

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Monday, February 12, 2024 7:00pm
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

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

Presidents Report:

Sandy Norbot, PTO President

- Greeting
- March meeting will be at 9am
- April meeting will be in the evening – last evening meeting of the school year; significant meeting as it will include two important items – (i) slate for 2024-25 PTO Board will be presented and (ii) 2024-2025 PTO budget will be proposed
- May meeting – vote on final slate and budget

- Fundraising campaign
- - Should receive a letter from Sandy soon asking for donations which can be made via check or the MySchoolBucks website

Treasurer Report:

Yena Levinson, Treasurer – (Sandy Norbot gave report)

-Total bank balance of \$ 97,962.85

-Last room parent checks are cut and were delivered to school offices around Feb 2- room parents should pick them up.

-Continue to submit expenses to Yena for reimbursement and use tax-exempt form when shopping.

-Current board members should give feedback on their current year budget – was it enough? / do you have ideas for next year? Feedback from the current board members will be taking into consideration when developing next year's budget.

Community Update:

Chief Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

- Have been testing to try and hire new officers to keep up with retirements and other departures.
- 9 years since a female officer has been on the Northfield police force; a female candidate has tested through successfully and we are hoping to hire her.
- Budget time for police is occurring now. Police budget will be approved May 1
- Crime: Sunday early morning individuals tried to break into the gas station at Willow and Sunset Ridge Road using 3 stolen cars from Skokie. Discovered by customer.
- Residential crime has been down, not a residential burglary since May.

Administration Reports:

Mrs. Kellie Johnson, Teacher Representative

- Looking forward to seeing everyone at parent teacher conferences on Thursday
- If you have signed up for a virtual conference, District 29 is using a new platform called Google Meets. Oscar is holding office hours on Tuesday from 1-3:30pm to help users with Google Meets, the new technology for conferences.

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

- Long weekend coming up- conferences on Thursday, institute on Friday and holiday on Monday
- 100th day of school on Monday
- Kicked off marketing of 100th anniversary district with video- April 12,2024 is the exact date of the 100th anniversary.
- Planning to gather entire district on April 12th at site of original school for remarks and ariel photo of students, staff and anyone who wants to be a part of it (Community members, graduates)
- If anyone has 1920's clothing to be used in the photo booths, speak up
- If anyone wants to volunteer to help with the 100th year anniversary celebration, speak up
- Feedback received about parent engagement opportunities in district – the District intends to actively live its mission of cultivating parent partnerships. At tomorrow's Board meeting, parent engagement will be discussed. There is a document available through the Board agenda that shows what current opportunities exist and what potential opportunities are being talked about. First thing is to dispel misunderstandings about what currently exists. Ed is thinking about the Parent Connections Forum – next meeting is Feb 21. Ed wants to switch to an in-person meeting. The focus will be to have a conversation and get feedback about how to improve parent engagement – how the District communicates with parents; how the District gives opportunities to parents for feedback and voice on decisions; how does the District support parents as educational partners; and how the District provides parents opportunities to volunteer in the schools. As discussions happen, Ed asks for understanding and respect that they are trying to balance parent access with other factors, including safety, security, educational continuity, privacy, amongst other factors.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

- -This past Saturday – students performed at solo and ensemble competition in Highland Park
- -Hosted state robotic competition at SRS for first time this weekend. Exciting, stressful and a dramatic event. Several teams from SRS won big awards at this culminating event of the robotic season.
- -RACK week – Random Acts of Kindness is next week, encouraging random acts of kindness at school and at home.
- -Early March – Megan Friedman coming for author visit. She wrote Alive. Will present to 4-7th graders.

- Penny Wars for past 2 weeks. 100% student led. Exceeded expectations in terms of donations received. Raised thousands of dollars for Northern Illinois Food Bank. Mr. Wilkinson's class won and will take field trip to the Northern Illinois Food Bank to do volunteer work.
- Scholastic Team competing at Northwestern tournament this weekend
- Boys Volleyball team is 3-0 in conference play.
- Rehearsals underway for Seussical the Musical with performances in early May

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

- Excited for parent teacher conferences and connections that will occur. Moving to Google Meets vs. Zoom for conferences. Would be helpful to download Google Meets app to your phone if you will have signed up for a virtual conference.
- Completed Kindergarten Music performances. Interactive experiences with parents, grandparents, and other guests. Smaller, intimate venue. Peek into life of kindergarten student.
- Valentine parties will occur on Wednesday. Appreciate room parent and volunteer efforts.
- Appreciate additional lunchroom volunteers supporting green initiatives. Have asked for 2 more parent volunteers per lunch period. Students feel proud to reduce food waste via recycling and composting. Shout out to Sara Cohen for training parents and getting efforts off the ground. Formed Green Guardian Club with 1st graders who will help with the recycling efforts in the future.
- Exploring more parent volunteer opportunities for the future, including help with spring concerts or welcoming guests to writing celebrations. Or incorporating more volunteers into classroom parties.

Sandy: Thank you, lunchroom volunteers, for efforts all year. Reach out to Laura Hendricks if you are having issues or need help getting 5 people from your group into the lunchroom every assigned day. Also, fill out form if you want to be added to the lunchroom sub list.

<https://on.loud.us/d29-lunch-sub>

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School Board Report

Abigail Joseph & Jennifer Damon (Dr. Ed Stange gave report)

- BOARD MEETING TOMORROW AT 5:30
 - Ed: Heavy finance and facilities agenda. Moody's annual credit report is on agenda.

- Moody's rates the district every year – current rating is Triple A. Important considering potential Middlefork facilities project and the potential for financing. Other agenda item relates to district investments. District investments were linked with Northbrook schools via a “treasury”. That treasury is disbanding. District 29 needs to withdraw from that treasury and set up its own processes for investments.
- Middlefork capital improvement project – working with architect Wight + Co. (They designed the new Sunset Ridge School & the New Trier HS additions/renovations), on possible options for improving Middlefork. Met with Middlefork staff last week regarding needs and feedback on what is lacking.

Committee Reports:

Christie Caceres, Nominating Chair (Ranjini Shankar gave report)

Christie is pulling together PTO slate for next year. Email Christie if interested in a particular role. Check out PTO website for more information on roles. Intention is that no one will be turned away if interested in contributing time to the PTO.

8th Grade Chairs (Sandy Norbot gave report)

- o Ivy: 8th grade chairs are doing amazing work and quickly changed venues for dance.
- o Sandy: Events and treats throughout 8th grade year are special. Parents help to fund these events through 8th grade fee. This year PTO funded 8th grade dance that occurred last Friday, which was successful and well-timed.

Maria Mastroianni, Author Visits Middlefork

- -Maria: Illustrators and authors have visited throughout year. Theater production company coming April 30 to present Lyle, Lyle Crocodile.
- -Kelly Johnson: Working closely with the Book Stall for author visits. A couple of author visits have occurred that were free. And a couple more are upcoming that are aligned with book awards.

Tricia Gainsberg, Author Visits Sunset Ridge (Sandy Norbot gave report)

- Sandy: Author coming to speak to 4-7th graders as mentioned above

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned -7:41pm Adjourned by Sandy Norbot
Minutes compiled by : Karie Smith, Assistant Treasurer