

South Middle School PTA
General Meeting Agenda - NOTES
March 13, 2024 (on Google Meet)



I. 6:30pm Call to Order: Sarah Baird

- A. Welcome
- B. Attendance - shown below

II. Administrative Reports

A. Secretary's Report (Julie Eisenhut)

- 1. Action Item: Move to approve 1/23/24 meeting minutes
 - a) All in favor, so the minutes were approved
- 2. National PTA news
 - a) The yearly Illinois PTA convention starts tomorrow and is being held virtually thru March 16th. Any PTA members along with board members can attend. If interested, let Julie Eisenhut know. (secretary@southpta.org)
 - b) March is National Reading Month and the National PTA has some excellent book recommendations to help expand your global citizenship. [Book list found here!](#)
- 3. Fundraiser Update and Final Total
 - a) HUGE success with lots of donations. We think the "stress free" fundraising is the key to involvement rather than selling.
 - b) We were hoping to raise \$4,000 but we raised \$4,625!!!
 - c) We would like to continue this sort of fundraising next year and add an element of reward - maybe something fun for the school (popsicles, recess outdoors, free time?)

B. Treasurer's Report (Nicole Mather)

- 1. Monthly report - Budget is balanced
 - a) Due to the success of our fundraiser, we are able to roll over more funds than usual.
 - b) Current Balances Checking-\$16,698.17 Savings-\$5,126.76
 - (1) We would like to close the Savings Account and transfer the balance to checking account
 - c) Membership \$\$ rec'd \$6,441 (under budget \$1,200)
 - d) Membership Dues to State-rec'd \$3,008 paid \$2,847 in dues
 - e) Donations rec'd \$1,592 from Boosters at registration & GiveBacks and \$4,625 from the Stress-free Fundraiser
 - f) Hospitality-\$2,048 paid to date

g) Yearbook-\$8,928 paid to date

C. Welcome to Dr. Lori Bein & Dr. Brian Kaye

1. The 5 Essentials Survey is still active and needs more participation from parents (teachers and students participated). The survey helps the administration gauge the level of satisfaction in each school and what areas need some improvement. Needs 20% from each school and very close at this point.
2. Construction projects are on time and under budget. 6 elementary schools going on at the same time. Staff and students have been tremendously flexible and patient throughout the construction.
3. 2024-2025 school year - starting later (Aug. 29th) and ending earlier to get closer to the high school calendar year. They recognize the child care is an issue and have worked with the Park District to offer childcare coverage from 7:00am-6:00pm through August 9th. They are exploring other options and agencies in the area to help working parents.
4. Welcome Dr. Brian Kaye - started as asst principal at South and has been in education for 26 years; 20 years in the district. He is excited to be a part of District 25.
5. Q & A portion
 - a) Calendar concerns over the 25-26 school year?
 - (1) This summer shorter, next summer longer - trying to go back to starting in mid-August and aligning with high school calendar.
 - b) Has the kindergarten enrollment increased?
 - (1) Pre-registration has just started. At this point we have 387 kindergarteners, anticipated 424.
 - (2) 25 classrooms across the buildings, new gyms at 2 schools.
 - (3) 2-3 year transition until you see a full change in enrollment.
 - c) What are Dr. Kaye's goals?
 - (1) Making sure construction finishes on time for next school year.
 - (2) Full day kindergarten has a smooth start.
 - (3) Middle School math - looking at the progression of courses from 3rd - high school. Looking at various options and support for accelerated math to meet needs
 - (4) Teacher support both work/life balance and with instructional coaches in the classrooms.

D. Reports from Principal (Dr. Morrison)

1. Thanked the PTA for dinner during Parent/Teacher conferences. They love stock-the-lounge and having treats throughout the day.

