

Minutes South Side Middle School PTA 3/18/15

- Welcome - Tish and Michelle - Meeting opened at 7:34PM
- Presentation and acceptance of the minutes - C. Harloff/M. Pedersen
- Treasurer's Report - \$32,419.50 balance
 - 1 check: RVC USFD \$5808 (AIM Challenge Day)
 - Deposits: School of Rock \$300 / Irvin Simon (Picture Day) \$3,700.63
- By-laws vote - approved unanimously(17+ members)
- Opting Out
 - RVC Council of PTAs Information about Proposed Education Reforms and NYS Assessments for Grades 3-8
 - Suggestions: Contact elected officials to express discontent with testing, length of time required for test prep and excessive exam length. Notify school early about parent's decision regarding student's participation.
- Committee Reports:
 - Drug & Alcohol Task Force - Cammie Harloff
 - March 30th presentation
 - "Kind, Caring and Careful Communications"
 - Parents & children grades 6-9 - bring phones
 - Free phys ed passes distributed to attending students
 - Presentation to be included with 6th grade orientation
 - Grant Committee - Deb Pandolfo
 - Vinyl cutter has been approved and purchased
 - Used in tech classes with curriculum but also can make tshirts, magnets, etc. for field trips and fundraising
 - SEP - Maryanne Pedersen
 - Updated information always on Facebook page
 - Parent Sharing meeting to be scheduled for April/May
 - Nominating Committee Update - Donna O'Leary
 - Still has yet to meet / trying to "meet" via email
 - Email to be sent to PTA members looking for volunteers for positions(1/2 President(s), Membership, Council Delegate)
 - Consider having combination of outgoing and incoming Presidents
- President's Report

- Teacher's Report - Mr. Baulch
 - Yearbook deadline for ads/book purchase is the end of this month
 - TV Broadcast Club will tour News12 station
 - Faculty encourages parents to write to legislators about standardized testing concerns
 - Spring Sports begin Monday, March 30
 - students must be approved by nurse
 - check spreadsheet by nurse's office to find out what paperwork is needed for each student
 - submit paperwork ASAP to avoid processing delays and missing tryouts/participation
 - next year all middle school contact sport athletes will be required to have concussion baseline testing
 - clearance to return to sports after concussion is a lengthy process(must have clearance from student's doctor and district doctor)
Very lengthy process after concussion to be allowed to return

- Principal's Report
 - Collect Bottle Caps of all sizes and colors(in school / at home)
Cadence Pagano will work with Art Club to create Starry Night mosaic mural on the second floor to honor the memory of Joanne Wojdylo. Completion during 2015/2016 school year
 - Thank you for the new vinyl printer. Able to make theme Tshirts.
 - Sixth grade visits to elementary school 5th graders went extremely well. Students gave impressive presentations.
 - Need to know as soon as possible what parents decide about student participation on standardized tests. Need to schedule testing rooms and quiet activity rooms (no electronics, no instruction - reading, crosswords, simple worksheets). Parents' decisions to have students participate or not are completely acceptable in either case. Diagnostic assessment was given to students. Grade will be included as very small classwork percentage. It will not hurt the student's average. Send email to principal to give student permission to refuse the standardized tests. 8th grade will not take state math assessment since they take June Regents. Time spent instead on NWEA, Earth Science / Algebra review, field trip to Brookville, speaker to give assembly on internet safety (same assembly for grade 6/7 at another time).
Suggestion: a reminder to be sent to parents to send refusal note if they choose that option.
 - Students given their own school email. Email set up in school.
 - Faculty Olympics 3/27

Motion to Adjourn - 8:45PM - D. O'Leary/D. Scala
Minutes submitted by Colleen York