

SSMS PTA MINUTES NOVEMBER 22, 2016

Motion to Accept 10/25/16 Minutes: Kara Spinelli; seconded by Liz Stack.

MYP announcement: (Thomas Eckrich and Christian Lucas) Collecting donations of new and gently used concert clothing sized for 6th-8th graders. Posted on RVC moms that need boxes. Boxes are in the lobby. Project will be expanded to other schools and districts. Concerts are 12/13, 12/15 and 1/10.

Because I Said I Would: (Rob Piscatelli) Mr. Piscatelli is a member of RVC Lacrosse League's Board and a coach. He works in finance and wants to develop character. 12/1 meeting at SSMS. Alex Sheen began & runs the not for profit movement to honor his father who died of cancer. His father was big on honoring his word, so Alex Sheen created promise cards. Went viral in 80 countries with 4 million promise cards. One girl sent a promise card that said she would stop cutting herself; it was his daughter's handwriting. Chapters choose charities for which they will raise awareness. Mr. Sheen is speaking at Covert 2:00pm, 11:15am at SSMS, 7:00pm for adults at SSMS on December 1st. Same night as RVC tree lighting but hope all will come. Everyone welcome, not just the RVC residents. Information is available at BecauseISaidIWould.com. Mr. Sheen has been on Ted Talks and offered a Reality TV show which he declined. The evening talk will be powerful. Mr. Sheen travels 300 days/year. Call Rob Piscatelli at 516-297-8988 with questions. Left some Promise Cards.

(S.McGinn) Some kids made Because I Said I Would signs for school. Website has some lesson plans for kids. Have to be 18 years old to join a chapter, but can bring kids to help with whatever local chapter decides to do. Some chapters have helped refugees with welcome parties and food drives. An Ohio chapter raised money for the 3 women held in a basement. Mr. Sheen walked across Ohio for the fundraiser. He will talk about DWI at 12/1 meeting. Meeting is good for HS ages and some middle schoolers may begin to get it. Part of 12/1 meeting is details of what Mr. Sheen is looking for in a chapter. Contacted Newsday & Herald. (A. Bender) Herald will print article & photos submitted to paper. The first chapter meeting will be 12/13, 7:30pm at the Recreation Center.

iPad Presentation: (Ms. Bisono & Mr. Baulch) Ms. Bisono is an 11th year, 6th grade special education teacher. She uses the iPad to bring visuals to students, for example, showed cork images. Uses apps to create flashcards, create games & story summaries of lectures & texts. Teacher & student apps are different. Kids can project classroom work on class screens, "airplay." Living stories which add pictures and voice is helpful as a quick catch up for missed classes. There is also a "chalkboard" to write messages to students. (S.McGinn) teachers will also have students write on and hold up their iPads. There's a notes app that automatically saves. Can list homework if kid forgets agenda. Secretive creates mini quizzes which students take and teachers can see results. Sometimes used as a Do Now. (J. Pascarella) Exit card method is sent out individually through ebackpack. (C. Keogh) Do Now is instantaneous with no paper cutting, although also give students an option to write the Do Nows. 6th grade math text is all on iPad. In 7th grade the teachers can upload the information. Uses BuzzMath app in strategies. There's an Algebra & Earth Science app that pool together the problems and materials. (Mr. Baulch) teaches 7th grade social studies and used to come to all the PTA meetings. iPad interfaces with 6th-8th grade social study textbooks. Replaces traditional textbooks and reflects NYS social study standards and common core standards. Text is at 7th grade reading level, but can differentiate one level down to 6th grade and maybe up levels. Teachers are still learning the technology. iPads don't drive curriculum but are used as resources. Units are conceptually driven so need to look across chapters. No one is trained on the Smart TV yet; it's new to the library. Maps and pictures are interactive. It is accessible from any digital or interactive device. Can change text size and have text read. Teachers can give assignments and respond to tasks in the textbook. There is no autosave function. Mr. Flynn, 8th grade, has kids put responses in the digital textbook. Worksheets are also digital. Summaries can be posted on ebackpack as a .pdf. Texts have links to outside

websites. Can click on a vocabulary word and get a definition. There's also a way to highlight. iPad app has non interactive version of textbook. Kids need to update & organize iPads. Teachers often tell kids to take a picture of the homework and delete the photo when the assignment is done.

