

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Monday, September 11th, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Sandy Norbot
The minutes from the May 9, 2023 meeting were approved

Presidents Report:

Sandy Norbot, PTO President

Welcome, and thank you to the parent volunteers! Your efforts working lunch duty, being a room parent, taking on a board position, or any other of the opportunities that come up during the year make a huge difference. It all adds up and is very appreciated.

District29pto.org – did a little tour of the website and showing each board member how to access their spot/section. Showed where forms and resources are, etc.

Legislative Report:

Tricia Gainsberg, Legislative,

Quorum, need to vote on the new PTO bylaws. We need 16 of the 47 chair positions. Sandy made a motion to approve, and then Trisha seconds that notion. 34 yes's, 0 no's. Approval of the bylaw changes as there were no oppositions.

Treasurer Report:

Yena Levinson, Treasurer

Budget was approved last spring and there is a category next to the line item with the name of who has the board position (that is your budget). This is on the PTO website under what we fund.

The current balance is \$107,326.38. Broken out by checking and savings. For those who do not know how to submit reimbursements, there is a blurb on how to resubmit. Please use tax exempt, we do not reimburse tax. I try and get that out within a weeks time. Those forms can be found on the website.

First check for room parents will be October 15th, just before Halloween. Any other funds that come in after that, that will be cut closer to the holiday party.

Remember to go to Myschoolbucks.com, and pay the PTO dues & classroom party fees. . We are aiming to get all this in by October 13th!

Community Update:

Sandy Norbot for Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

September 11th is a day to remember all of those who lost their lives and who survived 22 years ago. There is a ceremony at the Northfield Fire station which Chief Lustig is attending. He is normally here to give the community update, but he is at the ceremony today. You see the engine has the ladder up with the American flag hanging, which is very impactful!

Administration Reports:

Chris Roberts, Teacher Representative

Good morning, if I have not had the opportunity to meet you I hope to soon. I am a 7th grade teacher and have been in the district for 23 years! My time in the district demonstrate the kind of community we have, it is a place teachers want to stay and you as parents are a huge part of that!

We appreciate everybody who came to the back-to-school nights at both schools. I had a PTO rep in my classroom which was very helpful. Thank you for collecting all the room dues, and we appreciate all the room parents' volunteers! The kids do love seeing their parents at school!

The next official time we have to connect with parents is Thursday October 19th for fall conferences. You will be getting many reminders; we really want to see you there. If you are at all able, we look forward to talking to you at conferences.

We are going to try to have a teacher at each of the meetings, if there is ever anything you want brought back to the teacher community, please let us know. I went to the final meeting last year, which was right after teacher appreciation week and now am equally excited to be at the first meeting this year in anticipation of all the amazing things we will do together. Please reach out, we want to keep the lines of communication between parents and teachers.

Abigail- thanked the teachers for their presence at the beginning of the year, all your hard work and attendance at back-to-school night.

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Good morning, all! I see some new faces, welcome if you are new to the meeting or new to the district.

Want to shower you with gratitude, the welcome back signage, school supplies kits, back to school luncheon, lunch volunteers, etc. We cannot do this without you. Sincere gratitude for all you do throughout the year.

Safety and security, we had a external safety and security audit a few years back. Hired John Heiderscheidt, trainer for the state board of Ed, and he is an ongoing consultant in our district.

He worked with us this summer revising our emergency plans. Closed session with Board of Ed about the perceptions of the district and our plans. He was here for opening day with staff, and will continue to work with grade levels and on our emergency plans.

One change to our plan is that historically they have a soft lockdown, or hard lockdown- our recommendation was to create some space between those. As I sent out in a separate email, we have three emergency protocols 1. Secure building, remain indoors. May restrict movement in the building or not. 2. Lockdown protocol for a specific threat, students and staff are assigned to specific areas- nobody leaving or coming into the building. 3. Active intruder, that becomes Lockdown with options- if you can escape and get out of the building we encourage that, or we are going back to lockdown protocol where the areas designated.

