

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO**  
**Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9am**  
**Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Christie Caceres**

**Approval of April 11, 2023 Minutes: Approved by Emily LeMire and Patricia Gainsberg**

Presidents Report:

*Christie Caceres, PTO President*

We confirmed we had a quorum, so proceeded with the votes.

*Budget Vote* – Motion to approve the budget: Bridget Kennedy and Patricia Gainsberg  
We had a majority YES vote and no opposed. Budget for 2023/2024 was passed

*PTO committee Nomination Slate Vote*- Motion to approve the PTO Nomination slate: Erica Marinello and Gretchen Peyton. We had a majority YES vote and no opposed. Slate for 2023/2024 was approved.

President Elect Report:

*Sandy Norbot, PTO President Elect*

PTO Committee Transition Meeting, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 9am – via zoom. We will email out all the information soon. This is for our current board and incoming board members for next year. This is an informational meeting about your role and going into the school year how you plan your projects for the year. Please try your best to make it, email myself or Christie if you are not able to make it. Hopefully not that long of a meeting, but people can share their lessons learned to help the committee chairs for next year. After the meeting we will ask current board members to meet with the incoming board position to help with a quick transfer and to answer questions. Sandy: [sandynorbot@yahoo.com](mailto:sandynorbot@yahoo.com) or Christie: [christiecaceres@me.com](mailto:christiecaceres@me.com).

Treasurer Report:

*Kori Pierce, Treasurer*

The current balance is \$140,355.47. With this being the last meeting please send in your reimbursements asap! I want to get all the checks cut, all reimbursements are paid out to date.

Legislative Report:

*Ericka Foster, Legislative*

Quick update about how we took a review of the bylaws this year. We made those changes and will be posting those to the website. We will be asking the new board to approve the changes to the bylaws. Please take a look at the changes and confirm you are comfortable with the changes.

Clean up, updating the chairs- active descriptions. Please take a quick look, you will see a redline where the changes are.

Christie- thank you Ericka for getting out bylaws into an electronic format! It had been a while since we had gone through them and this was a lot of work. Thank you!

Community Update:

*Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

Good morning! One of the new officers went back to Chicago. We are out looking for a new officer again. A week and a half ago, we had a burglary. They park about a block away from the house. The burglary was on Bracken Lane and was substantial. A few of the residents in the area saw the car parked on Jeffrey and walked down there, but had hard time communicating with the couple in the car – those were the burglars. If you suspect a suspicious car, please call us. They walked back to their house and did not get a license plate. Please call in those cars and take down the license plate.

Officers are going through a lot of training. We had to finish a 5 hour mental health training. All of us have to do the state mandated training. Working to get all state training done.

Please let us know if there is anything we can help you with. I am easy to find. Thanks!

Administration Reports:

*Chris Roberts, Teacher Representative*

For those of you who are not familiar with who I am, I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Sunset Ridge and primarily teach Social Studies. I look forward to meeting you in the future. On behalf of the teachers, thank you for making teacher appreciation so special for us. This week comes at the perfect time of year when we are powering through the home stretch. It renews us to have your appreciation. Thank you for making this time so special.

We do have several open houses at the end of the year – student showcases, or evening with the Eagles. It is a special time to see what your child has been working on during the year.

Christie- thank you so much for being here! It means so much to us that the PTO can show how much we appreciate you.

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

Chris just stole my intro- It cannot be said enough. There is a life cycle to the school year and May is a hard time of the year. Thank you collectively to the parents and PTO who express their appreciation. It is so impactful, thank you.

We do an Arbor Day planting of a tree each year. The Village did a dedication to Bryan Albro this year, a Science teacher who passed away. Thank you to the village for that gift.

The education committee is covering our strategic plan progress, and priorities for next year. I will do the presentation at the Parent connections meeting next week. Or watch the video after.

At the board meeting next week, we are making the biggest investment. We are recommending hiring a dedicated reading specialist, dedication school social worker, and director of teaching and learning.

Be on the lookout, we have a refresh cycle for our tech devices. We sell the old laptops to a company. We will be offering the Apple MacBook Pro's to parents in the district first before selling to the company. There, about 50-60 for sale. \$245/piece. We do not provide tech support after they are out. Be on the lookout after the announcement.

*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal (Covering for Ivy)*

Chris Roberts said it so beautifully, Ivy and I want to reiterate that you have outdone yourselves once again. Both the tangible and intangible signs of appreciation. Showing kids in their favorite outfits and heartfelt notes pouring in. Thank you!

We have been training our staff in this year in the RULER program and we are having a RULER Boot camp for the PTO exec board and liaisons to start the conversation about what RULER is. Ivy has been working with some 5/6 grade students who will be sharing what this program is. We will have more info soon.

Thank you for Christie and the outgoing exec board, flexibility, and support. It has been a pleasure collaborating with you. Thank you for helping provide our students and staff so many amazing opportunities.

Middlefork News- thank you for funding two of our upcoming literary programs and events.  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> virtual author visit with Joanna Ho.  
May 30<sup>th</sup>, in person fractured fairy tale event

Third graders will be riding over to the Ridge to watch the Peter Pan performance. We will take buses if the weather does not cooperate. This helps to practice bike safety as well as getting to know their new school.

