

South Side Middle School PTA Meeting October 14, 2015

1. Introduction: Ms. Pascarella- Since September 25, 2015, Francesca Wasserman has been acting as third principal while Ms. McGinn is on sick leave. Ms. McGinn returns November 2015.
2. Treasurer's Report: Christina Belling- balance is \$19,490.21. \$1402 membership deposit. \$2555 apparel deposit.
3. Thank you: (a) Karen Bohn & Donna Scala for teacher breakfast; (b) Sue LiCalzi & Alanna Bender for apparel sales. Barbara Barker for special order apparel sales.
4. Principal's Report: Ms. Pascarella- SSMS will send mass emails. Please give updated email address to SSMS. District sent webedge email.
Powerschools: call Guidance or email Ms. Pascarella for passwords.
Picture Day photos are taken during gym class October 28th & 29th.
Approximately 1-1 1/2 weeks ago the filter system was down and school was unable to send or receive information. The NWEA was postponed 1 day. Issue now resolved.
5. 8th grade MYP (Middle Years Project): Francesca Wasserman- Last year piloted 8th grade MYP community project. Service Learning connects classroom learning and live lessons through service. SSMS slogan is "A Tradition of Caring."
Question of meaning of community to students. Ways for students to give back: (1) direct service -meet fact to face, (2) indirect service- raise money, (3) advocacy- a public service announcement, (4) research service- collect information and report on findings.
MYP requirements: (1) work as an individual or small group of 2-3, (2) sustainable effort to help community, (3) write process journal which must include 10 extracts for solo or 15 extracts for group. An extract is a journal entry, photo, article, emails, notes or to do lists, (4) culminating presentation. Objectives are investigating, planning, take action, and reflecting.
Students will learn of MYP project in lunch/study assemblies. Examples of community service becoming sustainable: tutoring becomes sustainable by creating song books teaching skills, raking becomes sustainable by arranging a task force of volunteers, bike sale for Autism becomes sustainable by creating a PSA for Autism. Projects begin in October and end in April. There are clearer expectations on sustainability, Process should be from student's interest and talents. "Community Project Service Guide" is available at school website. Students may choose a mentor but must write a proposal as to why that mentor is helpful to project, otherwise a mentor will be assigned. Student will post November 8th deadline for start of project on website.
6. Roof Repairs: G. Spaulding- Temporary roof repairs are under way, but the damage is more extensive than district thought. Repairs are very expensive. Orchestra roof ducts are cleaned and dehumidifiers have been running since the start of school. Mold reports are negative.
7. PTA Resolutions: Debbie Pandolfo - Retentions pass 21-0; updates pass 21-0, revisions pass 21-0. Vote of confidence 21-0.
8. Drop off: Kathleen Murray- RVCPD will be present due to unsafe actions by drivers and pedestrians. Do not let your children run across the middle of the street. Drive safely.
9. Membership: Contact Nina if any problems.
10. Fall Fundraiser: Rosemary Talkin- Date changed to November 13, 2015. Drop donations at 25 Wachusett or 32 Hempstead Ave. Kasey's is catering. Teachers will donate a couple of baskets. Pre-sale will be available soon.
11. SEP: Liz Mullen- CORE NYS changing all assessments to 1 time adaptive test for ELA/Math. See Liz for college planning. Dr. Gadon out maternity leave. Dr. Elaine Jung is replacement. Coffee & Share open forum will be 10/28, 7:00pm, SSHS cafeteria.
12. PTA President's Report: District needs substitute nurses.
13. Principal's Report cont.: Mrs. Cammarata- Staycation (Garvies museum, Cradle of Aviation) & Washington D.C. trip is 10/21, 10/22, 10/23. Debbie Pandolfo- Washington DC trip should be for entire 8th grade, not just Honor Society. Ms. Pascarella stated that there are insufficient chaperones to bring shoe grade and not enough teachers remain to teach the 6th & 7th grades. Administration is taking concerns under advertisement. Blackout ended approximately 10:30 am.
Progress reports on Webedge. Get codes from Guidance or Ms. Pascarella.
Rachel's Challenge assembly all grades. Community event SSMS, 10/22/15, 7:00pm.
Health Fair is 10/17/15, 9:00-11:00am or 10:00am-12:00pm at SSMS.
Narcan training for opioid overdose is 11/9/15 at SSHS. RSVP required.
Halloween-lunch/study assembly re rules in & outside of school. No masks or weapons (fake) permitted in SSMS. May wear costumes which must be put on at home. Cross dressing must be a specific person. Lunch contest. RVCPD will stop groups of kids.
14. New Business: Kathy Baxley & Donna distributing and collecting notecards. Please write feedback about district technology. COMPACT-- Alana Bender will serve. Grants- Mr. LaManna thanks PTA for vinyl cutter.

Parent University Night- Possible for 8th grade students to help parents with school technology.