

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Tuesday, October 11th, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Christie Caceres,
Approval of September 13th, 2022 Minutes: Approved Emily LeMire & Archana
Piotrowski**

Presidents Report:

Christie Caceres, PTO President

There has been great activity in the PTO, a lot has happened since the last meeting

Dues: I know the PTO keeps harping on getting dues and classroom fees but we are making progress on collection. October 14th is our goal to get all party fee's in so the parents can throw some wonderful parties for our classrooms, and so the PTO can continue to do all we do to support the district. \$25/student for the classroom party fee's and \$25/family for the PTO dues. We are close to 100%! [PTO Dues info](#)

October 21st PTO sponsored movie night- going to be great! Will be showing Minions, spread the word! [PTO movie in the park info](#)

Conference meals are in the works and being scheduled, so thank you to everybody working on those!

Christie went through the agenda and shared her screen, and then passed the screen off to Sandy Norbot.

President Elect Report:

Sandy Norbot, PTO President Elect

Gifts Grant Program is something done every year. The PTO gives the community a change to submit proposals/applications for funding on specific needs and projects that would be great for the school district.

Sandy shared the screen to the PTO website and where to access the [gifts program application and information](#). You can see the pervious approved grants for the past few school years, as well as the guidelines, access to the application, and how to submit a proposal.

So far we have 1 application from a teacher

The PTO will review all applications after the October 28th deadline. In early December we will vote on what is approved and announce the grants in the December meeting. We welcome feedback and community participation in this program!

Christie- we welcome feedback on what has been submitted and encourage you to look at the options when they are published.

Patricia Gainsburg brought up a good point about the PTO sharing the grant application with the schools administration to assure that there is no overlap. Somebody noted that cello's were in the Sunset Ridge budget but were an application item for the gifts grant program as well.

Treasurer Report:

Kori Pierce, Treasurer

Shared screen- showed the budget for 2022/2023- as of 10/11/2022 account bank balance is \$84,723.13

At the last meeting we had collected \$8500 in dues and fees, and since have collected another \$12,000. ¾ of all families have paid their dues and fee's. Cutt off will be October 14th so parents can begin to work on the Halloween parties. We will continue to push for collection of 100% of the classroom fees and continue to cut checks to room parents as funds arrive.

Questions on budget? The PTO wants to make sure that we are very transparent about where all the money goes

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

The Police Department is hoping to hire another new officer as of October 24th- Gabriel Garcia. He is coming from the City of Chicago. He will go through 12 weeks of training before he can be on the streets as an active member of this force. The department is looking forward to hiring another officer so they have 19 sworn officers working and are back to a full force.

The crossing guard at Willow and Wagner will be available in the afternoon's to help us out, but an officer from the force will be handling the morning cross walk duties.

The car thief who stole a car on Dickens was apprehended in Wisconsin. We are working to extradite him to Illinois to prosecute him for the theft.

We have had 4 residential burglaries in the past few weeks. When a burglary happens, officers respond and then the evidence techs arrive to dust for prints and do neighborhood canvassing. This entails asking neighbors for any ring/doorbell camera footage or get intel on what people may have seen.

The evidence compiled is that these burglaries were done by suspects posing as selling lawn care services door to door. If nobody answered the door, they took that as nobody was home and proceeded with the robbery. In video evidence acquired they have hoodies and gloves so hard to identify the suspects. The burglary task force will be in full force throughout the holidays. The most important thing is to report what you see ASAP, do not wait!

Question was asked if the homes burglarized were unlocked or there was forced entry. One of the houses garage door was unlocked so they entered the house through that open door. The burglary on the 200 block of Wagner was forced entry through the sliding door- the sliding doors are the easiest point of entry in this situation. The other two burglaries were backyard entry.

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

The district continues to spend time and energy on Safety and Security. Noted that John Heiderscheidt has been working with teams of staff members of safety and security protocols (what to do to prevent issues and what to do if...) He is the former head of safety and security at Elgin School District U-46 (2nd largest school district in Illinois), a former police officer, and a current trainer for the Illinois State Board of Education. We have booked three full days with him this year (today was #1) and look to have an on-going training/consulting relationship with him.

Board meeting tonight at 5:30pm will focus on finance and facilities and the findings of the external audit will be discussed. Then at 7pm the regular board meeting will take place in which discussions on the capital improvements needs at Middlefork will be discussed. We know that short term needs at Middlefork school like roof and boiler replacement. We are watching enrollment and are needing to discuss long term needs for the facilities.

Dr. Stange noted the Parent Connection meeting about National Sex Ed Standards. What are these and what are we as a district doing and not doing. Information linked [Here](#) from the Friday Newsletter about this topic.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Thank you PT0 Patricia Gainsburg and Kelly Johnson for their work on the Author Visits. They have 4 separate visits from Jarrett Dapier. He has gone above and beyond the reading of his books and brought in instruments and has gone into detail about how he comes up with his stories!

