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

**March 17, 2015**

**In attendance:** Lisa O’Rourke, Julie Kalainov, Kimberly Hedley, Kelly Rainey. Betsy Moerschel, Adrienne Weisenberger, Caroline Degenaars, Kathy Garvey, Julie Ruck, M’Liz Simonds, Kristin Jungbluth, Kendra Wallace, and Brooke Timmerman.

The meeting was called to order by Lisa O'Rourke, President, at 8:36am.

Julie Ruck motioned to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Caroline Degenaars seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

**Principal's Report**

Today is the last day of PARCC testing. Sears had a 3% refusal rate, and the appropriate parents were contacted. A few students who were absent will be testing this week. Sears met the state requirement of 95% participation. At exactly 10:10 a.m. each day 10 students were kicked off the testing system and had to log in again. All kids finished the test within the allotted time. It was a shorter test than people thought with only 10-12 problems per section. Kids were OK and did not experience much test anxiety. There will be more testing during the first week of May, and MAP testing will be done at the same time. MAP testing results are available immediately, while the PARCC results are available several months later. Sears is expecting to receive the PARCC results in November. NTHS will receive the test results for current 8th graders. PARCC is also administered to 9th graders.

The Master Bell Schedule was discussed at the school board meeting last night, and the board approved permission to change the lunch period. The exact change is yet to be determined, and any changes will need to be included in teacher contract negotiations.

Kendra met with the enrichment chairs to discuss plans for next year. She is also starting to meet with elementary teachers to discuss school supply lists for next year.

**Presidents Report**

Lisa asked Joan Malliband to present the slate on behalf of Angie Veber, Nominating Chair, as she was unable to attend the meeting. Lisa thanked members of the nominating committee for all of their hard work.

There are only two PVA meetings remaining after the April meeting this year. The annual meeting is on May 19th at 8:30 a.m. in the MPR, and the budget allocation meeting is on June 2nd at 8:30 a.m. in the MPR. Transitions take place in April and May. Any unused money from this year’s budget will go toward next year’s budget. Lisa encouraged everyone to turn in receipts at this time for any money they have spent rather than waiting until the end of May.

Lisa will send out an email to board members asking them to look closely at their budgets for the current year and determine whether they should be increased or decreased next year. Any changes to the original budget need to be approved by the administration. Mrs. Wallace will be sending out the teacher wish list requests to the staff in the near future. The administration reviews these lists and then submits items for consideration at the allocation meeting, which will take place on June 2nd. All requests are reviewed and considered, and no request is too small. If a board member is approached by a teacher for JSSPVA funds, she should inform them to submit a request to Mrs. Wallace via the wish list.

Our annual meeting is in May where Lisa will present how this year’s budget was used. Next month the board will vote on the slate for 2015-2016 school year, and then the transition meetings can begin. Lisa urged everyone to write a thorough report and find the time to meet with their successor(s) after the April 21st meeting. A reminder of this process will be given next month.

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

Kristin finalized the February financials. She asked that everyone send their receipts to her for any expenses they would like to be reimbursed. One issue that came up this month was how to handle tips. Submitting a credit card receipt or bill showing the tip included is sufficient.

The Directors and Officers insurance policy was recently renewed.

**Vice President's Report**

Creative Dramatics:

Joan Malliband reported that the 4th session was this week, and the kids are really enjoying Creative Dramatics/Improv.  She is in the process of determining whether to add a second session and has sent a survey to parents of participants to determine whether their children would rather participate in a longer, after-school program at the Kenilworth Club instead. The advantage of this is that a longer session would be great for kids as they only have 35-40 min now, and the 4th – 5th grade class is big (18 students).

Display Case:

Please watch for the display case to change to a board highlighting the benefit.

Environmental:

Cathy Bell and Antje Boeing are preparing Earth Day for the week of April 20th. They are meeting with Mrs. Wallace and Ms. Lucas this week to discuss the details and the involvement of Planet Panther. The idea so far is to make this another Walk & Bike to School Week, implement the DOTs (same as last year), try to get the lunch room recycling pushed forward (back on track), and maybe plant a tree in recognition of the 45th anniversary of Earth Day.

Family Fun Day – Future:

The event is tentatively scheduled for August 25th from 1-4 p.m. This is on the same day as the morning Meet and Greet. Paras Malhotra will confirm the date with Kendra Wallace and start communicating information before the end of this school year.

Newcomers:

Two new families and one returning family have been welcomed since the fall. There will be a small coffee to welcome these newcomers during the week of March 23rd. The new families have also been paired with host families.

