

SSMS PTA MINUTES SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

Welcome: (Emma Travers) Introduction of Executive Board: Co-Presidents- Emma Travers and Marie Eckrich, VP Fundraising- Josie Milano and Jen Lindner, VP Membership- Jhanina Valdebenito, VP Communication- Jean Harris Ludwig who couldn't be here tonight, Treasurer- Karl Garrett, Recording Secretary- Donna O'Leary, Corresponding Secretary- Marianne Bochilo, Delegates to Council- Michelle Sewell and Colleen York, Alternate Delegate- Maria Yarris, Advisors- Shelagh McGinn and Tish Garrett (not present), SEP Representatives- Kelly Lynch and Liz Mullen. Introduction of Board of Education Members: Mayda Kramer and John O'Shea. (M. Kramer) BOE has 5 members which meet twice per month, 1 work session and 1 public session. (J. O'Shea) Thanks for bond approval which lead to this new library, high school construction and improvements throughout the district. Hopefully work will be done in a couple of months. the high school is having a November open house. Please come to BOE meetings or contact BOE with concerns at BOE@RVCSchools.org or call administration.

Caitlin Keogh is the teacher PTA representative with Jackie Giacone.

Treasurer's Report & Presentation of Budget: (K. Garrett) (Copies of budget distributed) Mirrors last year's budget. Dropped off entries for SSHS Post Prom, ropes and Health Fair. PTA makes money mostly through the Fall Fundraiser, but also from apparel, Modell's, picture day and membership dues. Most revenues are returned to the students. See treasurer's report for typical expenses.

Motion to Approve budget made by Sue Quilty; seconded by Cynthia Vaupel. Budget approved 66-0-0.

Thank You to Parents for 6th Grade Orientation chaired by Kara Spinelli.

Committee Updates:

Box Tops for Education: (Brady Bender) Is 8th grade Middle Years Project (MYP). Collection jars are located in SSMS lobby and Recreation Center or turn them in at any SSMS or SSHSPTA meeting, or the Bender's, 28 Voorhies Ave. or the Ericksons, 1275 Surrey Ln. PTA receives 10 cents per boxtops which will be used for school supplies, computers, sports equipment. Boxtops can be found on paper towels, tissues, cereal boxes, juice & granola. Please cut them out neatly. There will be prizes for the highest donated and raffles for all who participate. First Collection date is October 15th; second is February 13th, but will continue collecting. For more information text Brady Bender at 697-6383 or email Chris Ericsson at cferick@verizon.net. (S. McGinn) will be in morning announcements and website.

Membership: (Nina Valdebenito) Send the form for membership and the directory to Nina. The goal is 536 members. Husbands can join too. Trying more recruiting during health week, Fall Festival and Back to School Night. (Michelle Sewell) a benefit is the PTA directory. E. Travers bets Ms. Keogh that more dads than teachers will join.

Fall Fundraiser: (Josie Milano & Jen Linder) Fall Festival is 10/28, 7-11, at St. Marks; it's a social gathering of food & music with more mingling, not a sit down dinner. Anyone can attend. Will have bar tables. Watson had something similar last year with a great turnout. \$65pp; if can't make, still donate check. Need volunteers to help and solicit., sign up sheet is in the back. Drop donations to Josie at 105 Lakeview Ave, corner of Harvard. Also, a number pool for \$20 per box on sale tonight through 11/23. Winning numbers are from Win 4. There are two drawings with a possibility to win \$250 at midday and evening. Will also sell at Back to School Night.

AIM: (Cynthia Adonilo) booked "Worth It" for September 19th ties in anti bullying theme. and demonstrates that choices they make directly effect their future. Rose Cammarata found it. 3D screen and loud, musical interaction for whole school. Also author workshops with Brian Heins. More 1 on 1 this year to coincide with 7th and 8th grade writing process.

Picture Day: (Marie Eckrich) children should have gotten form in Advisory. Extras are here, in the office and on the website. Bring form September 21st or 22nd, whichever day is gym class, Irvin Simon will give family discount to families with 3 plus children in the district who are photographed by Irvin Simon. Indicate family plan on form, write the names of the schools and hand in to school with the siblings. Schools get some money back. Customer Service department will rectify any problems. Have to pick same plan for all kids except if it's not available, then chose comparable package. Sue LiCalzi asked if email will be sent when pictures are in. Contact Barbara Barker for answer. Email is on webpage.

Apparel: (Alanna Bender) Sold at 6th grade orientation. Spirit shirts, dry fits, basketball shorts, girls running shorts, halo head bands, IB logo magnets (\$5) are on display. Will also have sweats and hoodies at Back to School Night. All are sold close to cost. Suggest buy tonight or at Back to School Night. Contact Alanna for apparel.

Presidents' Report: (M. Eckrich & E. Travers) Hewitt Fair is 10/16. PTA conference in Saratoga Springs. PTA will pay. Contact Emma or Marie if want to attend. Model's coupons 15% off with 5% going to school. Please send out to teams you coach. Will probably do again at holidays. Amazon Smiles will donate to school when shop through them. Go to Amazon Smile and choose SSMS. Group is PTA NY Congress 010-109 SSMSPTA. Must shop through Amazon Smile, not Amazon. Thank you to everyone who helped over the summer.

