

## January 15, 2019 JSSPVA Board Meeting

**In attendance:** Bridget Pennise, Jennifer Martay, Meredith Sullivan, Stacey Sunderland, Suzanne Nelson, Tanya Brown, Mindy Douthit, Julie Ruck, Eleanor Husman, Nancy O'Donnell, Kristen Whisner, Mia Sachs, Alex Mercury, Betsy Kilroy, and Beth Beeler

- I. **Welcome:** Mindy Douthit welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
- II. **Meeting Minutes:** Mindy asked for questions/comments regarding the September meeting minutes.
- III. **Principals Report:** Dr. Haney had several announcements: The spelling bee is coming up here at Sears and he hopes many will participate.  
The area in the back of the school is still congested, and is still not where we want it to be. The KPD is looking at a traffic pattern review and we can expect some additional support from them in the future. They are diligently working on a solution, primarily at pick up and drop off. Dr. H asks that we be as conscientious as possible when it comes to our speed and awareness around the school.  
Student attendance protocol was communicated in the last Sears to Home. We need to make sure we are recording accurate student attendance. Please include last name, first name, etc. to make it easier for our school nurse to record attendance.
- IV. **Guest Speaker:** Dr. Lisa Leali, Sears Chief Education Officer, came to present a summary of the Sears School Educational Audit. This was presented at the last school board meeting. The 48 page report is available in the board packet so anyone that wishes can reference this comprehensive report. Dr. Leali discussed the overview of the audit purpose and process, audit recommendations, presentation of audit information and next steps. She discussed the strengths of the district and the areas we would like to improve. The focus is on communication, collaboration, collective responsibility and commitment to growth for all individuals. Lastly, Dr. Leali touched upon the benefits of personalized learning and opportunities at Sears School.
- V. **Treasurer's and Past Treasurer's report:** nothing to report, reminder to get receipts in quickly. When you submit your request form it needs a receipt.
- VI. **Subcommittee Reports:**  
Betsy Kilroy reported on the upcoming **teacher/staff appreciation** activities in February and March. In the next newsletter, look for the Sign Up Genius for PVA members to bring in home baked treats (please indicate what you'll be baking in the comments) for the Valentine's Day coffee cart and treats. Drop off at Nancy O'Donnell's home on February 13- see the next newsletter for additional details.  
The week of Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> begins teacher appreciation week with breakfast one day, cookies one day, BBQ lunch coming in the middle of the week, a small gift, ending with sundae bar and massage chair.  
  
Nancy O'Donnell reported on the **Giving Tree** updates. (Kris asked that she email her report to Nicole). On Dec. 18 we distributed \$100 bills with an appreciation card to each teacher for the holidays. Many wrote very nice notes of Thank you. We still need \$265 to get to our goal for this year. Next year we may consider doing a Valentine's Day gifts for teachers as well. We are sending out an email to thank families that donated to the Giving Tree soon.
- VII. **VP Report:** Julie Ruck discussed the following:  
Julie asked the board if they would be interested in having another special guest like "Sweetsa" (please correct my terrible spelling, I cannot remember her name!) to come to a future PVA meeting to discuss the social emotional piece of the educational audit.

The JSSPVA Focus group is coming up January 24, 8:30-10:30am at the Kenilworth Club. About 70 Sears community members are invited to ask all to give their input and ideas. Three topics to be discussed:

- How we fundraise
- How we spend our money and how our budget is created
- How all of these activities fit with our mission

The Exec team will then compile the data and report back.

Eric Tivers (*Mr. Tivers is a licensed clinical social worker, coach, speaker, consultant and popular ADHD podcast host we have discussed at our last meeting and hired to present to our teachers and parents*). The teachers loved his session that he held with them recently. On January 24 Mr. Tivers will be coming back to speak to parents at 7pm in the LTC. He will specifically address how anxiety relates to those with ADHD.

Reminder to check the current Sears to Home regarding details on the Second Cup of Coffee scheduled for January 30, which will also be covering anxiety. There are two sessions, AM and PM that day.

Village House Update: Julie Ruck and Cathy Bell-Bartholomay have been educating the community on the project and its planning phase and asking for feedback. They are educating to gain support and everyone is excited about the project. They have been fielding questions and taking suggestions. The next step is to distribute a brochure (created pro bono) with naming opportunities to contribute. Scouts will deliver the brochures to Kenilworth homes very soon.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 4 the Kenilworth Club will host the Village House fundraiser for the entire community.

## **Other Executive Board Committee Reports:**

### **1.) Community Liaison- School Board Update:**

#### **December 10, 2018 Meeting**

2.8% tax levy approved for FY 2019. District received a clean audit. Board adopted Levy and approved the financial audit.

First draft of 2019-2020 School Calendar has been posted to the website. Will be voted on in January.

Enrollment has increased to 480 students.

Long term substitute Mrs. Kristen Bren approved for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science maternity leave.

First week of December the Principal Search Interview committee (consisting of some teachers, board members administrators and some parents selected at random) met to interview the single internal candidate who applied – Dr. Haney. Board planned on providing a full update to the community in a communication on December 14.

Part One of the Educational Delivery Audit was presented and discussed how education is delivered at Sears and will look at how it works with or diverges from the District Strategic Plan. Part Two will be presented at the January board meeting.

#### **December 17, 2018 Special Meeting**

Public comments questioned the deviation from the Board and Dr. LeRoy's original full time search plan that was laid out last summer. Additional public comment was on length of recess for younger grades.

