**Minutes of the Board Meeting of the JSSPVA**

**May 19, 2015**

**In attendance:** Lisa O'Rourke, Julie Kalainov, Kim Hedley, Stacy Smith, Kristin Jungbluth, Veronica Durdov, M'Liz Simonds, Julie Ruck, Adrienne Weisenberger, Stephanie Henry, Elleke Haggerty, Angie Veber, Caroline Degenaars, Bobbie Rowe, Brooke Timmerman, Kelly Rainey, Kelly Kalinich.

Meeting was called to order by Lisa O'Rourke, President, at 8:48am.

Kristin Jungbluth motioned to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Julie Kalainov seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

**Principal's Report**

Lisa O’Rourke reported the following on behalf of Kendra Wallace. Thank you again for an incredible benefit. The evening was amazing and the teachers felt welcome. The event is an amazing tribute to the support, care and investment (in all meanings) our community has in Joseph Sears.

Thank you to all of the committees who have reached out to Kendra to connect on plans for next year. Kendra is excited to be going into this year with eyes wide open and a year under her belt so she can be helpful in partnering with the JSSPVA.

Thank you to everyone in advance for all of the hard work that has been put into Field Day. It is essential that everyone remember our four cornerstones. It is important to remind all children that although by nature Field Day is two competing teams – it is not an event devoid of sportsmanship (kindness and respect) and character (honesty). Creating spaces at lunch will make a big difference and ensure that no children are left out.

Finally, testing is almost done. It has been a walloping spring for this. With the transition and the unknowns surrounding PARCC, the school chose to give the spring MAP tests, so that we have the data points to make good decisions around teaching and learning

**President's Report**

Lisa presented the following two items that needed to be voted on today:

* First, Lisa proposed spending money from our special projects allocation to repair 3 cellos that are housed in the orchestra room. The motion was made to approve this expense by Veronica Durdov and was seconded by Caroline Deganaars. The motion was passed, unopposed.
* Second, Lisa proposed that the JSSPVA release $500 from our allocations to be used as a cushion for Field Day. The motion was made to approve this expense by Kristin Jungbluth and it was seconded by Angie Veber. The motion was passed, unopposed.

Lisa announced that this was Dr. Kalinich’s last board meeting. A community reception is scheduled for May 28th from 8-9:30 to formally thank her for the10 years of service that she has given to Sears.

Kelly reflected on first JSSPVA meeting that she attended back in 2005, which was just after hurricane Katrina. She was tasked with figuring out what Sears School could do to help. The response gave her great insight into JSSPVA and our community. Kelly suggested that we find a school for our district to support. The Turkey Trot was formed as a way to raise money for a school we decided to support in Mississippi. Through this effort, our school and community raised almost $40,000. This type of effort is what symbolizes the JSSPVA and this community is all about and Kelly was proud to be a part of it.

Lisa thanked everyone for coming to the meeting today. Congratulations to all of the people who have volunteer to take on a new role with the JSSPVA for next year. Hopefully, transitions have taken place because providing history to your successor is critical.

The allocation meeting is planned for June 2nd. Everyone is welcome to attend, but only Board members can vote.

Field Day has changed this year. The Booster Club has provided lunch in the past for the Senior Field Day. However, they felt that their money was better spent buying t-shirts for the students instead. As a result, the JSSPVA will provide treats for the students. The room parents for grades 5-8 will purchase pizza for lunch. For Junior Field Day (grades 1-4) rooms parents will organize a lunch (pizza if they have enough money or the kids will be instructed to bring sack lunch if they don’t). The JSSPVA will purchase spirit-ware (face paint, etc.) for all students.

Lisa presented the annual report for the JSSPVA, which highlighted the accomplishments from the year and a summary of all positions.

In closing, Lisa thanked everyone for a great year on the JSSPVA. A special thank you to Julie. Good luck and you will do a great job next year.

**Treasurer's and Past Treasurer’s Report**

Kristin distributed the income statement. If anyone has items outstanding that need to be submitted for reimbursement, please let Kristin know ASAP. The check request form is available on the website.

Veronica reported that the new tax-exempt letter has been received and is valid through 2020. This is also available on the website.

**Vice President's Report**

The upcoming Spring Book Fair is May 19th and 20th in the LTC.

**Family Fun Day Future:**

August 25, 2015 is locked in and approved by Kendra Wallace, a flyer will be included in the JSSVPA newsletter before the end of the year, and planning is in progress.

**Fine Arts:**

May is our busy concert month. The month began with the spring art show, the 4th and 5th grade band and orchestra concert, the junior high combined band and orchestra concert (our first “symphonic” performance at Sears), and the spring choral concert. On May 20th we will have the 3rd grade elementary concert. Also, all of the fine arts teachers received gift cards and chocolates or flowers with a signed card from the students and the JSSPVA.

