

## **SSMS PTA MINUTES FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

**Call To Order:** Kathleen Murray, 7:37pm Welcome. Sign in.

**Presentation and Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to Accept by Kathy Baxley. Seconded by Christine Sterns.

**Treasurer's Report:** T. Garrett. Net revenue approximately \$9,600 off of 2015-2016 revenues. \$3,750 will come in from picture day.. Approximately \$5,800 short of anticipated revenues. Will ask Christina Belling to do yellow box to estimate cash carryover assuming all committees spend their allocated amounts. In the past, Committees didn't spend their budget. Start up funds the last 2 years was approximately \$14,000, therefore short approximately \$5,000 this year. Membership and apparel are also down in revenues.

AIM works on credit so need to pay \$6643.17 and split with district. (Kathleen Murray-AIM is pretty much planned for year.) AIM budget is greater than what's been booked.

**Grants:** Kathy Baxley. One more proposal was handed in, but waiting for the cost to be submitted. Some submitted grants proposals were rejected because they were curriculum based and grants aren't given to curriculum based proposals. Curriculum comes under the purview of the district. Sixth grade teacher requested money for Spartan mascot costume. Don't remember cost but it is less than \$500.

**Nominating Committee:** Kathleen Murray. Need volunteers to propose 2016-2017 executive board slate. See Tish Garrett or Kathleen Murray if able to help.

**Reflections:** Cindy Vavpel. Display in lobby. 35 entries, 7 advanced to county. Victoria Lee advanced to state. Had no budget this year. Provisionally encourage budget for prized. May be another grant proposal for art display boards. Black cards belong to SSHS.

**SEP:** MaryAnn Pederson. Camp fair at SSHS 7:00-9:00pm. Approximately 14 camps are attending. It's for all children.

**Cirriculum:** Melisa McGowan. Discussed coding and changes to state tests. Removing field tests and permitting unlimited time. Changing No Child Left Behind."Lightsail" is for independent reading. It has some technical difficulties. Trainers have been in to aid teachers. Doesn't have all of the books the school wants. Testing program at SSMS. Exploring it mor in ELA support. Will scale back use depending on how the program is used. Student takes a reading competency test and then books are recommended based on reading level. SSMA collecting date nor. Students may read hard copies instead.

"Achieve 3000" program. SSMS has used a couple of years. Reading comp with current events. Used more in support classes. Achieve 3000 has articles instead of the books in Lightsail. Achieve is like NWEA. Achieve is exile based and gives date on student progress.

**8th Grade Events:** Dance, food & yearbooks are Thursday night before graduation. Student Council decorates and chooses theme. Students use cafeteria, gym & faculty room. Like different snacks on the table. One year had a photo booth which the kids liked..

Bagel breakfast Thursday of graduation rehearsal. Students get bagel, water and t-shirts, which they sign. Algebra regents is 6/16; Earth Science regents is 6/17; Monday is World Language test. On the 21st students campaign for 9th grade government by giving speeches and voting. Wednesday is a full school assembly. Friday, 6/24, 1:15pm is moving up ceremony. See calendar for 8th grade awards date.

**DRUG/ALCOHOL:** no report

**Proposals to Modify PTA Unit Budget for Current Year:** Christine Sterns. Have 8th grade go to the BOCES Brockville Outdoor Adventure Course to stress team building since Challenge is not occurring. Divide 8th grade into 3 clusters of 100 students to go 4/14-4/16

during the 8th grade math assessments. Students miss 1 day of math review. S. McGinn said not too much loss of review. Rescheduling would be difficult. This is not an AIM program because it is considered to be Outdoor Education. Cost is \$27.65 per child plus bus for an approximate cost of \$45-\$50 per student. Bartels, Pellitieri & Christine Samptiri indicated school district would pay, 48% addable from NYS. Gross costs \$8295 but with aid is \$4313. 15:1 ratio. Kids responsible for transportation cost. Maybe give as grant of \$4313 to district. There are still questions re reimbursement. SSMS originally did this trip as "Staycation." If schedule for April can't reschedule in case of weather event. Must use trip in same school year. S. McGinn said that teachers are loath to give up their students for a day after April & can only take 100 students at a time.

Another suggestion is to allocate some of the Challenge Day funds to picture booth and t-shirts for 8th grade.

Grant modification (K. Baxley) request for mascot, color printer and accordion art boards (cost \$581). District may not allow color printer due to no tech support. K. Baxley moves to modify budget by reducing grants. K. Baxley unaware that Rachel's Challenge cost more than Challenge Day.

Can run survey for parents re Oudorr Adventure.

Proposal 1: BOCES Outdoor Adventure- charge kids 1/2 plus bus. PTA pays 1/2.

Reimbursement returned to district. Hope net \$8300; pay \$4325. 8th grade outdoor ropes pending further review. Motion by C. Sterns, seconded by K. Baxley. Vote 15 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstentions. Passed.

Proposal 2: Grants budget reduced 50%. Made by Alanna Bender & seconded by Sue Sullivan. 20-0 passed.

Proposal 3: Reflections budget be \$300. Motion by Sue Sullivan, seconded by Christine Sterns. 20-0 passed.

\$375 remains. Motion to use funds towards 8th grade photo booth at dance by Donna O'Leary. Seconded by Kathy Baxley.

New Business:

PTA Council: K. Baxley. 3/14 will discuss opt out.

Drug & Alcohol Presentation 3/2: S. McGinn. Advisory with highest percentage of participation may get breakfast. Health classes recommend students and parents attend.

**Motion to Close Meeting:** Melissa McGowan. Seconded by MaryAnn Pederson.