Thank you to the Northfield Police Department for their continued support. They have scheduled time for Officer Friendly visits about Halloween Safety and Stranger Awareness. Thank you for their help last month with Bike Safety!

Working hard on the Math Curriculum review. It has been 10 years since we evaluated our resources. We will pilot 2 week units to test out resources. It is not anticipated that anybody will notice the changes but if your student comes home discussing some new units, this may be the reason.

Halloween- Embracing the Monday Halloween for 2022. We are having students bring their costumes to school and change into them after lunch. This is an attempt to get some academic learning done in the morning. Parade will be in the front driveway and parents can come to view/be paparazzi. It will be short and sweet. Then students will proceed to their classrooms for parties! Thank you, Archana, for your work with the great room parents to make these events a success. Dr. Stange and I are in the works on our joint costume, enjoy the element of surprise so keep an eye out.

- Christie- reminder to parents to grab photos and send to the PTO for posting on social media and the website. We are always looking for opportunities to updated images on social media and the PTO website!

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Lots to report today:

- Thank you to Glenview Health Services and Lizzie Appleby for providing a comprehensive overview of our health curriculum in grades 5-8. A link to the recoding of the presentation can be found [Here](#)
- We continue to train our staff in social emotional learning. We are learning this month about Charter- how we want to feel in the class room. We want to develop this emotional intelligence in our student population. The teachings now will be rolled out to students in the 2023/2024 school year.
- Civics in action- CIA- working on how we can support all the groups and their missions. Bold and Crispy had a very successful event for Mental health Awareness day in which everybody wore green. Still working on how the PTO can get involved and help the mission of these groups- likely will be an initiative for K-8 during Kindness week.
- Northfield PD- They had such an amazing presentation on online safety that we are working on age-appropriate presentation for 4-5 grade, and 6-8 grade.
- Big year for Girls Volleyball- This is Ms. Mattera's last year, and this is her last girls volleyball season.
- October 28th is our last day of the 1st quarter. This is really applicable to the 7th and 8th graders who switch exploratory classes at this date.
- Thank you thank you to Mr. Payne who donated 80 amazing pickleball rackets for the school. Teachers are losing their minds, they are SO excited. Students have gotten wind as well, so everybody is very excited. Thank you so much for this generous donation!
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School Board Report

Abigayil Joseph

The school board meeting tonight will cover:

- Finance and Facilities at 5:30pm- we will review the financial Audit that has taken place, and discuss the long list of capital improvements and how we prioritize. The big picture is that enrollment is up at Middlefork- biggest numbers since the mid 90's. Are we going

to build up, out, or add mobile options. Do we remove the art room and make that class room space? All options have a price tag so what can we afford to do.

- Security and enhancements also have price tags. Not only are we discussing the price of these enhancements but the cultural/social aspect as well. What message do metal detectors send to kids? How do you balance a safe environment as well as ensuring you have a culture of trust with the students and staff?
- Lots to discuss with enrollment and staffing-8 different focuses including Health, to title 9, to true north to bullying.
- Christie noted that one of the PTO's jobs is to bring parent's thought to the school board. A critical function is for us to foster the communication between parents and the board.

Committee Reports:

Patricia Gainberg, Author Visits

Jarrett Dapier has been wonderful and is in for his 2nd visit today- in a skeleton costume.

The bookstall has worked with us to get his 3 books signed and personalized and will be coming home with your students. This visit was beautifully timed with Halloween!

Working on securing Joanna Ho for Asian Pacific Heritage month in May. Samantha Chaman for Black History month.

Thank you to Mr. Dapier for being so generous with his time, and allowing us to have additional funds to secure even more authors in the coming months.

Seong McGarry, Parent Connections

Great turnout for the September meeting about safety and security. [Here](#) is the link to the presentation on this important topic

Next meeting is Tuesday at 9am about the national sex education standards and what District 29 does and does not do for their sex education program. Meeting agenda for the upcoming meeting and zoom information provided [Here](#)

Devon Pearce - Winter Benefit

Planning underway- March 4th 2023. Roaring 20's theme. By November 1st we will have an updated on Sponsorships and the levels available. We do have one ask right now- does anybody have experience with an online auction site/service? We are looking to hire one, they are expensive so want to make sure we hire the best option. Invitation and more to come!

- There is talk about ways to get the teachers to the benefit- Allowing parents to buy a teacher ticket when they are purchasing their tickets. We would love to have teachers there!

Info on Winter Benefit [Here](#)

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned : 9:43am

Minutes compiled by : Emily LeMire, Secretary