

Sunset Ridge/Middlefork School PTO
Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 9am
Virtual Zoom PTO Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Bridget Kennedy, 9:02am
Approval of minutes: Eva Vlad and Lizzie Kinnich

President's Report:

Bridget Kennedy, PTO President

Welcome. Excited to see so many people joining this meeting.

(shared screen to show presentation)

The PTO serves the families, students and staff of District 29. For students, we cover the AM Rec program at Sunset Ridge, Middlefork School Coding, author visits, 6th grade social dance and more. For families, we match new families to the district with mentor families. For teachers, we sponsor luncheons and more.

The PTO meets monthly and we will continue to meet on Zoom for now.

If you want to get involved in the PTO, look at the positions on our website and see what you might be interested in. Reach out to the person listed next to the position to see if you can help. We operate on fundraising so please remember to pay your dues. Dues are \$25 per family and that money goes to the PTO. Classroom fees are \$25 per student and that goes towards your child's class parties. The 8th grade fee is \$150 per student. All dues and fees can be paid at myschoolbucks.com.

Family Action Network Report

Lonnie Stonitsch, FAN Executive Director

Thank you to Bridget Kennedy for letting me address the PTO. We appreciate your support. FAN is almost 40 years old.

Alison Basofin and Lizzie Kinnich are the District 29 representatives this year.

We encourage the PTO to sponsor a few FAN events this year.

Last season, FAN held 56 virtual events, which is nearly double the number of events than were held in prior years. Our audience footprint has expanded.

More authors and speakers are available to us virtually.

Last week we held our first event. We have 6 events this September.

Abigayil Joseph remarked that she loves what FAN did with Kenilworth and how the entire community was engaged with their MLK event last year.

Lonnie Stonitsch shared she would love to connect and explore doing something similar with District 29.

Bridget Kennedy shared that we will also be promoting FAN events via our social media.

Treasurer Report:

Yena Levinson, Treasurer

Last night, everyone was emailed the budget as well as some other forms. The budget will be sent prior to each meeting.

We are focusing on collecting dues right now.

The reimbursement form and the Tax Exempt ID form were also attached in the email. We do not reimburse for sales tax so please remember to use this form.

Our bank account balance is at \$103,312k.

Committee Reports:

Hayley Garard, School Kits

The school distributed all supply kits this year since parent volunteers were not able to enter the buildings. Thank you to the schools for handling this.

Hillary Bufalino, Parent Connections (not present)

Bridget shared that the first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 21 at 9am on Zoom. The link is on the website. They will be facilitating a SEL focus group. All are invited to attend.

Community Update:

Bill Lustig, Northfield Chief of Police

We hired a new officer. He is in training right now.

We have had a problem with cut through traffic on side streets with students from Loyola and New Trier. We are ticketing and trying to troubleshoot.

Yesterday, there was an accident on Willow and Wagner around dismissal time. A car turned right in front of another car. No pedestrians were hurt.

The best way to communicate with me is on the phone or in-person, not email or text.

Reminder that the schools, park district, police department and the Northfield community should all work as a team.

Teacher Representative Report

Ivy Sukenik shared that there is not a teacher rep that was able to join today. The teachers send their best regards.

Administration Reports:

Dr. Ed Stange, District 29 Superintendent of Schools

Welcome. We have had a great start to the year.

Thank you to the PTO for the back to school luncheon.

We have a staff member who has tested positive for COVID. They did not have any close contacts at the schools. We also had 1 student test positive over the weekend.

We will always call parents if their child is a close contact.

We had 1 staff member and 1 student test positive over the summer.

We will not email the district regarding children who may be quarantining for various reasons. 70% of Middlefork students and 90% of Sunset Ridge students have turned in consent to “test to stay” for non-household close contacts. Tests are administered on Day 1, 3, 5 and 7.

If you haven’t consented for your child, they will have to quarantine and will have access to remote learning.

If a child is vaccinated and asymptomatic, they do not have to quarantine or “test to stay” for a close contact.

The test must be administered by the district. Parents cannot go do their own test via Walgreens, etc.

The District is engaging in Strategic Planning with Battelle For Kids. We are looking for 2 teams to assist in our planning. The first will be designing “Portrait of a District 29 Graduate” and will be meeting September through December. The other will be a strategic design team, meeting January through April. Reach out if you would like to get involved with either of these committees.

Middlefork has had a lot of traffic at pickup. We are exploring options to help with this and will discuss them at the board meeting tonight.

Abigayil Joseph asked how parents can send in vaccination information or “test to stay” consent if they haven’t done so already.

Dr. Stange answered that information is available on Parent Square or the parent can call the school.

Dr. Ivy Sukenik, SRS Principal

Thank you to the PTO for the generosity during back to school times.

Thank you to the lunchroom volunteers.

Last night, we had an 8th grade parent meeting.

Girls’ volleyball season has started. Today is their first match.

There was not enough interest in soccer this year to form a team.

There has been lots of interest in AM Rec and Intramural Basketball from 4th and 5th graders.

Please look into our SEL pushes for this year. It is important to partner with the community. We will be hosting two SEL focus groups. One will be during Parent Connections next week. The other will be that evening. We will also be hosting a community based focus group with the police and fire chiefs, representatives from the nursery school and more.

We will be sending a parent survey out soon.

Jennifer Kiedaisch, Middlefork Principal

Thank you for all of the back to school action.

We had a great kindergarten meet and greet in person this year. We have 26 kindergarteners who do not have an older sibling at Middlefork.

The Dolphin Diner lunchroom has been running very well. Thank you to Laura Hendricks.

We have been doing a number of assessments on students this fall to measure benchmarks and growth.

We will be starting coding soon with Ms. Johnson and Ms. Anderson for 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders, all on different days because of COVID. Signup will be in ParentSquare. We will not

be offering kindergarten coding after school as the kindergarteners are now doing coding once a week during class time with the extended day.

We are moving bike safety week to the fall this year for our 3rd graders. We are still figuring out the date. Thinking about October. We may need volunteers.

School Board Report

Abigayil Joseph

Tonight is the first board meeting of the school year.

At 5:30pm tonight we have an education committee meeting. The principals will be reporting MAP testing results and how we compare to other districts. We will learn our strengths and where we have opportunities to grow.

At the board meeting, Dr. Stange will be giving a superintendent report and both principals will be giving an update. We will also be discussing strategic planning and the teams that are available to parents to participate.

Education committee meeting is at 5:30pm. Board meeting is at 7pm. Both will be streamed online but anyone can join in-person at Sunset Ridge.

Dr. Stange added that all agendas and meeting packet info are posted online.

Additional Comments

Bridget Kennedy

There will be a PTO fall event on 9/24 at Clarkson Park. We will be showing a movie in the park. We do not have a rain date.

Abigayil Joseph, Social 6th Grade Dance Chair

We have been trying to figure out what we will be doing this year. Social dance is usually 6 weeks long. This year we will do 3 in the fall and 3 in the spring when hopefully things will be better.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Adjourned: 9:54am

Minutes compiled by: Allison Gaetano, Secretary