

JSSVPA Board Meeting – August 25, 2021

Attendance: Valerie Gaines, Stephanie Joyce, Kathy Ambrosino, Amy Hannus, Eleanor Husman, Kate Donegan, Stephanie Helfand, Beth Ottsen, Sarah Halack, Julia Peterson, Robin Stone, Joe Guarino, Janet Scholl, Bridget Pennise, Jen Riefe, Hillary Kallop, Lieke Hakkenberg

1. **Approve June 28,2021 Special Meeting Minutes:** Robin motioned to approve the minutes, Beth and Sarah seconded. The minutes were approved.

2. **Principal/Superintendent’s Report (Kate Donegan and Stephanie Helfand):** summer update: curriculum night – virtual (Aug 25th K-5 ; Aug 26th 6-8)); Jr kindergarten space is ready. Diversity audit – in early stages, having focus groups, more to come. Student leadership moving forward - any student can join, council of 10 students, open to any Jr High student. 500 ideas (!!) reduced to 11 themes. Top 5 themes will become committees, (2 initiatives per themes). Lunch at school – seating chart, to maintain COVID protocols/ contact tracing, looking for volunteers to set up gymnasium for lunch. Seating chart will remain, to social distance/track, but will be moving towards choosing seat mates. Moving outside is a good idea and the administration is aware and they are adding this to list of considerations. Travel - guidance changes every Tues – CDC, IDHP, each family needs to make the best choice for our community, but the school will not be tracking travel. Students will not be allowed at school with Covid symptoms, and/or positive test. Thank you to this committee for all the work that is done.

3. **President’s Report (Robin):** vote on allocations for new programs:
 - a. ACES Debate Club – run by head debate coach of NT (Aaron Vinson), he will design curriculum and train our teacher (TBD) cost is \$300 session/ 3 sessions per year. Grades 5-8th. Capped at 24 kids. Because the PVA’s core mission is to promote enrichment, Robin proposed subsidizing the cost of debate by \$75 per child per session (capped at 24 students per session), giving this program a budget of \$5500. Robin called for a vote, Sarah and Beth seconded motion and all voted to approve.

 - b. Junior High Homecoming Dance: Sept 24th This is a new tradition to be held the weekend of our (new) Homecoming Celebration (more details about that to come from Booster Chairs): \$2000 cost to incur. (DJ, decorating, food, etc) 7th and 8th grades only per the Administration. It will be held outdoors, at the Assembly Hall – theme is “Among the Pines”, which ties in with the Village’s Heritage Tree Program. Miss Kay’s is not happening this year, so this is a chance to give the Jr High students an elevated social opportunity they might not otherwise have.

Robin called for a vote, Joe and Valerie seconded, all voted to approve the budget of \$2000.

- c. Heritage Tree Program: (Julia): this is to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Village of Kenilworth. Looking to fund 10 large canopy trees (\$5000) to represent the 10 grades of the school. Each grade will raise funds (\$250/class) through bake sales, car wash, etc. 7th and 8th grades are donating \$5 per child to attend the “Among the Pines” dance. Goal is for student body to raise \$2500 and JSSVPA to match at \$2500 max. Fundraising to start in the Fall, and continue throughout the academic year. Idea was mentioned to have Girl/Boy scouts make wooden plaques for each tree, to identify the sponsor. Robin called for a vote, Julia and Bridget seconded, all voted to approve the allocation of \$2500.
4. **Treasurer’s Report** (Stephanie) – Budget is always available online on website. Tax forms ended 8/31/20 are complete, will be mailed. Please submit any outstanding reimbursements to Stephanie. Online reimbursement forms are available and are separate for grade level vs JSSPVA, no reimbursement on sales tax. Tax exempt forms are available from Valerie. Discussion about our reserve funds. The PVA has adequate money in savings and will host its annual Benefit fundraiser this spring (we have not had a Benefit in several years). Amazon Smile brought in \$600 in August. We have an obligation to spend money in accordance with our charitable mission (promoting enrichment and promoting service through enrichment.)
 5. **Vice President’s Sub-Committees:** (Beth – VP)
 - a) Book fair – back in person
 - b) Enrichment – working with administration and field trips are back
 - c) Creative dramatic – chess/debate/ theater all will be running - before/after school
 - d) Display case – all good
 - e) Family fun day – great feedback, Winnetka fire dept spraying all the kids was a big hit!
 - f) Room parents – all good, grade-level cocktail parties are back and invitations have gone out. The goal is to have all the parties before weather turns cold.
 - g) School supplies – went well
 - h) Sears café – all good
 - i) Picture day – will be outside – Sept 20th (JK-7) and Sept 22nd (8th)
 6. **VP of Inclusion** (Joe)
 - a. Tables of 8 – first set of dinner 15 different parties. Aug 27th is first date.
 - b. Special Olympics – met to discuss options for partnership. Will continue discussions with Special Olympics to understand best fit for both. Our goal is to