**Grounds:**

The planters will go out in style for Sears’s graduation, and then they will basically be dormant for the summer.

**Lost and Found:**

Please remind parents to come and check the lost and found this month frequently.

Laurel will organize as she is able and will ask the custodians to put the items in the Link at the end of May. Note-all items will be donated after the last day of school.

**Staff Appreciation:**

Many teachers expressed their thanks for the JSSPVA's teacher appreciation efforts during staff appreciation week.

An extra thanks to those who helped with the flower sale (Brooke Timmerman, Kate Denny, Bobbi Rowe, Claire Gottreich, Lily Nicolaides) and by baking dessert treats (Cathy Sheehan, Sarah Halak and Emily Tzur).  And thanks to Jessica Johnston who helped assemble gift bags

**Community Liaison**

The School Board meeting was held last night, and highlights include:

* Kelly talked about projected enrollment for the 2015-16 school year. Enrollment is currently at 455, and there are still only 21 students enrolled in Kindergarten. They are hoping enrollment will build over the summer.
* Starting in June, new signage will be installed around the school. There will be new plates in front of each classroom indicating the teacher, grade level and Braille.
* Kendra reported that 86% of our students took the PARCC test. Our school met the state requirement for participation in March, but did not meet the requirement this time. There were 26 8th graders who refused to take the test. This does not impact us with our funding. Children are allowed to refuse to take the test without parent’s knowledge or approval. Failing to meet our participation requirement could trigger an audit. Additionally, students who did not take the second set of tests will not be part of our data results because we do not have two data points to consider.
* The process for formulating class lists for next year is underway. Students will be notified of their assignments during the week of August 18th.
* Julia Jones, Director of Student Services discussed work that is taking place over the summer to incorporate “Erin’s Law” into the curriculum.
* New business: The Board approved the rehire recommendations of Teachers Mrs. Cathleen Sheridan (awarding tenure, as well), Mrs. Shea Almendarez and Mrs. Natalie Kohn McLemore.
* The Board approved the JSSPVA annual allocation requests, which will be presented to the JSSPVA at their June 2, 2015 allocation meeting for consideration.

**Benefit**

The benefit books have been closed and transitions have taken place for next year.

**World Link**

There are no remaining speakers or guests planned for this year. Discussion are taking place regarding how to spend money that is remaining it the World Link budget as a result of scheduling challenges throughout the year.

**Nominating**

The slate was voted on and approved last month. We have a new vacancy for skate exchange, and a replacement or this opening will be presented and voted on in September.

The Future Benefit Chair for 2016-17 is also still vacant. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested please let Angie or Stacy know.

**New Trier Liaison**

* Next Board Meeting is June 8th at 7:30pm in Northfield.
* This Friday, the seniors are done. Graduation is May 31st
* Exams for the rest of the students will be held June 4th-9th.
* June 18th New Trier is hosting a seminar on how to manage the college search program.
* June 25th New Trier is hosting a seminar regarding how to navigate college essays.
* June 5th Summer School begins.
* July 15th, physicals are due.
* Football begins on August 10th, and all other fall sports being on August 12th.
* First day of school for the 2015-16 school year will be August 19th.

**Sears Cafe**

Nothing to report.

**Communications**

Kelly is in the final countdown for the year-end communications. The next newsletter will be distributed tomorrow. Following that, there is a May 29th deadline for the June 3rd newsletter. Stephanie Henry will be taking over this role next year, but the JSSPVA email account should continue to be used for all communications

**Enrichment**

**Kindergarten-2nd Grade Update:**

* May 5th the 1st graders visited the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. This was the first year they have done this and it was a huge success.
* May 12th and 13th, Child’s Voice Poetry came into the classrooms to work on Poetry with the 1st and 2nd graders
* May 20th the 2nd graders visited the Field Museum
* May 21st the Kindergarteners visited the Lincoln Park Zoo.

**3rd-5th Grade Update:**

* May 15th the 3rd graders visited the Archer School & Farm in Long Grove and the IDEX Factory. There was a special appearance from JSSPVA parent John Anton.
* Tomorrow the 5th grade will host “We The People”.
* May 28th the 3rd grade will visit the Chicago History Museum & Jane Addam’s Hull House.

**ALLIANCE**

With the year wrapping up, the remaining events include:

* American Red Cross Babysitting Class on June 9th for Junior High students.

**FAN**

Nothing to report.

**Secretary**

Nothing to report

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 am

Next Meeting is Tuesday, June 2nd at 8:30am

*Respectfully submitted by:*

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*Lisa O'Rourke, President*

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*Stacy Smith, Secretary*