

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Tuesday, January 10th, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Christie Caceres,
Approval of December 13th, 2022 Minutes: Approved by Bridget Kennedy and Trish
Gainsburg**

Presidents Report:

Christie Caceres, PTO President

Exec board has been discussing distributing a survey to District 29 families. We want to be transparent and listen to what the district families want from the PTO. This is the districts' chance to weigh in and provide feedback. We will be sending out the survey in January and presenting the results during the February PTO meeting.

In April we are going to present the nomination slate, as well as the budget for next year. We will vote on those in May which is our last meeting.

Treasurer Report:

Kori Pierce, Treasurer

Balance is \$75,690.34. Please turn in receipts; that is very important. It helps set the stage for the budget for the subsequent year. If you don't turn in accurate receipts it inhibits our ability to create a fair budget.

The only real movement from last meeting is the book fair. \$3000 is a great addition to the budget from Book Fair. Thank you for that great work bringing in that line item for the PTO. Junior Great Books will be reimbursed for the cost of the books by the parents. Our out of pocket will be for the teacher stipend portion of the program.

Legislative Report:

Ericka Foster, Legal

We have been working on a PTO checklist for contracts. A lot of time this year has been dedicated to reviewing contracts as they come in, Book Fair, Benefit, etc. We are trying to streamline the process. We have been diligently working to get all the contracts up to speed and in the process are creating a checklist for all the future year contracts. The accurate name for the PTO is listed on the document as well as the current contact for each contract. Some things related to insurance and background checks are highlighted in the checklist. We have attempted to align it accurately with what our District is currently doing with regards to background checks, etc. We have also tried to update the contracts for fallback provisions for a health crisis (pandemic) We will post this on the website so everybody has access to it.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

Happy New Year; great to see everybody.

Ricky is back, he was involved in an accident so very happy he is back. Another officer just had surgery, not sure when he will be back.

We did a survey internally regarding their shifts. They noted that working 6 days straight without a day off was a problem. They want longer shift periods so we are going to 3 months before they rotate to a new shift. This will start in the next 2 weeks.

Crime has slowed down in the last 10 days but I don't want to give false hope. Pick pocketing, in stores; please don't leave purses unattended in shopping carts. Leaving unlocked cars in driveway with garage door openers in it. A resident heard somebody in her house and they had gained entry by using her garage clicker which was in her unlocked car. This guy was apprehended. Did apprehend a few young burglars who created the Wagner robberies. They have been charged, we will see how long they will stay in the system. That concludes my report.

We can donate the ride in the squad car to school; we can talk about other ideas for the winter Benefit.

Devon Pearce - Winter Benefit

Saturday March 4th 2023 is the Roaring 20's winter benefit. Save the date has gone out, will go out again this week. 7-11pm at Sunset Ridge Country Club

Fundraising goals are \$75,000- slightly above what they raised in 2019. We would like 150 Parents to attend and to get 50 teachers sponsored to attend.

Tickets go on sale January 18th - early bird tickets \$125.

February 16th- February 24th - tickets \$150

Saturday February 25th- tickets jump to \$175.

Teacher sponsorships will be available online; goal is 50 teachers to sponsor. We hope parents will help sponsor teachers.

Event website will be live next Wednesday, everything will be kicked off on January 18th. Auction items will go live on February 1st. All auction sales will be through the website which turns into a mobile site at the event.

We have gotten a lot of great donations... Still looking for parent donated experiences. Examples, Sunset poolside yoga and cocktail parties. Experiences, anything in Big Sky Montana.

Communication plan- Yard signs will go out Feb 1, Invitations likely mailed February 1, and Northfield Banner Feb 1. Plus, word of mouth!

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Good morning and happy new year all. Few quick notes, just want to thank PTO and all volunteers for their flexibility on the holiday parties. I have been asked "Are we making up the ½ day?" State Board of Ed requires we have 176 days of education on the calendar. We have 178 days in our calendar. My recommendation to the Board is to wait and see if we have to take any more days off before we make any decisions on the calendar. We will put discussions of extending for a day on hold and will see how winter plays out.

The new crossing guard services started yesterday. We are contracting with Andy Frain Services; they work at lot of North Shore school districts. We have crossing guards at both schools. At Middlefork and Sunset Ridge, they work the morning from 7:45-8:45am. The afternoon at Middlefork is set for 2:45-3:45pm, and Sunset Ridge from 3:15-4:15pm. We are not sure if we need one or two guards at each location, we are not sure about these times... we executed a contract where we can go in and adjust this. If you have any feedback let us know.

Video monitoring was recommended as we continue to partner with our security expert for training and support. One of the things parents have suggested doing is weapons detectors. As a response to why we are not proceeding with weapon detectors is that the expert did not recommend either of those with the Board of Ed.

A note about the terrible situation in the first-grade classroom in Virginia- just a reminder that 1/3 of households have firearms. They are the leading cause of death of children, please keep them locked in a safe place.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Good morning and happy new year. Talking about some Middlefork updates, then up to District updates.

Thanks to all the parents helping with Holiday parties. Some last minute changes happened and it was helpful to have everybody on board. The flexibility allowed us to still have all those special moments with the children. Special shoutout to Archana for her help coordinating all the last minute changes.

Thanks to everybody working on Junior Great Books started again in 3rd grade. Starting next week which is wonderful!

Thank you note from Mrs. O’Looney relating to the gift program was read. The seats have been ordered and we look forward to seeing all the ways the chairs benefit our children.

We have Kindergarten registration night on January 25th! Excited to see what the new Dolphins will look like.

Winter Sing is on January 19th 1,2,3rd grades will perform, and January 26th at 6:30pm we have Kindergarten performance. Will be great to have parents in the building for this tradition.