School Board said the current team of administrators works very well together and sought to keep Dr. Haney in the position for the stability of the school house and its students and feels very strongly that he is the right candidate for the Sears Principal position moving forward.

School board voted unanimously for an additional two year contract for Dr. Haney. School years 2019-2021.

Welcome Dr. Haney!

## Village of Kenilworth:

The Village has officially leased the train station and has sent out RFP's for vendors to supply coffee, pastries, etc. in the station. More details to come in next two months

## Alliance for Early Childhood:

Next event is "Let's Play" for families at Crow Island Woods that will be Saturday February 2nd.

## FAN

- **HANA SCHANK and ELIZABETH WALLACE, Thursday, January 17 – 7pm New Trier Northfield** "The Ambition Decisions: What Women Know About Work, Family, and the Path to Building a Life" - At a crossroads in their own careers, authors Hana Schank and Elizabeth Wallace began to wonder what happens to women's ambition in the years after college, and what became of their women friends with so much promise from their college days. They decided to go back and interview over forty classmates and sorority sisters from Northwestern University to find answers. These interviews became a 7-part series in *The Atlantic* last year, garnered over half a million views, went viral across social media, and spoke to women around the globe.
- **Leslie Jamison, Tuesday, January 22, 7pm New Trier Northfield** "The Recovering: Intoxication and Its Aftermath" With its deeply personal and seamless blend of memoir, cultural history, literary criticism, and reportage, *The Recovering* turns our understanding of the traditional addiction narrative on its head, demonstrating that the story of recovery can be every bit as electrifying as the train wreck itself
- **David Blight, Ph.D., Jan. 25, "Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom."** – 7pm ETHS Prof. Blight's latest book, *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*, is being hailed as the definitive, dramatic biography of the most important African-American of the nineteenth century, an escaped slave who became the greatest orator of his day and one of the leading abolitionists and writers of the era.
- **Eboo Patel, Ph.D., Jan. 30, "Out of Many Faiths: Religious Diversity and the American Promise."** 7pm ETHS Dr. Patel is the Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core, a national non-profit based in Chicago working towards an America where people of different faiths, worldviews, and traditions can bridge differences and find common values to build a shared life together. IFYC partners with leaders across American college campuses – faculty, staff, administrators, and students – to offer the tools, guidance, opportunities, and networks needed to bring interfaith engagement into their campuses, classrooms, research, and lives.

## Police Department

### SMART911 Roll Out

The Village of Kenilworth is now part of a growing effort to provide emergency responders with more information in the event of an emergency. With Smart911, you can provide dispatchers and first responders with critical information you want them to know in the event of an emergency. When you call 911, a dispatcher will have the ability to view your Smart911 Safety Profile that contains your address, important medical information, home information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts.

Safety Profiles can also include:

- People living in your household
- Pets, service animals
- Medications and medical equipment
- Medical conditions and allergies
- Property details, layout, and utility information
- Vehicle descriptions
- Phone numbers associated with your family
- Emergency contacts

To sign-up for this **free** service, please visit [smart911.com](https://smart911.com). A mobile application is also available for [Apple](#) and [Android](#) smartphones.

**Friendly Reminder to Lock Vehicle Doors. Parking Permission Requests Now Available Online**

- 2.) **Communications-** No report.
- 3.) **Enrichment-** field trips are scheduled on 1/22 to the MSI for second grade. Lifeline Theater is coming up for Kindergarten in February and students are going to sing on Valentine's day to a group at a local senior citizen home. Emily Oakes Nature Center also coming up and 4<sup>th</sup> grade is going to the Sheldon Homestead on 2/27.
- 4.) **Nominating-** Meredith reported that the committee work is underway. They have reached out to five parents with the goal of having good representation across all grades. Thank you to the following parents for participating on the committee: Stone, Menton, Martin, Podjasek, Kalleb. The committee will be sending out a communication soon to let everyone know that nominating is accepting suggestions for those that wish to nominate themselves or others for next year's board.
- 5.) **Newcomers:** two new families have moved into the Sears community recently and have received a welcome gift from the committee.
- 6.) **Sears Café** - Bridget reported that things have been going well. They are trying a new idea to provide trays to the Kindergarteners. They are also now trying to figure out the best way to clean the trays. This program may extend to older grades in the future. Tray cleaning may be a PVA "ask" in the future.
- 7.) **Volunteers-** if you need March volunteers Kris Whisner would like requests emailed to her by 2/4/19.
- 8.) **Giving Tree Report 1/15/19-** We had a successful collection campaign during Nov-Dec.  
46 more families donated a total of \$3,658;  
\*\*The email sent via Room Parents was very effective in collecting donations in December.  
Total number of families that have donated: 203 (203/280) or 72.5%  
Total amount donated to date: \$18,045  
On 12/18 we withdrew \$9,900 from the account and gave out holiday cards to 99 Sears faculty and staff; each receiving \$100 bill from "the families of Joseph Sears School."  
Giving Tree account currently has a balance of \$9,635.52-we need another \$265 worth of donations to be at \$9,900 for the year-end gifts in order to give all 99 faculty and staff \$100 each; A "thank you" flyer will be sent out in a separate email blast.

**Adjournment at 10:15 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

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Kristen Whisner for Nicole Borovicka, Secretary

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Rebecca Quigley, President