Outdoor Classroom:

There was an Outdoor Classroom meeting on February 26th that included Dr. Kalinich, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Hubert, Dr. LeRoy, Katie Nahrwold, and Emily Tzur.  Dr. LeRoy will be replacing Dr. Kalinich as head of this committee next year.  In the meeting we discussed ways in which the Outdoor Classroom will be used in the spring curriculum, and Mrs. Hubert is in the process of coordinating lessons and plantings.  The Organic Gardener will be coming for a week in early June with lessons and activities for the students, and this will be funded by the district.  We are also working on a possible second movie night for late spring.  The JSSPVA will be sponsoring summer maintenance through the Organic Gardener and will again be offering the opportunity to have families participate in weeding, harvesting, and watering each week.

Staff Appreciation:

Melissa Ross is working on planning teacher appreciation week which will take place during the week of April 27th. Please note that this is a week earlier than in the past due to testing during the week of May 4th. She will need help on Thursday April 30th at 7:45 a.m. with flower sales.

**Benefit**

So far 150 guests have registered. Everyone is encouraged to reach out to new families with kids in JK, Kindergarten and 1st grade to make them feel welcome at the benefit. The Newcomers Committee is sending a reminder email to all of the new families about the benefit.

The agenda for benefit evening is as follows:

6:00-7:00 p.m. trollies available to pick up attendees and deliver to Michigan Shores Club from 6 different locations

6:30-7:30 p.m. cocktails

7:45-8:45 p.m. sit down dinner (seating by 7:45)

9:00 p.m. dancing, cordial bar and dessert

10:30 p.m. silent auction, teacher experiences and signup parties deadline

There are enough registration volunteers already, but setup volunteers are needed on April 17th and 18th. Setup times are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on April 17th, and 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on April 18th. Two trolley monitors are also needed.

ABC (Auctions By Cellular) is the company that is handling the online bidding and registration. Everyone who registers will receive a text with a link to the auction items and other items available for purchase. Everyone needs to bring their phone to the event in order to bid on items. Anyone can upgrade wine at their table immediately after they register. The party begins promptly at 6:30 p.m., so the benefit chairs request that everyone be on time, especially since many will be attending pre-parties.

Tables seat a maximum of 10 (no exceptions). People can register with friends, if they want. So far, most people are registering with friends. Check out at the end of the evening is done through each person’s phone.

In the past, junior high teachers have had low attendance at the Sears benefit. Kendra will garner enthusiasm about the benefit at the next faculty meeting.

Room parents can send an email encouraging everyone to go.

The dress code is casual not formal. Dresses, jeans, pants, etc. are fine.

**Nominating**

Joan Malliband presented the slate for next year. The committee worked hard to include a mix of people who are new and those who have served on the PVA before. See the attached slate.

**Community Liaison**

Alliance:

The Alliance for Early Childhood is pleased that screen break was a success.

There are two upcoming Alliance events. Part 2 of “Strategies for Using Technology at Home” will be facilitated by the Erickson Institute on March 18th at the Church of the Holy Comforter from 1:00-2:30 p.m. The organization will present strategies for using technology at home. Erickson Institute will also lead a professional development workshop for teachers using digital tools in classroom from 3:45-5:15 p.m. on the same day.

On Thursday, April 30th from 9:30-10:30 a.m. there will be “Transition to Kindergarten Meeting” at Skokie School in Winnetka.

School Board Meeting:

At the March 16th school board meeting, the following issues were raised: concerns about eroding traditions at Sears, more transparency desired, maintaining a 60 minute lunch at least one day per week, language in primary grades three times per week not being enough, and teachers observing that too many kids are coming for help during lunch.

Kelley mentioned that enrollment is declining slightly as a result of lower birth rates. She also mentioned that she is one of eight Illinois superintendents meeting with Governor Rauner on a periodic basis to provide feedback for the Illinois Turn Around Plan.

Kendra reviewed information from the master schedule parent forum. In K-4th grades there will be an increased focus on social emotional learning, English, math, science, and social studies. In 5th grade there will be a focus on 6th grade transition skills in the hopes the students will develop these necessary skills earlier. In K-4th grades, changes also include 3 days of direct instruction in a language classroom and 2 days of language taught in each student’s classroom.

A 34 minute enrichment period for junior high students will be added that will enhance teacher planning. Music, fine arts, etc. are included in enrichment.

Julia Jones mentioned that the State of Illinois is endorsing teachers at Sears for a gifted education seminar, and 5 teachers at Sears will be certified. Also, social emotional learning will be more systematic, and each teacher will have a kit in the classroom that can be used consistently.

