

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO  
Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 9am  
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Christie Caceres,  
Approval of May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Minutes: Approved Bridget Kennedy, Emily LeMire**

Presidents Report:

*Christie Caceres, PTO President*

Welcome and Christie's introduction of herself. Thanking everybody for all their hard work and efforts on the PTO. Discussion of the [PTO flier](#) and the explanation of what the PTO does and what they fund.

Roles: All Committee reports are posted on the [PTO site](#). If you haven't received yours, please check the site. Would like to have all reports updated by the end of year to accurately reflect the positions and to help position next year's Committee Chairs for success.

We have a list of all Committee Chairs so you can quickly reach one another. If you haven't added your cell phone number and you want to, please [update it here](#).

Agenda- shared the screen for the agenda

Treasurer Report:

*Kori Pierce, Treasurer*

Shared screen- showed the budget for 2022/2023- as of 9/12/2022 account balance is \$73,447.70 (\$55,000 in savings and \$18,000 in checking). Just accepted \$8,585 from dues and classroom fees. Reminder to pay your party fees, as those go directly back to the classrooms for parties. Party PTO dues fund all the programs the PTO originates.

Committee Chairs- know your budget and that way you can stick to what is allotted to be spent. PTO does not reimburse for sales tax so went through how to get the tax-exempt form and how to get reimbursed for your expenses. [Click here](#) for the form.

Legislative Report:

*Erica Foster*

Contracts: This year we are focusing on looking at all contracts we enter into. Committee heads can flip over contracts to Legislative to make sure they have appropriate contingency language, background checks, etc. Working on the creation of a check list for future use. This should take some of the pressure off parent volunteers and allow the PTO to have solid contracts.

Teacher Representative Report:

*Shannon Tremont- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math*

### *Student Ambassadors –*

Summary of what action items students are interested in. To date there has been the theme of building more school community- between Sunset Ridge and Middlefork schools.

CIA- Civics in Action- Kids can communicate a timeline for their action items. Dr. Sukenik noted that the groups will include Dedicated Dolphins, Student Ambassadors, Bold and Crispy, and Green Club. We will hear more about how the PTO can support all of these student groups moving forward.

### Community Update:

#### *Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

Busy summer with the incidents in Highland Park having a big impact on how we deal with outside events. They have put an emphasis on more police presence. They have had a short staff, with 2 officers with new baby girls (just returned to work), and 1 injured officer. One retired officer has started a new career as a dentist. They hire police officers two different ways. The first is an external hire that is currently not able to procure candidates till early 2023. The other is through lateral transfer so hiring officers looking to get into the NF department. They hired two officers this way during the summer and getting one more on staff now.

Jewelry scam- Travelers have been camping on exit ramps and selling fake jewelry to people after flagging them down. Do not engage, call police- that is their job to help a family in need if they are truly in need.

Crime: Ruse burglaries are happening all over the North Shore. Stolen cars and Ruse burglaries. \*Make it harder for thefts to happen- lock doors, do not leave your keys in cars.

Safety act: Change how law enforcement is required to handle crime. Lots of unfunded mandates- like by 2025 all officers will need cameras on each individual officer but also in the cars. These are not funded.

Officers trying to make a strong police presence around schools each day.

### Administration Reports:

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

Welcome back decorations and the lunch were so great, thank you! Grateful for the PTO partnership

- Enrollment: Middlefork at the highest enrollment in 30+ years, looking at long term plans to solve the stress on the facilities
- Covid- if you are sick, stay home, and be honest. Back to a more normal way of life with regards to illness
- Safety and security- had an audit done, policies and procedures were updated this summer. Some still left to discuss and want community involvement, i.e., fence around Middlefork school? Metal Detectors? Want more community input on items like these.
- National Sex Ed: District 29 curriculum is 5<sup>th</sup> grade = body and puberty, 6<sup>th</sup>= reproductive, 7<sup>th</sup> – gender identity, 8<sup>th</sup>= STD's
- This has been working for the district and we have lots of input from professionals in the area.

*Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal*

Thank you for a great Welcome back- very positive feelings this year and that is very appreciated. Thanks for the delicious and beautiful teacher lunch!

- Extracurricular groups are all getting up and rolling, along with Girls Volleyball (just started).
- Librarian Ms. Gray is having her 1<sup>st</sup> baby, leaves next month for Maternity leave. Lyn Horn, the old art teacher, will be back to take her place. She knows the staff and kids, and will be a smooth transition.
- Glad to be welcoming Northfield Police back into the building to present on cyber bullying to each grade, all grade specific.
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*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal*

Thank you PT0! Decorating at the beginning of the year goes a long way.

- Grateful for the partnership with the police department- having more officer friendly visits this year. Love the positive interaction between students and the local police department. First visit is October for Halloween and stranger awareness. They were in to discuss bike safety and will be back on Friday to help register bikes. Hopefully bike safety will be outside weather permitting.
- Traditions: Play Pods- starting today K-3 will have a monthly activity. Mixed grade level traditions.
- Author visits- have a few in person and virtual set up, very exciting
- Driveway volunteers- need more help, 10 mins in the morning would be so appreciated. [Click here](#) to sign up.

### School Board Report

*Abigayil Joseph*

Will have a robust meeting tonight, always a lot to do at the start of the year.

- Enrollment complexities- will begin the discussions with the community on how to evolve with the increasing enrollment numbers.
- Strategic plan- proud of this visual piece which is on the website. Come to meeting to hear more on this project.
- Safety and Security- new things we want to implement. Some easy, some more complex.
- Principal school reports- favorite part of the meeting, appreciate all that they do for our schools including evolving curriculum, etc.
- Policies, lots to discuss
- Last night the Caucus had an event for people interested in school board. The board has gotten through the tough part and there are some spots open. Board members feeling positive about the good times to come for the school board. 4 spots will be opening; encourage those interested to reach out and consider running for an open position.

### Committee Reports:

*Devon Pearce - Winter Benefit*

Planning underway- March 4<sup>th</sup> 2023. Goal to raise \$75,000, and already underway. 4 sub committee's where people can help out and more information to come on the committees and how to get involved. [Biennial Winter Benefit \(district29pto.org\)](http://Biennial Winter Benefit (district29pto.org))

*Sara Thompson, Directory Spot*

Only one directory moving forward as we needed a way for families to opt in. Encouragement of families to [fill out a form for EACH child](#) is encouraged. The form will close on Friday, Sept. 16. Directory Spot will then be live on Monday for parents to use. Any changes after that will need to go through Sara directly.

*Seong McGarry, Parent Connections*

Upcoming meeting led by Dr. Stange- allows parents to give admin feedback and input. Happening in person now in the Sunset Ridge conference room. The recorded zoom will be sent out to parents.

*Archana Piotrowski, Room Parents*

Full for all classes- just need one more volunteer for Mrs. Bell's class. Reminder to pay classroom fee's and PTO dues!

Additional Comments:

Christie brought up the ice cream social on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup>, and the movie in the park as the October event.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:58am

Minutes compiled by: Emily LeMire, Secretary