

## **Minutes of the Board Meeting of the JSSPVA December 13, 2016**

**In attendance:** Kath Lyman, Mindy Douthit, Jenni Davidson, Nancy O'Donnell, Robin Stone, Michele Bacik, Amy Van Gorp, Cathy Bell Bartholomay, Katie White, Joan Malliband, Tiffany Hunsader, Chris Tribe, Beth Beeler, Fiona Byrne, Kendra Wallace, Jennifer Martay.

The meeting was called to order at 8:24 a.m. by Kath Lyman, President. The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the November 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Nancy O'Donnell motioned to approve the minutes and Beth Beeler seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

### **Principal's Report**

Principal Wallace reviewed the 5 Essentials Survey. Parents have until January 16<sup>th</sup> to take the survey. The link was listed in Sears to Home. There has been an update for the 2017-2018 Sears School Calendar. The new draft of the calendar includes a Winter Break from Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> to Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> that is exactly aligned with the 2017-2018 New Trier Calendar. Spring Break 2018, which will take place from March 26<sup>th</sup> to March 30<sup>th</sup>, is also exactly aligned with the New Trier Calendar. Other dates, such as the school start and end dates will be finalized in February. Principal Wallace also indicated that an extra bulletin will go out to remind parents to send their children to school prepared for the cold weather by wearing hats, gloves, boots and snow pants. School is now offering more homework centers and expanded indoor recess options on cold weather days. Lastly, Principal Wallace stated that January will mark the start of the new 3-tiered discipline plan. School will be providing information sessions for students and parents in January.

### **Treasurer's and Past Treasurer's Report**

Michele Bacik sent information to the auditor and the results will be ready in the Spring. Robin Stone stated that parents can donate to Schaefer's website for class cocktail parties. This is an optional donation.

### **President's Report**

President Kath Lyman provided the following list of things the JSSPVA did so far this school year: Produced the on-line directory; changed the display case several times; planted flowers; organized volunteers for the LTC; sorted and organized lost and found; delivered school supplies to classrooms; recruited volunteers for PVA activities; published 11 newsletters; Family Fun Day; Sears Café; Newcomers Party; room parent meetings; chess club; outdoor classroom open house; student pictures and retakes; walk/bike to school week; organized numerous field trips; provided staff meals and treats on several occasions; Fall Book Fair; Veterans Day celebration and shipped care packages; skate exchange; learned many "fun facts" about various European countries; attended 4 board meetings and took minutes; communicated about several FAN events; formed Nominating Committee for next year; paid all invoices in a timely manner; reported on 4 Board of Education meetings; reported on various New Trier activities that affect Sears 8<sup>th</sup> graders; and started to organize the Annual Benefit.

### **Vice President's Report**

Mindy Douthit reported on a few items from the Alliance for December/January. The 27<sup>th</sup> Networking Dinner will be hold on Thurs. January 19, 2017. Invitations will be mailed right after Winter Break. A number of teachers from Sears will be invited in recognition of their Teacher Tributes. The Alliance is also hosting an

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training course on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3:30pm. The course is for students age 11 or older or who have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade. And the Winnetka Northfield Public Library is encouraging families and educators to visit the new, refreshed kids' space and studio space at the library. They have made the kids' space more inviting and user-friendly and the studio space is an amazing place for kids to be creative.

## **Board Committee Reports**

Secretary- No report

Nominating- Beth Beeler revealed next year's Nominating Committee: Angie Veber will be representing the Past President; Stacy Smith will be representing the Past Chair; and Carrie Kelly, Julie Ruck, Maureen Schwaab, Sarah Mohr, and Julie McConnell will round-out the committee.

Cathy Bell Bartholomay motioned to approve the new Nominating Committee and Beth Beeler seconded the motion, and the new Nominating Committee was approved.

