

**South Middle School PTA  
General Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2022**



**Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting ID: 825 8400 4599**

**Passcode: 634063**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82584004599?pwd=dFlpTmJKVjNWckRja01CSVpOdGVJZz09>

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**I. 7:00pm Call to Order: Donna Ekl**

- A. Welcome and Introductions
- B. Attendance - 4 Board, 4 general members, 4 school staff

**II. 7:10pm Administrative Reports**

- A. Secretary's Report: Allison Tucker
  - 1. Action Item: Move to approve prior meeting minutes - approved
  - 2. Correspondence: none to report
- B. Treasurer's Report: Jenny Skidmore
  - 1. Monthly report - quiet month,
  - 2. Budget update - working with bank for refund, reviewed bank activity since 1/5
  - 3. Excess funds committee - chaired by the Treasurer Jenny Skidmore, Janet Iacovelli, Dr. Morrison, Donna Ekl, Catherine Olson & Heather Leopold. Jenny Skidmore will email the group to setup first meeting. Sheri Rosen shared several ideas with PTA already.
  - 4. Reviewed remaining balances for the grade-level activity nights
- C. Vice President's Report: Lauren Rogers - no report
- D. Principal's Report: Dr. Morrison -
  - 1. Held 3 successful ski trips and all were well-attended by students. The kids had a great time, no injuries. Looking forward to doing the again next year.
  - 2. End of the successful girls' volleyball season with the sweetheart tournament. 7th & 8th grades both placed in the tournament.
  - 3. Jazz band will perform at RMHS.
  - 4. 5 wrestlers made it to sectionals.
  - 5. Students will be moving into the multipurpose room for lunch due to revised Covid recommendations.

6. Parent participation for the 5-Essentials survey is at 16% currently, need 20% to get results. 91% of the students took the survey and the school staff would really like to see those results.
  7. Illinois Assessment Readiness testing scheduled for March 8-11.
  8. ISA science test for 8th on Mar 4.
  9. Scheduling is already underway for next year. SMS is getting info on incoming 6th-grade students from feeder elementary schools.
  10. Spring break Mar 21-25.
  11. Sunrise lake field trips for 7th grade will be Mar 28-29. This replaces the previous TAFT trips.
- E. Additional reports from Associate Principals: Sheri Rosen and Steve Perkins
- F. Teacher Liaison Report - Janet Iacovelli
1. Thursday Feb 24 was RULER day with an extended 40-min homebase. Though some students act disinterested, she'll hear them using the RULER vocabulary in the hallway – phrases like “Trigger”, or “being your best self”. Being familiar with these concepts, recognizing in self and others, and learning how to communicate your feelings is a life skill, will be helpful in high school and as an adult.
  2. Received email from 8th science teachers. They are in the middle of the planet mars challenge, international competition. Students trying to simulate soil on mars and then try to grow food on “Mars”.
  3. March Mammal Madness - learning all about a different animal, what they eat, their habitat, etc. and they compete against each other, working through a “bracket”.
  4. 7th grade is doing a photography competition using photos from microscope studies. Variety of items brought in by students, they learned how to use the equipment (micro, camera, etc), photos went up for competition.
  5. Thank you for the attempted Portillo's conference dinner, which had to cancelled due to weather.
- G. President's Report: Donna Ekl
1. Positions to be filled for next year include
    - a) Executive Committee - need a nominating committee to fill the Exex Comm for 2022-23 school year. Donna Ekl, Ann Williams, Michelle Harris, and one more member.
    - b) Various committee chairs and volunteer positions to fill.

III. **7:30 PM: Committee Reports**

A. ABC/25 Liaisons - no report

B. Activity Nights - discussed budgets earlier

1. 6th Grade
2. 7th Grade
3. 8th Grade Events -

Picnic planning is underway with a DJ, yard games, dunk tank, giant jenga, volleyball, getting a photo booth quote. A salty snack and sweet treat will be offered, but students are to bring their own lunch.

Hallway decorating is a tradition and was approved to continue this year. Decorations include a poster for each 8th-grade student. Need 5-10 people to do the posters, staff and students alike love it.

Discussed budget items that were implemented during Covid and whether those continue. Things like yard signs may be offered for purchase by families.

Next steps: review invoices with Sheri Rosen, get a group together for hallway decorating.

C. CulturalArts - Sheri Rosen

1. Planning underway for events later this year. Extreme Science "science wizard" from America's Got Talent would be in-person in May. Evaluating whether the whole student body would attend one assembly or have separate grade-level assemblies.

D. Directory Spot

E. High School Liaisons

- Prospect
- RM

F. Hospitality/Teacher Appreciation

1. PTA provided Portillo's for dinner on the night of parent-teacher conferences, Thursday 2/17, but had to cancel due to weather.
2. Staff appreciation week is May 2-6.

G. JuvenileProtection

H. Legislation

- I. LMC Coordinator
- J. Membership/Marketing: Catherine Olson says it is tough to clarify with incoming families that the PTA at elementary is separate from middle school.
  - 1. After Spring Break is yearbook sales, which will be communicated via home base, marketing only to those families who have not yet purchased a yearbook.
  - 2. Working with Holly Connors and others to promote 8th-grade picnic.
- K. Publicity/Social Media: Catherine Olson
  - 1. Yearbook sales
  - 2. 8th grade picnic
- L. Reflections: Heather Lepold - no report
- M. Scholarship Applications - Pack the Piggies contest is happening at all schools to fund the SD25 scholarships. Deadline is before spring break. Scholarship Awards ceremony scheduled for April 29
- N. Spirit wear
- O. Student Pictures: Lauren Rogers
  - 1. 8th-grade graduation pictures were held on 2/15
  - 2. 8th-grade graduation retakes will be on 3/16
- P. Sunshine
- Q. Technology/Website Coordinator
- R. Volunteer Coordinator:
  - 1. Need to fill Excess Funds committee
  - 2. Upcoming volunteer opportunities for events this year
  - 3. Committee Chairs and Executive Committee need filling for next year
- S. Yearbook
- T. Teacher appreciation – will start planning after spring break.

IV. **7:48 PM: New Business**

V. **7:49 PM: Adjournment**

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**UPCOMING EVENT DATES**

March 16 | 8th-grade graduation picture retakes

March 19-27 | Spring Break

March 28 & 29 | 7th Grade Sunrise Field Trip

April 13 | Incoming 6th Grade Orientation

April 15 | No School

April 29 | Scholarship Awards Ceremony

May 2-6 | Staff Appreciation Week