

South Side Middle School PTA meeting September 8 2015

1. Introduction of SSSMS PTA Executive Board- see agenda. Names & contact information in district calendar.
2. Treasurer's Report & Budget Presentation: Christina Bellini. Balance of \$15,613.30. Increased revenue expectation from membership and apparel based on last year's figures. Increased budget for AIM, health fair (\$200), and 8th grade dance by a small amount. Budget passed unanimously (66-0).
3. Thank you: a. Donna O'Leary- PTA qualifies for entry in Early Bird membership award of \$250 at NYS PTA meeting due to 2014-2015 early membership submission.
b. Audit Committee: Tracy Ciesomski, Mary DeBano & Margaret McKeate
c. Summer PTA mailing- Karl Garrert
d. 6th grade Orientation Volunteers- Lana Hagan, Kristin Murphy, Melissa McGowan, Leslie Price, Lori Pruno, Tracy Mair, Joanna McDonald, Karin Dillies, Karl Garrert & Mary Beth Proccacci
4. Membership Update: Shanita Valdebenito- Can join SSSMS PTA on line with VISA, MasterCard or American Express, add on for each additional family member. There is a .75 transaction fee. Link is on agenda. QR reader on back of agenda. Send payment to Nina. Currently 131 members. Form must be returned by 10/1/15 for directory inclusion. Only PTA members listed in directory. Non-members may purchase directory for \$9.
5. Fall Fundraiser: Rosemary Tarkenton- NEW DATE November 13th. All welcome! Need baskets, donations & gift collections. Need one person per elementary school to collect monetary donations from alumni parents.
6. SEP Update: Liz Muller- October 28th Coffee & Share at SSSB library. September 30 SSSMS College Fair, Open SEP Breakaway.
7. Need Committee Chair: Liz Muller volunteered to chair Drug & Alcohol Task Force. Melissa McGowan volunteered to chair Curriculum Committee.
8. President's News: Tish Garrert & Kathleen Murray- Air conditioner installation will be complete by the end of May 2016.
Four surprise lottery tickets under chairs.
9. Principal's Report: Shingeh McGinn- lockers stick because they are old & it is humid.
6th graders will be released from classes early for the next couple of weeks. There is stairwell congestion. Had 1 fire drills.
Social Study textbooks are online. iPads have links but both & websites only available online.
6th & 7th graders received iPads. Not yet for 8th grade due to backlog on cases. Social Studies teachers are temporarily borrowing iPads for classroom use.
Math Pilot for 6th grade is Big Idea math aligned with Common Core & Middle Years IB. Maybe implement next year for 7th grade if successful.
8th grade pilot for Middle Years program. 12 HS credits for Food Science, Food & Nutrition. 45-50 kids enrolled in Exploratory 8. Foreign Language, Earth Science, Algebra Music Studio & Studio in Art for HS credit.
Applied for IB Middle Years Program. Training teachers.
Sports began today. The earlier interval health forms are submitted the earlier there is clearance for sports. No strict enforcement of submission deadline. Fall sports are soccer, track, tennis, football, approximately 300+ kids to medically clear. Winter 1 sports have cuts; they are volleyball, boys basketball. Winter 2 sports are girls basketball.
New tv studio equipment. Camera through bond.
New Earth Science rooms, 3rd floor; 1 first floor 6th & 7th grade science rooms, first floor 7th & 8th grade Language Arts rooms have air conditioning, as do a few others.
IPad ID number is on user agreement and under settings. Student may see Ms. Pascarella with iPad and she'll get information from the user agreement. iPad insurance is online; the link is on the district website under Parent Resources. Some homeowners insurance may cover iPads. Worth insurance may not be a "well oiled machine." Parent may chose insurance type. School will put names on iPads. The school Apple ID code is on the baggie. Every iPad has the RVC app catalogue. Bring iPad problems to Mr. Lee in the library. There are a few loaner iPads.
School will send out 6th grade Powerbooks and Edline accounts. Parent Portal was closed for the summer. Teachers should provide link between checkbook and Edline.
10. BOE: Greg Spaulding- BOE comprised of 5 elected RVC residents whose duty is to represent all district residents, develop budget and set policy in accordance with NYS guidelines.
Air conditioners have not been installed in a timely manner because of NYS slow approval process. Also, buildings are old and some require electrical upgrades to accommodate the air conditioners. Made more fiscal sense to get 1 unit that could serve several classrooms. SSSMS has several groups to complete. The auditorium, library and music rooms are scheduled for upgrades next summer. Watson is only completed school.
There was water damage to orchestra room and 2 stairwells. The leak was promptly cleaned as were all air ducts and orchestra room cleaned. Still looking for the cause of the water damage. The compressor was repaired. Mold tests came back negative. There is some bond money available for roof repairs.
Motion to adjourn Karen Babin. Seconded by Donna Scala.