Old business items that were discussed are: reducing lunch time to 40 minutes, not having advisory at the end of the day (it did not work well in the past), aligning to core curriculum, and hiring of new communications coordinator. The board voted unanimously to reduce lunch hour.

A new business item that was raised is the appropriate way parents should communicate with teachers. Some teachers felt that a few parents have approached or communicated with them inappropriately. Kendra added that the policy is in the Sears handbook, and they are currently reviewing it.

Public comments included displeasure to move to a 40 minute lunch period and a desire for greater communication about what was voted on at the board meetings.

**World Link**

Middle Eastern dancers taught students in grades K-5 during P.E. Michele Bacik or Elizabeth Cournoyer were there as liaisons during all sessions. The 5th grade students were more self-conscious, but the younger kids really enjoyed it.

The next thing being scheduled is a Northwestern University professor or linguist, depending on the availability of each. In April a visiting fellow will speak about art and architecture in the Middle East. There will also be two presentations: Perceptions about the Middle East for grades 6th - 8th and filming of Star Wars discussion for lower grades (appropriate grade levels to be determined). Another thing that may be scheduled is a Persian rug maker. Also, Mrs. Steppan’s parents are Holocaust survivors and will lead a discussion with the grades that read the books Diary of Anne Frank and Night. More information about April and May events will be available soon.

Receipts for expenses to-date will be sent to the treasurer.

The committee is trying to be sensitive about current events and not upsetting anyone. The website has been successful as a teaching tool that the teachers can implement with curriculum. Mr. Wallace will be teaching cricket this spring.

**Communications**

The March newsletter goes out tomorrow. The next one will be on April 8th. Kelly Rainey would like to get announcements for this newsletter by March 27th, but will still accept things over spring break for April 8th, if necessary.

**Enrichment**

**K-2nd grade Update:**

* April 14th - 2nd grade will visit North Shore Theater to see the play Flat Stanley.
* April 16th - Kindergarten will see The One and Only Ivan at Lifeline Theater.

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

* March 19th – parents are invited to attend “The Talk”. A presentation by the Robert Crown Center will be held at Sears **for parents** at 7pm in the auditorium. Parents will learn what is covered in the 5th grade student sex education class.
* April 15th - the 5th grade students will attend a field trip to the Robert Crown Center. Parents are not expected to attend.
* April 15th - Child’s Play Touring Theatre will return to Sears for round 2. 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students will attend a presentation “New Voices” in the auditorium starting at 9am. Students were encouraged to submit their stories. A few lucky students’ stories will be selected and acted out on stage.

**6th – 8th Grade Enrichment/PE/Health Update:**

* April 9th - 8th grade visits the Holocaust Museum-“In Our Voices.”
* April 10th - 6th grade will visit the Museum of Science & Industry
* “Testing the Water Labs”- hands on experience.
* April 10th - 6th grade will visit The Oriental Institute-University of Chicago for hands on experience “Archeological dig.”
* Jr. High completed Ballroom dancing.

**New Trier Liaison**

Construction is underway, and modular classrooms are being delivered. They are starting construction with north annex, which is the industrial arts side of building. The deadline for summer school registration is March 20th. Freshman do not receive credit for summer school classes. The first day of school is August 19th, and sports begin on August 12th. The next NTHS board meeting is on Monday, April 20th at 7:30 p.m. in room C234.

NTHS administration is discouraging people from parking on Winnetka Avenue during construction. Changes to traffic flow on Abbotsford Road will be communicated this summer, and construction on the front of building will take place next summer.

Betsy Moerschel mentioned that NTHS sophomores are doing an all service day on May 14th. They currently have 38 committed organizations and hope for 50 total. The organizations must be able to accommodate 20-25 kids and allow the kids to return to school by 3:30 p.m. that day.

**Sears Cafe**

Things are going well. A survey to obtain feedback on Marla’s will be done soon. A reminder for the April lunch ordering deadline will be in JSSPVA newsletter. Some baskets have been going home with kids who leave for lunch, but parents have been diligent about returning them to the school.

**FAN**

The following was submitted in absentia:

**NEXT FAN EVENT:**

“American Injustice: Mercy, Humanity, and Making a Difference””

 Bryan Stevenson

Founder and Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative

Professor, New York University School of Law

Author, Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

Monday, March 23, 2015, 7:00 PM

Evanston Township High School Auditorium

1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201

Activist attorney Bryan Stevenson’s deeply moving book Just Mercy is about mass incarceration in America and the disconnection most experience with the realities of the criminal justice system. The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world, primarily due to the mandatory sentencing guidelines of the war on drugs that began in the 1980s. Stevenson, a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, is the Founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, and a law professor at New York University School of Law. He is also a member of the new Task Force on 21st Century Policing created by President Obama in December, 2014. He has won wide acclaim for his work challenging bias against the poor and people of color, having won relief for over 100 prisoners on death row. Stevenson is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including a MacArthur Foundation “genius grant,” the American Bar Association’s Wisdom Award, the Olof Palme Prize, and the ACLU’s National Medal of Liberty, among many others.