Fundraiser for Masese, Uganda: (R. Cammarata) A few years ago the school raised money to build a brick wall around the school to protect it. Twenty-two kids in the primary school want to attend high school which costs \$330. Raising Money to send the kids to high school. Money must be collected by holiday vacation.

Treasurer's Report: (K. Garrett)(Copies of budget distributed) Have \$35,146.91, but outstanding checks are \$5,810.15 Balance is \$29,336.76. 504 PTA members. Don't know amount made by membership.

Thank you to Josie, Jen and Fall fundraising committee. Thank you to Ms. Keough. Committee Updates:

Fall Fundraiser: (J. Milano & J. Lindner) Earned \$8,800. Goal was \$12,000 for the year. Will have to do more to reach goal. Thanks to all who helped. Made valued friendships and connections that will grow and raise more money and help each other. May plan another social event maybe for the end of January or a 50/50. One box left in the Lotto box., \$20 per box. Tomorrow's last 2 digits of the Win 4 wins each drawing. Drawing at midday and evening. Thank you gifts to Ms. Keogh and Ms. Jackie.

Apparel: (Alanna Bender) Tees and sweats. Have larger adult sizes. Selling at 5th grade concerts. Making a profit. Socks suggested as an item but are expensive. Let Alanna know if have any ideas. Contact Alanna for apparel. Raised approximately \$600 with Models fundraiser. Can show coupon on phone or cashier can look it up. (E. Travers) Also use Amazon Smile while Christmas shopping on Amazon.

AIM: (C. Adonailo) 6th & 7th grade assembly was brought back to the classroom for workshops. Reviewed writing samples and dynamic language. 8th grade will do the workshops early December. Will do again next year.

Curriculum: (L. Medeiros) Took field trip to new Z-Space lab at SSHS 11/3. It's an interactive 3D educational tool with 3D glasses. Can do virtual dissections and virtual field trips. Some SSMS and elementary classes may go. Funded by the RVC Educational Foundation, \$80,000 over 3 years. Reading was mostly elementary focused.

PTA Counsel: (C. York) Met last night. The SSHD Holiday Boutique is 12/6. (C. Vaupel) District will remain paper based test. Will not decrease the number of testing days.

Reflections: (C. Vaupel) Less entries than last year. The contest is usually 2 weeks later. There were competing extra credits with social studies. Contest has a broad definition of art and anything can be submitted.

Drug & Alcohol Committee: (R. Cammarata) Parent presentation is March 21st. Discussed synthetic drugs. Kids are entering bars with fake ID which is a felony.

Picture Day Retake: (M. Eckrich) Retakes will be done in 3 weeks. May submit a different photo to Ms. Keogh for the yearbook but it will be a different background. Yearbook background is blue.

SEP: (L. Mullen) Center Stage and Best Buddies present Brittany Maier, a pianist who is blind and autistic. She will perform an all request concert at SSHS December 7th, 6:00-7:30. She can play any song she's ever heard and is amazing.

Presidents' Report: (E. Travers) MY Institute was excellent. Electronic directory will be emailed next week.

Teachers Report: (C. Keogh) Concert attire is all black. 7th grade concert & chorale is 12/13, 8th grade concert & wind ensemble is 12/15, 6th grade concert is 1/10. The Foreign Language department ran Trick or Treat for Unicef.

Principal's Report: (S. McGinn) 7th & 8th grade donations went to the Northport VA. History club collected 70lbs of candy. There's a food drive going on. Brittany Maier posters are up. Inclusive Week is 12/5-12/9. "No Place for Hate" being presented to students. Don't

think parents are looking at report cards; think they are doing quick lookup. Can access complete report cards in Powerschools. NWEA report cards are at the end of the year. Need webex for state reports and NWEA. 8th & 9th graders directed the play because the director went into labor the Monday of the week of the play. Mr. Lamana, Mr. Pomponio and Mr. Lee helped. There's a pretzel sale tomorrow.

Motion to Adjourn: Karl Garrett; seconded by Kara Spinelli.