At the beginning of June we will have our annual 3/4<sup>th</sup> grade transition day. The students and parents will tour the school and learn more about 4<sup>th</sup> grade and sunset ridge and get to tour the school.

Student Showcase night- May 18<sup>th</sup>, and May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Like a self-guided tour to see everything from what they have been learning in the classroom, to laps in the gym, or to see a recording of our students folk dancing. We will be highlighting certain aspects of their year.

We will be having field day, Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Parent volunteers needed, and Ms. Casper will be in touch.

Question: What is RULER approach? It comes from the Yale school of emotional intelligence. Working through ways to Regulate and get along with others... Beautiful approach to social emotional learning.

Christie: May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm is when the Exec Board and Chairs will be invited to the boot camp. I was waiting for the slate to get approved; anybody can join and it will be recorded.

*Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal (Updated given by Jennifer Kiedaisch)*

Baby photos of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been a huge hit – thank you to Jess Akaah and Evelyn Schwall.

Congratulations to Isaac Bowden, Lucas Lai and Jackson Chilwich for representing the SRS Robotics team at the World Championships last weekend!

Peter Pan will be performed this weekend with shows on Thursday and Friday evenings.

Bold and Crispy student club is coming over to Middlefork, next week, to share some read alouds about empathy. We are excited to host them here and build the connections between the buildings.

### School Board Report

*Abigayil Joseph*

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

For this month the education committee meeting- looking at the progress for the past year but also the priorities for the coming year/years. I wanted to put out a call, if you have questions about the academic progress or things they want to know more about. Email me please as this is a planning meeting. It is helpful to hear from you. [josephab@srd29.org](mailto:josephab@srd29.org)

I am excited about my new education committee, we have divided and concurred already!

May is a big month, all around. For the kids and for Staff and board. New policies that we will be approving, new budget we will be approving, contracts for transportation and Copiers, and new hires. Hope you can join us.

### Committee Reports:

*Erica Foster – Teacher Appreciation Week*

Kelly Caruso, Mallory Ruh, Rose Wormley, Adrienne Hannis- thank you so much! Kelly has kept us extremely organized. We have had a ton of activities going on. Posters around the school, trivia around the school for teachers, flowers for all the teachers and sweet treats. Tomorrow is the teacher appreciation luncheon. Thursday we will be delivering a coffee bar. Friday we are asking parents to have kids write notes for their teachers, send your notes back whenever you are able too! Notes in the Friday news that went out yesterday! Remind your friends to do this as well!

Thank you Rose Wormley who did the teacher appreciation gifts- Cubs tickets, John Legend tickets, Sephora, Athleta, bottle shop, so many great gifts people donated.

I encourage everybody to reach out to your teacher, we have such a great team at Middlefork and Sunset Ridge.

Christie: So much planning, thank you!

*Ranjini Shankar, Family Fun Fair*

June 7<sup>th</sup> 3:30-7pm. We have a pretty great line up. Tumblers, all the inflatables, climbing wall, airbrush tattoos, Stormy's and Kona Ice. Library partnership with a craft. Scavenger hunt. Fun event! None of this will happen without a lot of help, we need parent volunteers. We need adults and students to help out! When the link goes out, please sign up! If you have any questions please let me know. [ranjkrish88@gmail.com](mailto:ranjkrish88@gmail.com)

Christie- thank you so much for all your hard work!

*Jessica Akaah, Rebekah Bader, Jenny Gallagher, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chairs*

We want to shout out to Evelyn Schwall for a great job with the baby photos! Photos are up in the cafeteria, most 8th graders participated in the contest last week and winners will be announced soon.

Also we will celebrate the end of the year with a graduation party on Sunday June 4 - dinner and dancing at Sunset Ridge Country Club for the graduates.

We hope it has been a fun and memorable year for our 8th graders.

The 8th grade chairs- thanks for you for all your hard work!

*Seong McGarry, Parent Connections*

In April we met with Dr. Stange to discuss the foreign language program with Bob Cummings from New Trier as our guest. That presentation is available on the schools website under the [parent connections link](#). 90% of all incoming freshmen fall into the novice range, a very small percentage fall in the intermediate range. District 29 will be looking into our foreign language program.

Our next, last, meeting is May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am via zoom or in person at Sunset Ridge. [Agenda](#) is the year in review, and strategic plan. For those who cannot join, we are always looking for topics for next year. Shoot Dr. Stange an email, he would appreciate any ideas or thoughts you have.

*Christie*, A big shout out to the Exec Board and committee members. This is our last meeting and it feels weird to be saying that. We will have one more newsletter but please make sure you sign up and help with the Fun Fair! And thank you all for all your effort and work – We could not do it without everybody here. This was a great year, we had such a successful benefit and I am so happy to have been a part of this year!

Sandy- we would like to thank you for serving as president this year. It is safe to say that you have helped with all the projects this year. On top of that you are the main contributor to our newsletter – you did it all with a poised, professional and patient manner! Thank you

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned : 9:41am - Adjourned by Erica Foster  
Minutes compiled by : Emily LeMire, Secretary