

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Tuesday, December 13th, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Christie Caceres,
Approval of November 7th, 2022 Minutes: Approved Archana Piotrowski & Yena
Levinson**

Presidents Report:

Christie Caceres, PTO President

Reported on a successful Northwestern Settlement House drive and noted we will have a report from Chrissy Geraghty and Mekhala Middleton at our next meeting.

This program went over the stated budget for the 2022/2023 calendar year. The current budget is \$1500 and the total expenses were \$2169. The \$669 overage needs to be voted on by the PTO. We first must create a quorum, then count that we have a 2/3 majority vote to approve additional funds from the budget to cover the \$669. We will not be taking money from other programs but will be using existing PTO cash for this overage. Erica Marinello and Patricia Gainsberg approved the motion to initiate the vote.

**** PLEASE submit receipts for all your expenses to the PTO. It is imperative we know the true costs of these programs to accurately budget for the following year. Last year we did not get all the receipts and this year the cost of the Uhaul, stronger boxes, and supplies such as tape, etc drove the project over budget. The PTO also covered the cost of some of the families that were not supplied gifts.**

We will meet in the future to talk about the budget for this program, as well as ways to improve the process. Today we just need to vote on approval of the \$669 overage.

Quorum confirmed - 26 people in the meeting and 16 of the 26 voted yes to approve the \$669 overage to the budget for this project.

President Elect Report:

Sandy Norbot, PTO President Elect

We successfully accepted applications for the gifts grant program, obtained feedback from the staff and public about the submissions, and then met and made decisions about what was going to be granted this year.

This year the approved grants were:

1. Clay Slab Roller for Sunset Ridge art room. This equipment saves time in the prep of the clay for the ceramic projects of the Sunset Ridge student body.

2. Flexible seating for the kindergarten and first grade classrooms at Middlefork. These will help provide focus, stamina, posture, and motor skills for students.
3. Climbing wall add on's- Obstacle pieces. Ninja mats and obstacles add fun, new, exciting, and challenging items to the fitness unit.

All approved grants can be viewed on the PTO website under the [Gifts Program Tab](#).

The school district decided to fund the request for a balance bar for bike safety week, as well as noise canceling headphones for the 2nd grade.

Thank you for the wonderful nominations and participations in this program.

Treasurer Report:

Yena Levinson giving report for Kori Pierce, Treasurer

Shared screen- showed the budget for 2022/2023- as of 12/13/2022 account bank balance is \$76,524.22.

To date we have raised \$1500 towards the Winter Benefit and we have collected an additional \$1100 for classroom parties. This money will be divided and sent to room parents in January.

Friendly reminder to please submit all receipts in a timely manner for any PTO expenses, as well as to cash any outstanding checks. The [PTO site](#) has the tax exempt form and reimbursement form located under forms.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

I have hired a new officer who is on the streets. His name is Gabriel Garcia. He is expecting his first child with his fiancé.

We have arrested the burglars that were terrorizing Wagner road. It was a family of burglars and given that they were utilizing minors to create these acts we were able to charge with specific felony charges.

Got word of a 5:30am burglary of a store today in Glencoe.

Ring video footage this morning showed a car burglary in process. When the burglar noticed a patrol car coming down the street they hid, then resumed the burglary once the police car was out of site. Would love to see more fear of the police.

We are seeing a high instance of burglaries and there will be more during the holiday season.

When sending money or things of value through the mail please use the inside of the post office for drop off of mail. Some burglars are taking mail from post boxes and washing checks or stealing cash.

Remember to look around and be safe while shopping especially at malls.

Question: Is there a website for crime stats? Chief responded that the Pioneer Press is not reporting on Northfield and he is not sure why. He does send out crime stats when he feels it is important but also does not want to create a fear in the villagers. We are up in burglaries this year- 10 in 2021, and 11 in 2022.

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Thank you to all the leadership and hard work that went into the Book Fair, Gifts program and the Northwestern Settlement program.

At the Board of Education meeting this evening we will be focusing on engaging hearts where last meeting focused more on Educating Minds. We will be discussing Inclusion, Equity and Social Connections.

The presentation for the social emotional learning presentation (as well as last month's presentation) will be on the [parent connections website](#).

In addition we will be discussing the proposed tax levy, as well as the 2023/2024 proposed calendar.