New Business: Sara Yarris's Silver Award is Operation Smile. She created mailboxes in the lobby and recreation center for kids to send letters to those who served in military. Don't put your address or surname. Please put stamp on the envelope.

SEP: (Kelly Lynch) Meeting in HS cafeteria October 17th, 7-8 to discuss diploma options. October 25th is Coffee & Share at SSMS. Challenger Fall League is now, with 1st game September 17th.

There is a sensory movie at the library October 21st. (Liz Mullen) SEP mission is to make things more inclusive- AIM, trips- to make students more comfortable. For example some kids will need a heads up as to the loudness of some AIM programs. Parents should get a heads up so they can prepare kids. (S. McGinn) guidance and special ed make accommodations.

(E. Travers) Come to PTA meetings because kids don't tell you anything anymore.

iPad Etiquette and insurance: (Jen Pascarella) Insurance is recommended, but optional. Repairs can cost upward of \$200 if cracks hit LCD screen. Ask insurance company what's the replacement and the cost to fix the LCD and screens. School website has links for insurance but district doesn't endorse any company. District takes care of anything internal. Talk to Ms. Pascarella or guidance if internal issues. If there's an external issue, that's on the child. Typically when an iPad breaks the school sets up the student with Cellular Mechanic who'll pick up the device from the school and repair it. District lists Worth Insurance. Can also go through homeowners insurance. Insurance is parents's responsibilities. Information to register iPad is in its settings. Parents can ask school to take iPad from student if there's a problem with use. Administration gets weekly updates of banned apps being used. Usually the first time using a banned app is a free pass and after that there are consequences. Check your kids apps. Backpack is accessible through desktops but this isn't always true with the interactive part of the social studies text. (S. McGinn) Most kids use iPad responsibly. Remember you own your kid's phone. Kids don't have to bring phone to school. The phone is not hooked up to school wifi; it uses data. Confiscated phones are locked up by Ms. Goldstein. She leaves at 3:30 so parents need to pick up confiscated phones before she leaves because Ms. McGinn can't get the old safe to unlock. (J. Pascarella) Most teachers link edline to ebackpack. Ebackpack is a better place to access content. 6th grade will get edline account in ELA. Call Ann Feminello at 255-8983 to set up edline account. Edline contains announcements, calendars, teachers and classes. The majority of teachers do assignments in ebackpack. Wait until Back to School Night for teachers to say where they post homework. Ebackpack is now in its 3rd year. There area parent and student logins. Don't use parent login because backpack is the contemporary equivalent of Trapper Keeper. Kids organize ebackpack. Ask kids for their logins, but don't move things. Teachers download assignments and notes. Ebackpack logins are the same as computer logins. Assignments can be time stamped. A cheatsheet of the programs is on the webs SSMS technology page. Always sign into backpack as the student. Administration will talk to teachers to help students with how to use ebackpack. 5th grade is now also working through ebackpack. First cycle of iPads did have Otterboxes. Only issue was damaging the iPad when taking the cover on and off and the screen doesn't lie flat for typing. (S. Flanagan) kids were; putting covers on and the screen were cracking. Otterbox has a lifetime guarantee. Current covers protect screens when iPads fall. May use iPads in auditorium 0 period. Staff speaks about iPad safety. (S. McGinn) a kid said his iPad had been stolen from his locker & returned broken. Video showed he dropped it from his locker. You Break It I Fix on N. Village Ave. will give a 10% discount towards repair of an RVC Schools iPad. For old parents Powerschools portals are still valid, Call guidance or Cheryl McGoldrick, 255-8844, if forgot your password and need to reset it. For new parents to set up a Powerschools for the first time, call Ann Feminello, 255-8983, in guidance, to set up account. Child's ID is regular password. Kids can get it from guidance. If a field is blue or a grade you can click on it. MYP conversion charts will be included.

Teachers are required to update grade every 2 weeks. No grades are in ebackpack. Kids cannot easily delete items in ebackpack.

Principal's Report: (S. McGinn) Technology is building the hydroponics lab it received through a PTA grant. (C. Keogh) yearbooks can be ordered for \$50 at yearbookordercenter.com. Encourage kids to sit for photo so their picture can be in the yearbook and the teachers don't have to take a head shot in the hallway. All students, grades 6-8, are in the yearbook. (S. McGinn) Wonderful start. No missed buses. There was a Respect Assembly. The most important rule is the "Golden Rule. Entire staff was introduced to kids at the assembly. 7th and 8th graders are helping 6th graders. Good group. September 22nd is Character Day. Tell kids to check Club Central. Announcements are on the website which is linked to the district app. Dance Club, Book Club and Southside Exchange are new. Hope you can come to the meetings.

New Business: Nina Valdebenito questioned DC trip. (S. McGinn) Current 7th grade has a portfolio application. Assignments are due quarter 2-4 of 7th grade and quarter 1 of 8th grade. 157 are going to DC; 15 teachers chaperoning. Need 26-27 chaperones to take the whole grade which would compromise instruction. (M. Sewell) proposed 2 different DC dates. (R. Cammarata) No, because then miss 6 days of instruction and there aren't enough teachers. What happens to kids who get into Honor Society. There are different options for trips for Honor Society, maybe a day trip. Some students do a great job and are hard workers. Kids will have to commit to hit deadlines. The DC trip is minimum \$700.

Motion to Adjourn: Shannon Roesch; seconded by Sue LiCalzi.