If any of these go on you will get communication from the district. The anxiety this creates but we ask that you do not come to the school.

First responders, we met with Mike Nystrand, Mike Hutensky and Tom Hanus to review the emergency protocols. They provide some informational assemblies... and some fun things like how Commander Hanis does the Tournament of Eagles. Team building between teachers and students! It is wonderful for our students to know the police staff in a engaging and friendly way!

We have sent out communication about Illinois School code, bullying and Harassment. The things you need to know is that the definition of bullying has changed. The administrator is required to investigate all the alleged bullying, and the parents are notified. Any reports of bullying and harassment go to the state of Illinois.

April 12th 2024, officially 100th birthday of District 29. Plans to celebrate that anniversary, and looking forward to anybody who wants to get involved.

Next parent connections meeting is September 20th at 9am. This is an intimate to connect and learn more about what is happening in the district. At the next meeting we will discuss the topics for the year and reviewing new initiatives. We are going to do the same scheduling as the PTO, we are going to alternate day and evening meetings. If you are interested in attending, parent section on the school [website](#) and click on Parent connections.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Good morning, so exciting to see so many faces at our PTO meetings. I love how active this district is. The PTO really helped to kick off the school year! From attending the Kindergarten Meet and Greet, to the welcome back signs and the teacher luncheon. It made the staff feel so appreciated, thank you.

Two of our district curriculum initiatives are highlighted. Update on RULER: our classrooms have been class room charters. Classes are working on agreements about how we want to feel in our rooms, and what we are going to do to reach that ideal. We are talking about the importance of feelings. In the first grade class rooms I have heard “I am feeling unsure about this” , it is

pretty powerful. Thank you to the SR Ruler Reps, at both schools back to school nights. We will have a parent information zoom on October 2nd at 10am, that is more for K-5 focus. On October 2nd at 7pm at 6-9th grade focus. Thursday Nov 9th 5:30pm at Sunset Ridge, all district families, we invite and encourage you to attend.

Math curriculum, we have begun K-5 using Number corner. Its key focus is deepening their understanding and talk about Math in an engaging way. Our 6th grade students are joining 7-8 grades using CPM.

We have had such a smooth start to the year, including welcoming our 43 new kindergarteners, and 11 new students in general. Back to school night had an electric vibe, everybody was excited to see their kids classrooms, and talk to each other. It was hard to clear the halls!

Bike safety week, annual ride of passage will begin next week – Monday presentation by the Police department , and Mrs. Kasper will be doing all the lessons with the 3rd graders. Road course on Friday Sept 22nd, we will reaching out for some parent volunteers. Thank you in advance as your help makes that event go smoothly.

Finally, is anybody available to give 10-15 mins on a weekday, I would love driveway volunteers. Especially the kindergarteners have a hard time opening the car doors. Please send me an email if you are interested in helping!

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

I cannot echo enough the sentiment that our start to the year has been fantastic. There was very little time before we got into academics, and extra curriculars. We are in the midst of completing our state mandated drills. We are so fortunate to have such a strong relationship with our first responders. They do two different presentations do an overview of what is happening in the neighborhood and to talk about curfew, cyber bullying, safety. Tournament of Eagles is where a homeroom/advisor partners up with a student and competes in a low stakes competition. It is great for police presence in the friendly and approachable ways!

This year we have our first Sunset Ridge Cross Country program. We did not do the soccer program, and the kids asked about Cross Country. We have a great group, first meet last week and they did great. The girls Volleyball has their first game this week.

Our student ambassadors are working hard on increasing school spirit and ways to encourage community engagement.

8th grade parent informational meeting is set to talk about graduation, etc. and we hear from the 8th grade committee. This group is in for a great year!

School Board Report

Abigayil Joseph & Jennifer Damon

Congratulations to the new PTO slate, thank you for your service.

It is amazing to see so many people on this zoom, shows how engaged our district is!