### Community Liaison-

Jenni Davidson reported on the District 38 Board Meeting held on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Dr. LeRoy gave a presentation on the 2016 tax levy, noting that the District would request \$11.6 million in funding to cover operating expenses. The Board affirmed that they would continue the practice of requesting funding as necessary to cover operating costs. Dr. LeRoy also proposed the District purchase Forecast5 financial software in order to improve enrollment projection reports and general business office efficiency. Mrs. Wallace presented an overview of the updated system of disciplinary policies and procedures. A team of teachers successfully conducted a soft rollout of the system and it will be introduced to parents through several communication channels in the upcoming weeks. The discipline system is based on a three-tiered system of offenses with defined consequences based on severity. Mrs. Wallace also gave a presentation summarizing the data from the Spring 2016 New Trier Township High School Freshman Preparedness Survey. Mrs. Wallace noted that the data shows former Sears students report feeling well prepared for high school and at rates that generally exceed the Township average. That said, Mrs. Wallace did note 2 curricular areas – science and foreign language – where students report feeling somewhat less well prepared than average. This was highlighted as an area of focus in the coming year and could be related to the very wide range of course offerings at New Trier in science and foreign language that do not overlap with course offerings at Sears. The Board then unanimously approved the contract term and salary for Dr. Crystal LeRoy as Superintendent/CSBO from 2017-2020. Lastly, the Board discussed the timing of the faculty/staff and parent school climate surveys. The Board will issue an annual survey to faculty/staff in February and an annual survey to parents at the end of the school year.

### Benefit-

Co-Chairs Amy Van Gorp and Cathy Bell Bartholomay reported that the "Save the Date" to the Camp Sears Benefit were mailed out yesterday (12/12/16) via bulk mail. A follow up email will be sent mid-year closer to the event. Invitations will only be sent to the Sears community. In January, a Sign Up Genius will be sent out for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation tickets, Scamper tickets and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Play tickets (a modified auction) as some of these events will take place prior to the date the Benefit (May 6<sup>th</sup>).

New Trier Liaison- No report

### Enrichment-

Joan Malliband reported that Sears will launch a pioneer 1-week Yoga unit in PE for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class took a field trip to the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago for their annual day of service on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. A short presentation was made to the class to introduce the 8CES program, homelessness, and the Pacific Garden Mission a few days before they went on the trip. The students spent the day helping to clean the cafeteria prior to and between meals; sort food donations; served lunch to the homeless; updated outdated envelopes so they could be used; opened and sorted 150 boxes of new sheets that had been donated; prepared beds for over 500 for the night by putting clean sheets on the beds; folded towels; and sorted and distributed surplus clean sheets and robes. After the field trip, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students thanked the JSSPVA for supporting this special day for them, as they felt it was a great way to give back to others during a year that places a lot of attention on them. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class has asked the PVA if they could send a donation to the Pacific Garden Mission for the unspent budgeted funds on behalf of Sears School. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class only spent \$150 due to taking their own lunches and bus was provided by Sears. They are asking to the remaining allocated amount of \$500 be donated to the Pacific Garden Mission.

Joan Malliband motioned to approve the \$500 donation and Tiffany Hunsader seconded the motion, and the \$500 donation to the Pacific Garden Mission was approved.

World Link- During the month of December, the students will learn about European holiday traditions, such as Sinterklaas, which is celebrated in The Netherlands on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The focus in January will be Spain.

### Chess-

The next Chess Tournament will be after school on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The next session starts January 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Communications-

You can email Katie White your request at: [josephsearsschoolpva@gmail.com](mailto:josephsearsschoolpva@gmail.com).

Some November email newsletters went into spam. The JSSPVA Minutes have been posted to school website.

Sears Café- No report

### FAN-

The next FAN event is Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at NTHS Northfield Campus in the Cornog Auditorium. The topic will be "Happy Money: The Science of Happier Spending" presented by co-author, Michael I. Norton, PhD.

### Miscellaneous-

Why is there a fee for MakerSpace? It's a lunch time activity, so it's considered to be a Lunch Club/Class and supervised by a teacher that needs to be compensated for his/her time.

Meeting adjourned 9:27am.

*Respectfully submitted by:*

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*Kathleen Lyman, President*

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*Nancy O'Donnell, Secretary*