

**Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO**  
**Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 9am**  
**Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order: Bridget Kennedy, 9:03am**  
**Approval of minutes: Archana Piotrowski and Patricia Gainsberg**

**President's Report:**

*Bridget Kennedy, PTO President*

Thank you for coming to Movie in the Park. Over 100 people attended. We had great feedback. It was so successful that we decided to make this our annual fall event.

The new family ice cream social has been postponed until spring. If you are a welcome family, please reach out to your new family and try to make a personal connection.

Please pay your PTO dues and classroom fees.

This Friday we will begin accepting applications for the PTO Gifts Grant Program.

The PTO website has been updated. (Bridget Kennedy shared her screen to show the PTO website) Thank you to Brent Payne for refreshing our site.

Please send in your updated PTO chair position descriptions so we can put them on the website. At the end of the year, please update the board report for your position.

We are looking for another person or two to help with the Family Fun Fair at the end of the school year. Gretchen Swank is currently running it and needs a hand.

We need 2 -3 people to run the Winter Benefit in March 2023.

**Treasurer Report:**

*Yena Levinson, Treasurer*

Our bank account balance is \$109,072.56.

Thank you to everyone who has paid your PTO dues and classroom fees.

We will be cutting room parent checks by the end of the week or early next week.

Reimbursement forms are on our website.

**Committee Reports:**

*Christie Caceres, President Elect*

We are taking applications for the PTO Gifts Grant Program from October 15 - November 15.

Only electronic applications will be accepted this year.

In early December, we will get together to decide which grants will be awarded.

We will be talking with the student council to discuss this program as well as they had interest in submitting last year.

*Hillary Bufalino, Parent Connections*

At the last meeting on 9/21, we talked about SEL. Staff members and parents discussed various topics relating to social emotional learning.

A SEL survey was sent to the parent community.

At our next meeting on 10/20, we will be discussing NWEA MAP Assessment.

**Community Update:**

*Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police*

Ruse and residential burglaries are active all around us.

Our new officer is in his 5th week of training and doing great.

Another officer is retiring in November and we will need to replace him.

Northfield's Halloween hours will be 3 - 7:30pm.

Computer scams are running rampant.

**Committee Reports (continued):**

*Patricia Gainsberg, Alliance for Early Childhood*

We had a successful fort building event.

The next parent program will be in January.

We have programs for educators coming up.

*Patricia Gainsberg, Great Books Coordinator*

Junior Great Books program will be on hold for another year unless it is done after school. It is usually held during lunch/recess. Would need 2 - 3 volunteers to run an after school program. Each meeting is 45 min - 1 hour in length.

*Patricia Gainsberg, Middlefork Author Visits*

In November, the author Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow who wrote "Your Name is a Song" will be meeting with Kindergarten through 3rd grade over two days.

Author Duncan Tonatiuh will be doing a read aloud this year as well.

We have two more visits scheduled for the spring.

**Teacher Representative Report**

*Dana Dorsey*

Thank you for all of your support!

**Administration Reports:**

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

Strategic planning efforts are underway. We have contracted with an outside consultant that surrounding districts have used as well. The Portrait of a Student committee met last week and had around 50 participants. We discussed hopes, dreams and aspirations of our graduates. The meeting was recorded and posted under the School Board section of our website. The Strategic Design team will be meeting in January. We would like more District 29 graduate involvement. The local test positivity rate is less than 3% but the cases per 100k are up.

A teacher at Middlefork has tested positive for COVID and that class will be doing the Test to Stay protocol. No one was positive when tested this morning.

All tests for Test to Stay must be done at school.

We encourage you to fill out the Test to Stay Authorization Form in advance if interested in this service.

New Trier supports 6 elementary school districts. If we want to do a parent/student panel, they would offer to have their PTO coordinate with ours and other districts.

Philip Jones, a former District 29 board member, has recently passed away. Thoughts and prayers with his family.

*Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal*

Thank you to the PTO volunteers for making picture day run smoothly.

Thank you to Erica Marinello for partnering with Lauren Gray for our 4th grade author visit this Thursday.

Student Council is planning a fun after school Halloween party for 10/29 for 4th and 5th grade.

Please fill out the SEL survey that was sent. Your input is very valuable.

Athletics are continuing. Volleyball is wrapping up and basketball is starting.

There is a 12pm dismissal on Friday.

Marci Peck added that if your child is participating in sports, you will need to send in a yearly physical form.

*Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal*

Thank you to Trish Gainsberg for organizing our upcoming author visits.

Coding clubs have been running very well.

The leftover teacher appreciation funds that were gifted to us at the end of the last school year have been used. We spent the \$250 Amazon gift card on new outdoor and indoor recess equipment as well as parent volunteer vests.

Thank you to the 10 parents who volunteered at bike safety last Friday.

We are planning a Halloween parade for the afternoon of 10/29. We will have an outdoor viewing for parents.

Some room parents will be able to come help with class parties at the request of teachers.

Parents will have to either show proof of vaccination or take a rapid test.

Bridget Kennedy asked if we could live stream the parade and Mrs. Kiedaisch confirmed that it is the plan to livestream the parade.

Teachers prefer when holiday themed parties are grade-wide consistent.

### **School Board Report**

*Abigayil Joseph*

At 5:30pm tonight we have our finance meeting. We will be discussing 2021 audit findings as well as capital updates.

At 7pm tonight we have our regular school board meeting. Will be giving updates on strategic planning, enrollment, vaccine requirements for overnight travel and the potential hiring of a security consultant.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:53am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary