

South Middle School PTA General Board Meeting Minutes

September 20th, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Allyson Jannotta, South PTA President.

Welcome and Attendance-Allyson Jannotta

1. Allyson introduced herself, and guest Matthew Rodriguez, Illinois PTA President, who stopped by to help with Money Matters training class that was also occurring in the building. Matthew touched upon briefly what he is involved with at the state level and encouraged members to share their voices on legislative matters. Visit the Illinois PTA website for current happenings and resources- www.illinoispta.org
2. There were twelve (12) individuals, four (4) officers, a teacher liaison, two (2) associate principals, and the principal in attendance at this month's meeting. Quorum (six individuals including two officers) was met.

Administrative Reports

Secretary's Report- Mary DeMaria

1. Group was notified that meetings will be recorded for note-taking purposes only, and will be deleted upon approval of minutes.
2. Minutes from April's meeting were posted on Google Drive. A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Tracy Ferraro and seconded by Meg Rogers. There was no discussion. All were in favor. No one opposed. Motion passed to approve the minutes from April's meeting.
3. In an effort to be green, hard copies of minutes will not be available. Minutes will be posted on Google Drive for Executive Board members, and on the South PTA website for general members once they have been proofed and reviewed by the president.
4. Correspondence- Four (4) Thank You Cards from staff regarding the Back-to-School Staff Breakfast were read and circulated. Very impressive on number of personal notes and signatures on those four cards.

Treasurer's Report- Tracey Ruder

1. Tracey presented the budget and distributed hard copies to those present. Mary DeMaria made a motion to approve the budget. Lorelei Cole seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor. No one opposed. Motion passed to adopt the budget.
2. July/August Treasurer Reports were distributed to those present. Reports will also be posted on Google Drive and the South PTA Website under Resources.
3. Audit is complete.

ABC/25 Report- Mary DeMaria and (Nicole Towle)

1. Thanks to the office staff's hard work, Yankee Candle Fundraising packets were distributed during the first week of school. Reminders will be sent prior to each important deadline.
 - a. Orders need to be placed by October 21st in order to receive products by Thanksgiving.
 - b. Orders need to be placed by November 18th in order to receive by Christmas.
 - c. Online sales close January 11th.
2. An In-School Fundraiser will occur in February. Liaisons plan to form a focus group in November of students and teachers to brainstorm ideas. May also combine efforts with Thomas Middle School to fuel a little friendly competition.
3. Currently there is no information on how South stands with membership. That information will be shared as soon as it is available. If 25% of the South community are members, South receives \$2500 as a membership incentive grant.

AH Council Representative- (Katie Washco)- No Report

President's Report- Allyson Jannotta

1. Invitation was extended to those present to attend the District 37 Annual Dinner Meeting on October 17th at 7:00pm. Event is open to all Executive Board Members. Invitation will also be extended to Executive Board members unable to attend meeting.
2. Open Positions- please contact Allyson Janotta if you are interested or know of someone who may be.
 - a. Hospitality- specifically Fall Conference Luncheon Lead
 - b. Nominating Committee- will be formed later this Fall.
3. Last year's excess funds were utilized for LMC remodeling/new furniture, and a water bottle refilling station on the 2nd floor.

Principal's Report- Piper Boston

1. First off, it's been a great start to the school year. Parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers and/or team leaders if their student is having transition struggles.
2. Surveys will be coming soon regarding both Curriculum Nights.
3. There are many new staff members. Ms. Boston introduced Mr. Steve Perkins, new Associate Principal, to those present.
4. LMC is currently going through an update and remodeling to make the space more fluid and meet the needs of the curriculum.
5. District introduced a new website platform. South's website is still evolving. Daily announcements can be viewed on the website and are particularly helpful when staying informed, as well as weekly emails from SMS Administration.
6. Edline will be maintained throughout this year as a grade portal. Schoology will be the platform where assignments will be posted. The paper assignment notebook also is still being promoted within classrooms.

7. Students will be using Chromebooks this year. Chromebooks are very complimentary to the middle school curriculum and culture. Progression will eventually move toward students bringing them home. More information will be coming soon.

Teacher Liaison- Janet Iacovelli

1. This is a new position. Janet is excited to enter into this great opportunity, exchange communication, and build a bridge between parents and teachers.

Committee Reports

Event Results:

Back-To-School Chill Out- (Colleen O’Keeffe)

1. Chill Out was cancelled due to weather. Additional ice pops were purchased by PTA so that all students can have one during lunch this coming Friday.

Hospitality/Back-to-School Staff Breakfast- Allyson Jannotta

1. Breakfast went very well. Thanks to all who donated and volunteered.

Picture Day- (Jeannie Petkewicz)

1. Picture retakes are October 11th.
2. Positive feedback on new format and ability to view photo prior to ordering.

Calendar- Tracy Gerwen

1. South is currently the only school that printed a calendar. Piper Boston extended her appreciation at Tracy’s hard work and thoroughness.

Directory- Tracy Ferraro

1. DirectorySpot App is up and running! Printed copies are available upon request. See South PTA website for more information and how to install.

Membership- (Angela Barry)

1. Membership is going very well, in fact to the point of running low on membership cards.

Works in Progress:

LMC Volunteer Coordinator- (Phyllis Orzechowski)

1. Information coming soon on volunteer training.

Cultural Arts- Kathy Kingston and (Kim Buck)

1. Committee attended a cultural art fair, and are currently considering “Amazing Africa” and “Rope Warrior” as possible assemblies.
2. Ellie Chen, Associate Principal, added that Cultural Arts also helps fund these grade level programs that align with social studies curriculum.
 - a. Civil War Re-Enactment for 8th graders on October 5th.
 - b. Revolutionary War Re-enactment for 7th graders on November 18th
 - c. Mr. Nicky for 6th graders in May. Check him out on YouTube.

Spiritwear- (Alison McLaughlin, Jennifer Ciccone, and Kathleen Zilewicz)

1. Using a new vendor this year. Online sales will open in October and will stay open all year long.
 - a. Will be able to make mid-year changes to spirit-wear line.
 - b. Considering having vendor attend incoming 6th grade night in the spring to make spiritwear on demand.
 - c. Samples will be ordered and displayed in the office this fall.

6th Grade Activity Night- (Christine Naunheimer, Laura Belluomini, and Gina Hammond)

1. October 21st at SMS. Activities include ping pong, open gym
2. Permission slips, volunteer opportunities, and more information on the South PTA website.

7th Grade Activity Night- (Sheila Blair and Lisa Soro)

1. October 14th at the Mount Prospect Community Center. Activities include skating and open gym.
2. Permission slips, volunteer opportunities, and more information on the South PTA website.

Reflections- Lorelei Cole

1. Theme-“What’s Your Story?”
2. The school matched their theme for the summer reading program with the Reflections theme. The suggestion was made to distribute entry forms to Language Arts teachers, since many students did projects based on the theme already for school work.
3. There are six (6) categories including: dance, music, photography, writing, and visual arts.
4. Currently there is a contest open to select next year’s Reflections theme.

Technology/Website- (Stephanie Williams)

1. Submissions for the website need to be very specific in order to be copied and pasted into the website.
2. Great feedback on the new look!

Yearbook- (Marianne Anderson)

1. Committee is currently discussing moving toward all credit card orders to simplify the yearbook ordering process. This may not go into effect until the 2017-2018 school year to allow time to work out all the details.

Status Reports:

Scholarship- (Kristin Keil) No Report

Prospect High School Liaison- (Alison McLaughlin)- No Report

Rolling Meadows High School Liaison- (Colleen O’Keeffe)- No Report

South Liaison to Westgate Elementary- Tracy Recklaus- No Report

Scholarship/Recognition- (Lisa Soro and Kristin Keil)- No Report

Sunshine Committee- Tracy Hall

1. Committee is looking for suggestions/expectations on what the guidelines are for Sunshine. Suggestions included new family welcoming (especially mid-year new families), bereavement, and acknowledgment of appreciation. Committee will follow up with Allyson Janotta and Piper Boston.

Teacher Appreciation Committee- (Stephanie Williams and Crissy Klostermeyer)-No Report

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Meg Rogers inquired about the traffic patterns/flow especially at the Highland/Park intersection. School is currently working with the village and Officer Veenstra and advocating for a 4-way stop sign or crossing guard. Will reach out to families if additional advocating and assistance is needed.