2. Spring testing
 - a) IAR last week
 - b) Spring Map testing coming up
3. Eclipse of the sun coming up in April. The whole school will go out to view it safely with special sunglasses
4. April 1st "Pack the Piggies" to raise money for the PTA Council. If they raise \$1,000, Dr. Morrison and some teachers have agreed to be slimed.
5. 7th grade heading to Sunrise Lake at end of April.
6. Volleyball teams having a great year! 8th grade heads to state!
7. South received wrestling mats and were able to host their first ever meet.
8. Transition meetings occurring for incoming 5th graders and outgoing 8th graders
9. 8th grade graduation and many fun activities coming up.
10. Please fill out the 5 Essentials Survey

E. President's Report (Sarah Baird)

1. Meeting with Administration to discuss closing out this year with a few activities and setting a calendar of events for next year. Would like to have the calendar set by May 1 so we can line-up volunteers.
2. Call for Executive Committee nominations. Please contact someone on our Nominating Committee, if interested in planning and facilitating the PTA for the 2024-25 school year.
3. Melissa Lenski, Michelle Harris, Marcy Meyer - contact information in the HOT LIST or on social media.

III. **Committee Reports**

A. Grade Events and Activities

1. 6th/7th - working with Administration to see if we can have 2 more activity hours this year. Will be reaching out to those who said they would volunteer to plan for next year.
2. 8th grade - Please see <https://smcardinals8th.wordpress.com/> for more information on the 8th grade activities.
 - a) 5/16/24: 8th Grade Dance, 6:00-9:00 pm at the DoubleTree (Not sponsored by SMS or SMS PTA)
 - b) 5/22/24: 8th Grade in-school picnic, sponsored by the PTA
 - c) 5/23/24: 8th Grade Graduation

B. Directory Spot (Heather Lepold)

C. High School Liaisons

- Prospect
- RM (Jen Ubert)

D. Hospitality/Teacher Appreciation (Cassie Hrtanek)

1. Successful dinner for teachers/staff for Parent Teacher Conferences

2. Teacher Appreciation in May. If anyone is interested in helping plan and coordinate this, please reach out to Cassie Hrtanek. Will be in future HOT LIST and Cardinal Corner.
- E. LMC Coordinator (Abby Harkey)
- F. Membership (Cheryl Duda)
- G. Publicity/Social Media (Julie Eisenhut)
 1. Check Facebook for updates especially for 8th grade events coming up at the end of the school year.
- H. Reflections (Shelly Daley)
 1. Reflections update: South participant made it to the state level for her artwork and was honored at the school board meeting.
- I. Scholarship Application Reader
- J. School Board Rep (Communication through Nikki Mather)
- K. Spirit wear (Nadia Viken)
 1. 3rd and final Spirit Wear Sale coming April 8-15
 2. New designs!
- L. Student Pictures (Sarah Baird)
 1. Signed the contract with the photographer for next year.
 2. Dates:
 - a) 6th and 7th: 9/13, retake 10/18
 - b) 8th: 2/11, retake 3/12
- M. Technology/Website Coordinator (Julie Eisenhut)
- N. Yearbook (Argie Karafotias)
 1. After spring break, a reminder will be sent to order yearbooks for those that didn't during registration
 2. Yearbook has been submitted and proofed.

IV. **New Business**

- A. South PTA Parent Night Out - Bingo at Peggy Kinane's - 4/11 at 7:30 PM

V. **Adjournment**

UPCOMING EVENT DATES

3/13/24: PTA General Meeting, 6:30pm virtual meeting

3/19/24: No School, Election Day

3/25 - 3/29: No School, Spring Break

4/11/24: PTA Parents Night Out at Peggy Kinane's for trivia night at 7:30pm

5/2/24: PTA General Meeting, 6:30pm (Voting on new Executive Committee)
5/16/24: 8th Grade Dance, 6:00-9:00 pm at the DoubleTree (Not sponsored by SMS or SMS
PTA - see <https://smcardinals8th.wordpress.com/> for more information)
5/21/24: 8th grade trip to Great America
5/22/24: 8th grade in-school picnic, sponsored by the PTA
5/23/24: 8th grade Graduation
5/31/24: Last Day of School

Attendance: 25 attendees

Julie Eisenhut
Sarah Baird
Melissa Lenski
Nadia Viken
Nicole Mather
Andrea Newman
Heather Tebbe
Argie Karafotias
Heather Walsh
Dr. Morrison, Principal
Lisa Smith, Teacher representative
Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent
Mollie Gottfred
Molly Hugen
Sheri Rosen, Asst. Principal
Dr. Steve Perkins, Asst. Principal
Westgate PTA President
Abby Harkey
Dr. Brian Kaye, incoming Superintendent
Kari Beyer
Sara Barber
Reagan Culbertson
Jennifer Heffernan
Sandra Albu
Elizabeth Nagy