start a Special Olympics Club at Sears and host a Polar Plunge fundraiser through Special Olympics in February.

- c. Common Threads: bingo game of various things kids have in common (birthplace, curly hair, etc.) if they win bingo, the kids meet with the administration to have cookies and spend time with kids who have similar backgrounds. This is a cross grade initiative.
- d. Newcomer -all new families are paired, looped into parties, etc. A-Z is not yet updated. Sept. 18th is newcomer party.

7. **VP of Community Relations** (Jennifer)

- a) Park district fall programming is now open. High tech/low tech for younger kids (new program), Village – work being done on water tower through early Sept. (cell phone are spotty due to cell tower being adjusted).
- b) New Trier – placement exam date is coming soon
- c) Fan – on hiatus until Fall (Brittany Gottschall)
- d) Alliance: no liaison for this Early Childhood Rep. Let Jennifer or Robin know of anyone is interested. Sept. 14th is next program date
- e) Kenilworth Mutt Strutt – coming in Oct. 10 or 12th

School board (Lisa) – enrollment is up 6 students, to 465 students.

- a. Green Bay trail safety concerns of riding though playground, police and village involved in awareness. This is village property
- b. Master facilities plan: JK has working going on, see online for renderings, accessible to all community members,
- c. Student Privacy: administration is working on making sure we are up to code. Further info is available on JSSPVA website
- d. Teacher negotiation: ongoing, going to mediation for neutral party to assist.

8. **Booster** (Kathy and Amy)

- a. Homecoming celebration 9/25: events have been planned for quite some time. Excellent opportunity to celebrate Sears, and get more involved. Kickball event as part of the week long celebration (Spirit Week). Space is a challenge, but we are working on it. School tours will be offered to say goodbye to the ‘old’ building and see what the future will look like. School choir will sing the national anthem, opening pep squad, with 2 groups: K-4 and 5-8. Concessions during event – in talks with the Girls/Boys Scouts on identifying how. This event will be added to the JSSVPA newsletter., with option to sign up as a volunteer

9. **Staff Appreciation**: lunch was held for Welcome Back - success!

10. **Communications** (Eleanor and Jen): Newsletter is being sent on Wednesday, of each week, with Friday being the deadline to submit content. Please send info to both Eleanor and Jen, and keep it short and readable (100 words max). Bullet points are helpful. Any email that comes to the inbox with a specific topic, will be forwarded to that sub committee to answer.

Discussion arose over whether meetings can be held via conference call. Meetings are only going to be held in person, as they always were before COVID, but only members of the Executive Board are required to attend. Subcommittee jobs are perfect for parents with less flexible schedules. We hope to be back in the school building for our meetings next year.

NEXT MEETING: Sept 15th, at 8:20am

Respectfully Submitted by:



Robin Stone, President



Janet Scholl, Secretary