Board meeting, tomorrow September 12th at 5:30pm to kick off the school year. Lots we are going on! Big event, is a public hearing on the budget. Anybody that is interested in hearing about or commenting on the budget should come. FY24 school budget: first will be a hearing on the budget and then voting on the budget.

At the opening day lunch, three teachers were celebrated for work anniversaries! This really shows what a great environment we are cultivating for our teachers that they stay for so many wonderful years.

Ms. Bozeday, 20 years.

Ms. Balin and Ms. Johnson 25 years

We have a new position, head of teaching and learning. Ms. Crabtree is off to a great start. She has done a lot of wonderful things with the data. That is really important, as it helps us understand and gauge how are students are doing.

We will be talking about enrollment at this board meeting. Middlefork is down 4 student, and Sunset ridge was up 1 student. We are known for our lower class sizes still at 18.

With our 100 year anniversary, this will be an exciting time for our community. Please get involved, we look forward to our community involvement.

Committee Reports:

Sandy Norbot – School Supply Kits

We worked with First Day again this year, and it is a nice convenient program to just pay online for the supplies and they end up at school on the first day. In the past, we would have that as a fundraiser, but this program is just competitive pricing for our parents. There is no additional fundraising that goes along with this.

Sandy Norbot, Directory Spot

Download the directory spot app! Please fill out the google form so you can be uploaded into the directory spot. You put in the information for each child in the district and you will be put into the Directory Spot system, and get a prompt for an email to log in. Get information on other parents in the district to be able to schedule play dates, etc! Our room parents use this program to communicate with you as well.

Google form will close on September 19th- please fill out the form and we will make sure you get set up in the directory. Please email sandynorbot@yahoo.com to get access to the google form to be added to the directly.

Sandy Norbot, Welcome Chair Updates (Ice Cream Social)

We pair up new families with a welcome family which is a great program! The new families can reach out to this mentor family to help them in their transition or with any general questions. Ice Cream Social for new district families is at Clarkson Park Thursday the 14th 4:30-6:30pm .

Dan Friedman, Parent Connections

Next parent connections meeting is September 20th at 9am. This is an intimate to connect and learn more about what is happening in the district. At the next meeting we will discuss the topics for the year and reviewing new initiatives. We are going to do the same scheduling as the PTO, we are going to alternate day and evening meetings. If you are interested in attending, parent section on the school [website](#) and click on Parent connections.

Hillary Bufalino, 6th grade social dance

Jess Adams and I are the chairs for 6th grade social dance. There are four dances, two consecutive and then a break and two more after the holiday The dance company has been booked and save the date and sign up coming soon!

January 26th, February 2, February 23 , March 1 from 7 - 8pm

Tricia Gainsberg, Alliance for Early Childhood

Dana Santostefano is traveling today so I will give the summary There are two parent programs upcoming! District 29 and Middlefork School is a member school of the alliance so these programs are free and open to the public. You can sign up to visit on zoom. There is a lets play on September 30th, my kids loved that. Tinker school of Chicago comes to play with all sorts of fun things! It is very fun! And then there is Nourished, on September 28th.
September 28th 7-8pm: [Nourished: Connection, Food, and Caring for our Kids \(and everyone else we love\)](#)
September 30th 10am-1pm [Lets Play, Fort Building](#). Lloyd Park 79 Sheridan Road Winnetka.

Robin Decker & Christine O'Neil, Fall Event – Movie in the Park,

Christine and I are doing the Movie in the park event. October 20th, Friday night. 5-6pm, start time. We will be showing Super Mario Brothers, the movie. We will have some snacks and more details will be coming.

Kristin Galbraith, Communications, Social Media & Website,

I am just here to do a plug for any of the events you are attending or want to post about. We would love to have photos If you are attending one of these events!

I have a link to the google drive but the easiest is to send me the photos via text and I can organize in the drive!

Cell phone: text me at 847.431.4717

If you have an event, please let me know something poste on social media or update on the website.

Follow District29pto on Instagram and facebook!

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned : 9:48am - Adjourned by Sandy Norbot.

Minutes compiled by : Emily LeMire, Secretary