Stevenson’s powerful 2012 TED talk, “We need to talk about an injustice,” has been viewed over 2 million times, and in it he persuades us to believe that our response to pervasive injustice must be deep engagement, that a person is always more than their worst act. As he puts it, “We will ultimately not be judged by our technology, we won't be judged by our design, we won’t be judged by our intellect and reason. Ultimately, you judge the character of a society ... by how they treat the poor, the condemned, the incarcerated.” A man of strong faith, Stevenson asks, “The real question of capital punishment in the country is, Do we deserve to kill?”

Recently, Stevenson’s work at the Equal Justice Initiative bends towards trying to change the conversation about race in the U.S. He terms the era between Reconstruction and World War II an era of “racial terrorism,” and he favors the concept of “transitional justice” with a focus on the process of truth and reconciliation. Layering issues of poverty on issues of race, Stevenson observes that the opposite of poverty isn’t wealth – it’s justice.

**UPCOMING:**

"Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania"

Frank Bruni

Thursday, April 9, 2015

7:00 PM

New Trier HS/Northfield Campus

"Mindfulness in Relationship: The Power of the Shared Human Experience"

Gregory Kramer, Ph.D.

Thursday, April 23, 2015

7:00 PM

New Trier HS/Northfield Campus

PLUS: Day-long retreat on April 24, 2015 and 2-day non-residential retreat on April 25-26, 2015 (details to follow)

George Vaillant, MD

Program title TBD

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

7:00 PM

New Trier HS/Winnetka Campus

"Overwhelmed: Work, Love and Play When No One Has the Time"

Brigid Schulte

Monday, May 11, 2015

7:00 PM

New Trier HS/Winnetka Campus

Meeting adjourned at 9:50am

Next Meeting is Tuesday, April 21st  at 8:30am

Respectfully submitted by:

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Lisa O'Rourke, President

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Julie Kalainov, Vice President

**2015-16 JSSPVA Proposed Slate**

President Julie Kalainov

Vice President Kath Lyman

Community Liaison Adrienne Weisenberger

Secretary Emily Tzur

Treasurer Michele Bacik

Immediate Past Treasurer Kristin Jungbluth

Benefit Chairs Kelly Rainey, Angie Veber

Communications Stephanie Henry

Enrichment Tiffany Hunsader, Paige Hopkins-Reilly,

Melissa Ross

FAN Brooke Timmerman

New Trier Liaison Dana Fallon

Nominating Stacy Smith

Sears Café Carrie Beeman

World Link Chairs Sarah Mohr, Beth Beeler

Immediate Past President Lisa O’Rourke

Principal Kendra Wallace

**Board Sub-Committees**

Benefit Future Chairs (2017) In process

Enrichment Future Chairs Cecily Kaz, Emily Wyner, Joan Malliband

World Link Future Chairs (Europe) Antje Boeing, Chris Tribe

**VP Sub-Committees**

Book Fair Co-Chairs Nancy O’Donnell, Paula Smith, Emily Wyner

Book Fair Future Co-Chairs Julie Hallbower, Jessica Johnston,

Manisha Khanna

Census Chair Kelly Mangel

Chess Club Chris Tribe (Debbie Kelly)

Creative Dramatics Leslie Creel

Display Case Yani Huften

Environmental Representative Antje Boeing

Family Fun Day Paras Malhotra

Family Fun Day Future Candice Stepan

Fine Arts Chair Joan Malliband

Grounds Group Debbie Kelly

Library Tech Chair Kris Whisner

Lost and Found Chair Julianna Harris, Cathy Sheehan

Newcomers Co-Chairs Meredith Daw

Outdoor Classroom Liaison Cathy Bell, Katie Nahrwold

Room Parent Co-Chairs Melissa Anton, Kerry Judy

School Supply Chair Lori Roeser, Amy Thompson

Sears Directory Mindy Douthit

Skate Exchange Abby Dunn

Staff Appreciation Bobbi Rowe

Student Picture Co-Chairs Jill Lafferty, Julia Mengwall

Turkey Trot Chair Liz Watson

Veteran’s Day Celebration Chair Kristin Pilant

Volunteer Planning Jennifer Rice

**Community Liaison Sub-Committees**

Alliance for Early Childhood Rep Carrie Kelly

Ability Awareness Anna Pressman