The approval of the crossing guard switch will be voted on as well. The village has managed the guards for a long time. This has become an increasingly hard job to staff, and we end up using police professionals which is not ideal. We researched and obtained bids and decided on [Andy Frain](#) services. Glencoe and Deerfield currently use their services to hire skilled and trained guards. The cost is \$30,000 which include a crossing guard for Sunset Ridge and Middlefork School, as well as a site supervisor going back and forth between locations.

Question: will this service be doing the traffic direction on Sunset Ridge road? No, that we hire for and the retired cook county sheriffs handle.

Question: Do we require extra background checks? Yes, we do our own and the company does theirs as well.

When the topic of background checks came up, we discussed the 6th grade social dance. That company does not do background checks for their instructors. We decided that even though this is an non-school sponsored event, we would still require background checks of the instructors.

Illinois State only requires daily direct contact with students to have background checks, but internally we have decided to background check anybody who enters or meets with students.

Up for discussion is background checks for parent volunteers.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Gave a summary of all the Civics in Actions- the student groups.

Student Ambassadors:

They have been helping greatly with the Northwestern Settlement adopt a family program. They have been helping with inventory, sending reminders out, and boxing/packing up the gifts. The group is working on a second buddies day in which they are planning a craft. Development of the spirit squad is in the works - you can purchase spirit gear at basketball games and the proceeds will go towards the Special Olympics.

Dedicated Dolphins:

They put together a costume and candy drive which had great success. The group partnered with the PTO and the book fair to do a coin drive. The goal was \$200 and they raised \$900. All proceeds will benefit underserved kids and provide them books. They are gearing up for spirit week next week. And finally, the 2nd graders are working on their environmental work and doing some clean up!

Bold and Crispy:

They are working on school spirit and inclusivity. They are working to outdo some creative spirit days prior to Thanksgiving break. The group is working on the school's partnership with TotalLink2 Community which is a local organization focused on helping young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. TotalLink will be sending an intern to SRS to work with them on select projects. This all goes to support the mission of CIA.

Green Club:

They are hard at work on their plastics recycling program. If you have any plastic bags or newspaper bags there are collection bins around the school. They have already collected 40lbs of waste. They are working on a no or low waste lunch day, as well as a collaboration with the lunch provider at school to create less waste.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

So proud of all our student leadership! Thank you to the book fair chairs Sarah Cohn and Laura Curry and of course Kelly Johnson. It was a happy community event.

Thank you to the third grade families and everybody else who came out to the (COLD) Northfield holiday fest.

We are looking forward to our January winter sings. January 19th 1,2, and 3rd grades. January 26th Kindergarten. More to come on those events.

1 time a month the children meet in Dolphin pods to discuss different topics. This month we are discussing New Years resolutions and creating a time capsule. This will focus on a kindness goal.

Thank you to room parents for working hard to plan the holiday parties. These will take place on December 23rd.

Spread the word about the incoming Kindergarten event on January 25th.

School Board Report

Abigayil Joseph

- Covered by Dr. Stange

Committee Reports:

Sarah Cohn & Robin Decker, Book Fair

Sarah: The Book fair was a huge success. Kids enjoyed shopping at the winter wonderland. We sold a total of \$9,000 and 25% of those funds go to the PTO. We collected \$3000 for the PTO which is wonderful! The Middlefork student participated in the All for Books Coin Drive which provided books for underserved kids. Bravo! Last year the book fair was in May, and this year it was successful to have the winter timing which allows for holiday shopping.

Robin: we met our goal and got a cash reward for the PTO. We also had great participation in the teacher e-wallets which the teachers were extremely grateful for!

- Thank you to the Sunset Ridge volunteers who navigated the book fair without much direction from the school!

Devon Pearce - Winter Benefit

Info on Winter Benefit [Here](#)

Devon noted that fundraising is hard at work! They are actively seeking silent and live auction donations and encourage district families to think if there is anything experience they can donate! Some parents just donated a sushi and paddle night.

Tickets will go on sale in January after break and there will be more marketing pushes at that point.

Christie noted the amazing creativity happening within the Winter Benefit committee.

Seong McGarry, Parent Connections

At last month's meeting we discussed the student academic assessment results in both AIR and Math. Presentation available on the [parent connections website](#). Next meeting is December 20th at 9am. You may join in person or via Zoom. The topic is Inclusion, equity and social connections. We encourage all to join!

That is it for today! Wishing everybody a wonderful holiday!

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned : 9:42am

Minutes compiled by : Emily LeMire, Secretary