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

**January 12, 2016**

**In attendance:** Julie Kalainov, Michele Bacik, Kristin Jungbluth, Stephanie Henry, Donna Brunso, Angie Veber, Brooke Timmerman, Sarah Mohr, Lisa O’Rourke, Kendra Wallace, Paige Hopkins-Reilly

The meeting was called to order at 8:38 a.m. by Julie Kalainov, President.

Julie stated that the first order of business was to approve the minutes from the board meeting in December.  Angie Veber motioned to approve the minutes. Sarah Mohr seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

**Principal’s Report**

Mrs. Wallace stated that Parent Visitation Day for grades K-4 is this Friday, January 15.  The feedback from the format of Parent Visitation Day was positive, so they are continuing to have an interactive experience between the students and parents on this day.  The times have been sent to parents via email from Mrs. Wallace.

Kindergarten registration is on January 21 from noon to 4 o’clock.  The expected enrollment for next year is 40 kindergarteners, with the possibility of up to 58.  There were 7 new students enrolled on the 4th of January, and two new families are expected to enroll at the end of the month.  We have lost one family to an alternative education environment this year.

The New Trier placement results will be sent out to 8th grade students on the 22nd of January.  Sears teachers and staff have no influence on New Trier placement.  Eighth grade New Trier transition conferences are on the 25th for students. Parents are welcome to attend.

There was a PARCC information meeting yesterday, January 11. A parent information letter will be sent prior to testing, which will take place in May.  Changes to the test will be made this year, resulting in grades 3-5 completing one less section of testing and grades 6-8 completing 3 less sections.  This will amount to less testing time, but the students have traditionally finished their testing in about half of the allotted time.  After analysis of last year’s PARCC test results, District 38 scored in the top 1.1% in math and 3.3% in language in the state.  The lack of students participating from last year’s 8th grade class influenced the test scores because we did not have the state required attendance.  The school is working to educate parents on the value of the test and help kids focus to get good data.

**Treasurer’s Report / Past Treasurer’s Report**

Michele Bacik provided the December income statement and reported that we are in good financial standing.  There were no questions.

**President’s Report**

Julie reported that Marla’s Brown Bag has donated another $625 to the PVA, and Marla plans to continue donating each month during the school year going forward.

Junior Kindergarten open house/registration will take place on January 21 from 12:00 - 4:00pm.  Fifty percent of the kindergarten parents registered through the open house last year.  Mrs. Wallace suggested that some of the PVA Board members attend for allotted times to help answers questions that new parents ask during the registration.   A sign-up sheet was passed around.

**Vice President Reports**

Julie reported the following for the subcommittee chairs:

**Creative Dramatics:**  Creative Dramatics sign up forms should be going out this week. Classes begin February 1.

**Student Pictures:**  New student pictures will be taken on Tuesday, February 9th.  This should allow time to capture some of the new families anticipated to arrive in January.

**Benefit**

Angie reported that checks are coming in, and a significant deposit was made last week.  Thank you notes are going out in response to donations.  Someone questioned whether families who donate will receive a bumper sticker, as had been mentioned as a possibility in a prior meeting.  This will most likely not happen.  Kelly Rainey has moved, but has remained on board to help with communication and any administrative work that can be done from afar.  The following parent volunteers will be reaching out to the teachers to determine the service projects for each grade:

8 -  8th grade ACES project has already been completed

7-   Kristin Jungbluth and Julie Ruck

6-   yet to be determined

5-   Michele Bacik

4-   yet to be determined

3 -  Melissa Ross

2 -  Deb Ponko

1-   Amy Schmalz

K-  Lisa Metzger-Mugg

Mrs. Wallace reported that the school has been contacted with an opportunity for service if any grade is in need of an idea.  Johanna Vetter, a Sears parent who works for Feed America, has also offered ideas on projects to benefit that organization if any grade is interested.  Bernie’s Book Bank, an organization that Sears already works with to provide donations, also has a constant need for help to organize books.  Guidelines for each grade level service project from Angie to the parent volunteers are very broad, and she is encouraging them to do what they are comfortable with, as little or big as they see fit.  Most projects will take place outside of the school day.  Angie stressed that the purpose of this component of the Benefit is to create an awareness of service in the kids.  She has stressed that it is not to be burdensome on parents and is not a required activity.

**Secretary**

Nothing to report.

**Community Liaison**

Mrs. Wallace reported that the next Board of Education meeting will be Monday, January 20.  A few things discussed at the last Board of Education meeting include whether there is a need for a Gifted program at Sears, taking into account if it will work within our current RTI program.  RTI has some negative connotations, but it services students at both ends of the spectrum of learning.  The Board is looking at the general education program to see how all tiers of learning groups are being accommodated.  There was some discussion on the bond issue and PARCC data was presented.  Sears students performed well and scored 0.3% behind Sunset Ridge.

**NT Liaison**

Donna Brunso reported the following:

January 28

Meeting about electives for incoming Freshmen at Cornog Auditorium

February 5

Registration for the 2016-17 school year closes

February 26

Winter Carnival at the East Campus from 5:30-9:00.  All ages invited.

**Enrichment**

Paige Hopkins Reilly reported that all is in order and organized.  There is a kindergarten field trip to Lifeline Theatre on January 14 to see Sparky.  First grade will be going to the same show on January 21.  Nothing else is planned for field trips for the rest of the school for January.

**World Link**

Sarah Mohr reported that they are working on the Spring Culture Fair, which will take place on May 2, possibly with an additional day or two surrounding as well. February 8 is Family Day, a Canadian holiday.  Not much attention has been given to the upcoming smaller holidays, as the focus is on the Culture Fair.  There have been a few things they are trying to schedule, however, including Urban Gateways’ Fandango performance.  The music and dance explore the indigenous, African, and Spanish influences on the rhythms, movement, and melodies of Mexico.  They are hoping to be able to couple this program with artist workshops based on the performance and are working with the director and Mrs. Wallace to determine whether or not this can work in the school scheduling and for which grades it would be best suited.  Most likely it will be taking place on May 2nd.  They also have a contact for an Apache healer and are interested in possibly providing a performance in the auditorium, if it fits in the school schedule.

**Communications**

Stephanie Henry reported that a newsletter would go out this Wednesday. She asked that those who have things to add to the newsletter that will be sent out in two weeks to let her know by next Friday, January 17.   Mrs. Wallace requested that a reminder to label items coming to school be added to the PVA Newsletter.  There have been many tears since the new year started as a result of gear getting lost.  She also asked that we remind parents to dress kids appropriately for the weather.  Kids are going outside unless the temp falls below 0 degrees, whether they are wearing shorts or pants.

**Sears Café**

Julie Kalainov reported for Carrie Beeman.  Marla’s is very happy with the number of students ordering from their service.  There are currently more Sears students ordering lunch from them than they have ever seen.

**FAN**

Brooke Timmerman reported that FAN is sponsoring a presentation on Wednesday, January 27th at 7:00pm at New Trier West.  Amy Cuddy, Ph.D. will be speaking about her new book in which she explains the science underlying power poses and many other fascinating body-mind effects.  There are four upcoming events in February, which will be publicized in the JSSPVA newsletters.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 am.

*Respectfully submitted by:*

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*Julie Kalainov, President*

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*Emily Tzur, Secretary*