange: Its been good that we have the format and slide deck, but what we are missing out on is the opportunity to have dialog. Being on a lot of zoom meetings, you don't speak as much as if you are in the room together. Evolution, how do we meet the need of disseminating information but also sparking dialog and feedback. That is the challenge moving forward.

Next Parent Connections meeting is Wednesday March 20th at 9:00 am on Zoom, Christie Crabtree is coming in talking about World languages and talking about next steps. Link for the zoom on the [Sunset Ridge website on the google calendar](#), click on that and zoom link is in there. Calendar that feeds into the PTO website as well..

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned -9:49am Adjourned by Sandy Norbot  
Minutes compiled by : Emily LeMire, Secretary