District updates: Reading different chapters in the book Building Thinking Classrooms by Peter Liljedahl. The book has provided us with lots of great conversations about giving children more ownership in their classrooms. What are the benefits of students standing while working? What are the benefits of random visual group? Lots of fun seeing the learning in action.

The Math Committee has been piloting some new resources out there; we are collecting feedback from students. 6th graders gave us some info on a new program which was fun to see. The Math Committee will make a recommendation this spring on the new programs.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Happy New Year! Thanks you to Archana and all parent volunteers for the holiday parties. It was pretty frantic at the end with the change in day, and it was pulled off with grace and ease. Kids loved it.

6th grade dance is this Friday, and 8th grade dance next Friday.

Pickleball unit has started, and the kids are so invested and love it so much. Teachers want to play; there may be a teacher tournament soon.

8th graders are getting close to graduations. I started measuring for cap and gowns today. Lots of information has been going out about the Washington DC trip. Graduation will be upon us before we know it.

Thank you Dr. Friedman for your participation with the CIA. We will be meeting in the next few weeks about Earth Day and Kindness week in February as well.

School Board Report

Abigayil Joseph

What an amazing start to 2023! Parties, pickleball, Jen is updating us on Curricular enhancements, reading Building Thinking classrooms... what a great start to the 2023 year!

Caucus has slated 4 new board members. This is an uncontested election, and they will be seated in late April. The new members are: Cynthia Ho, Jenny Damon, Charlie Pick, Sam Tideman.

Rory Welch resigned from the board, and the board appoints the new board member for that position. The board has been working with the caucus and Jenny Damon showed willingness to take that spot. We will make that official in this month's meeting.

Finance meeting at 5:30pm and we will be discussing the long-term capital plans for Middlefork at that meeting. Lots to be decided for Middlefork school.

Committee Reports:

Chrissy Geraghty, Holiday Projects (NUSH)

Mekhala Middleton and I organized the NUSH program for this year. NUSH stands for Northwestern Settlement House. 41 families benefited from our generosity. This program occurs at a hectic time of year and our effort do not go unnoticed. Chrissy read a letter from a family. To get a thank you note is a great reminder of why we do it!

It takes a village to run this program. I would like to thank all the people who helped! NUSH contacts Jen Kiedaisch and Kelly Johnson at Middlefork school. Dr. Sukenik, Mindy Golub & Shannon Tremont at Sunset Ridge. They are always there for us and help so much to make this program a success.

Thank you to the teachers who work with the students, and helped organize the gifts. Moving day warriors- who help move boxes. Student ambassadors who show up early and are happy to help. Mr. Parks, Corey Dreher, Bill Crawford and Dr. Stange (who is the Marie Kondo of packing a U-Haul truck) thank you for the help packing the truck. Ericka Foster- who helped audit boxes when Mekhala was out with the flu. Board- who understands the cost of inflation has also impacted the price of boxes and packing materials.

Instagram page will show some photos soon!

Maureen Huhs, Junior Great Books

Aimee Reynolds and I are so excited to be resurrecting the Junior Great Books program. It is teacher led vs. parent led this year. We are running two sessions – AM and PM. This year our budget only covers the teacher stipend, each family asked to cover the expense of the books and journals- \$35/family, 27 total students. Starts first this Friday AM, and the other session is Tuesday.

Bridget Kennedy, Nominations

We are starting work on the nomination process. It seems early but this process takes time and our goal is to have as many people who want to volunteer to be able too! Take a look at the [website](#) : head to the District 29 PTO website, About PTO, and then click on board positions. You are able to click on all positions, who is currently chairing and a board report (paper icon to right)

The board report (summary of the position) should be updated now. If you are chairing a position please update by Friday. The goal is to start gathering interest for the PTO for next year. Look over the report for the position and if you see one you are interest in please email Bridget- you can click on her mail icon on page 3 of the chair positions (nominating), or email bridget_kennedy13@yahoo.com directly. Goal for PTO is to have as many people who want to volunteer to be included. By next month I would like to start getting the committee going for nominations. We will do the slate by April and vote by May. Please spread the word that we are looking for volunteers for 2023/2024 school year. We are starting with a blank slate this year.

Archana Piotrowski, 6th Grade Social Dance

Allison and I are in charge of the 6th grade social dance. This Friday we are hosting 4 sessions led by *May I Have this Dance*. The four dances are Latin Ballroom, hip-hop and line dancing. They will work with the kids on etiquette and partner work. Great event for the 6th graders. If you have a 6th grade student interested, you still have time to sign up. If you are a 6th grade parent who wants to volunteer please let us know! Currently we have 16 boys and 14 girls.

Seong McGarry, Parent Connections

Not able to join but asked Christie to share:

There was no Parent Connections meeting since our last meeting. The next meeting will be held on January 24th at 9am. The topic discussed will be “Engaging Hearts - Inclusion, Equity, and Social Connections.”

Additional questions and thoughts:

Bridget Kennedy asked if we can we update the website about Lunchroom volunteers – what time are we required to attend?

Sunset Ridge is 11:20-1pm.

Middlefork: 11:45am- 1pm.

Christie: We are working on updating the website with new photos of kids with no masks.

Parents were asked to either opt out or in of having their child’s picture on publications. We are working on a google drive of photos as a central place to pull from. Just want to make sure we are not using photos of people who have opted out of their children’s photos being used on publications.

Question by Bridget Kennedy- Are we using the website to promote the benefit? Can we look and see auction items. Devon: We have a page dedicated on the PTO website and plan to link directly to the main event website!

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned : 9:47am

Minutes compiled by : Emily LeMire, Secretary