

JSSVPA – December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Board Attendees: Eleanor Hussman, Kathy Ambrosino, Joe Guarino, Valerie Gaines, Stephanie Joyce, Amy Hannus, Kathy Ambrosino, Beth Ottsen, Sarah Halack, Katie Alexander, Lisa Metzger-Mugg, Janet Scholl, Robin Stone, Meredith Sullivan

Regular Attendees: Marjorie Bransfield, Anne Wortel, Shawn Bard, Alison Dempsey

1. Approve November 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Robin motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Beth and Kathy. Minutes were approved.

2. Principal/Superintendent Report: (MTSS)

Stephanie Helfand and Kate Donegan were unable to attend this meeting, due to a conflict. This session has been rescheduled to the next JSSPVA Board meeting, on January 12th, 2022, via Zoom.

3. President's Report (Robin):

- A) Approve nominating committee – Proposed committee of: Jessica Rechten (JK and 1st), Rachel Smith (1st and 3rd), Erin Papuga (K, 2nd and 5th), Beth Beeler (7th), Sarah Halack (2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th), Brienne Neiswander (2nd and 4th), Betsy Kilroy (5th and 6th). Robin motioned to approve the nominating committee, seconded by Amy and Valerie. All approved.
- B) Vacancy on Slate (Benefit 2022-23 school year) – The 3 people who were going to hold these positions have asked to be removed from the Slate, and they would like to be considered for future positions. Two proposed chairs are Marjorie Bransfield and Anne Wortel. (2022-23). Robin motioned to approve. Seconded by Joe and Amy. All approved.
- C) Vote on Benefit Job Description: we are looking to the Faith Hope and Charity model, whereby one grade of parents is responsible for the Benefit, with Chairs to oversee. They made a decision that 5th grade parents would be in charge of the Benefit. Idea is to get as many of parents from that grade involved, and share the work load. Bridget Pennise (Nominating) is tasked with changing the job description, for 2023 and beyond, and Bridget's Nominating Committee will nominate

two current 3rd grade parents to take it on in 2023/24 (as 5th grade parents). Robin motioned to approve. Seconded by Eleanor and Stephanie. All approved.

D) Vote on Inclusion Job Description for 2022-23: By-law states that positions are held for one year, but Robin asked to approve Joe to stay on for additional year, which he would like to do, as this is a new position. Robin motioned to approve. Seconded by Sarah and Kathy. All approved.

4. Treasurer's Report: (Valerie): budget is looking fine. Amazon Smile still remains at 196 families involved. Our 3rd quarter check came in at \$562.00

5. Vice Presidents Sub Committees: (Beth)

Continuing to try to plan more for enrichment, but still difficult with virtual. If anyone has specific ideas, please reach out to your teacher(s). - if anyone has ideas, contact your teachers

Skate exchange is looking for more donated skates. As of now, there is much need but no donations.

Picture day is scheduled on January 24th, 2022 for any new students that have joined Sears

Lost and found is really full, with mostly younger aged clothing. Any unclaimed items will be donated after the new year.

6. Benefit Chairs: (Meredith)

The band is booked and confirmed and the committee is coming up with donation lists. Approval was received on Save the Date (April 29th, at Westmoreland Country Club) and will move ahead with that. Budget update for Benefit will be presented at February meeting.

7. VP of Inclusion: (Joe)

Common Threads slightly altered to make the process a bit more user friendly. Our four cornerstones are now incorporated, and kids will be reminded to write down how they support any one of those cornerstones. Table of 8 - target of early February for next one.

Special Olympics - getting started and we need an administration person to be prime contact (Marty is working on this).

Polar Plunge week of Feb 21st - kids will fundraise a minimum of \$100 each. The plunge will happen at lunch hour, or immediately after school.

Holiday Traditions - did not generate interest this year, but will try again next year.

8. Staff Appreciation (Katie):

Bagel breakfast for teachers was held just before Thanksgiving break. Choir and band appreciation gifts were given at the holiday concerts. Giving Tree: \$100 gift certificate for each teacher was given at the holidays. Email Lauren Garner to inquire if you have given, yet. A reminder email would be of value to send out. It was suggested to make a check list that outlines all the area of donation/fees (class dues, booster, giving tree, etc). Perhaps put this on the website. Can PayPal be used for to track all the money, by department and outline a checklist where each parent can see their dues? - Valerie will follow up.

9. VP Community Relations: (Robin provided update)

Dec 4th was Holiday celebration at Village
House basketball league starts in January – registration is open
Girl Scouts - Scamper concert is January 29th
DEB – first parent meet up is 12/19 at 9am-10:30 at Hometown Coffee in Winnetka. Also, this committee is looking to partner with the school to bring workshops to the school (Exec functioning, SEL).
New Trier - adviser set up is changing and students can now choose: same sex, don't care, mixed. Summer school will in person this year.

Board Update: (Lisa):

From Monday December 13th night meeting:

We have a new **JK Lunch** hour program (1 hour between am and pm sessions). This will help us remain competitive with other JK options.

Technology update – we will be adding additional infrastructure, during construction, to get tech caught up.

MTSS (Multi Tiered Systems of Support) presentation was done and the slides are posted to the website. Behavior, bullying, social emotional is a very large issue right now and very complex. Please take a look at the slides, which are posted on school website. The parent community is very important to this. There is a lot going on, and much more that we can be doing.

Teacher Negotiations: a good amount of movement, since last meeting. Counter proposal from teachers (November 16) and the Board sent their

counter on December. 6th. We are hoping to hear a response before the holiday break.

Questions:

A) How do our students fair when moving onto NT and that we are aligned with behavior expectations? We need benchmarks to determine where we are, what has improved, and how do we continue to evolve. Encourage parents to contribute feedback on what they have experienced for best practices from other schools, etc. Lisa will take back to administration request to reschedule the 2nd coffee quickly, in the new year, to present the MTSS content.

B) How are other schools handling bullying, SEL? It is a national crisis. Very sensitive topic, with very large pushback from the parent community. How do we solve for this in our community, and perhaps have a permanent position going forward? Can we bring in a facilitator who has specific expertise in this area?

There is a dramatic shift in behavior at the school, specifically at Jr High level. We, as parents, have not seen what was presented to the students regarding this topic. Can we get access to the SEL information that the school is presenting to the kids, so parents can reinforce the same messaging? Lisa will bring this point back to the Board. We cannot operate under Zero Tolerance. For example, kids that have IEP's cannot be disciplined if the action is directly related to their differences. Our kids have lost a year of SEL, due to COVID. Start at home, talk to your kids.

Parents need to be involved. Presentations to the Board are posted, and you can attend the meetings virtually. Clarity and consistency of communication will help alleviate some of the hysteria.

The DEB Dec. 19th coffee talk is a chance to get parents together to talk and share ideas. This is an avenue to meet and share ideas. Get the dialogue flowing!

10. Booster: (Kathy and Amy):

Kids ran the Turkey Trot - 2189 laps in total! 3rd, 4th and 5th grades ran the most. One 7th grade boy ran 21 laps and was the top runner!

Kids collected 2397 units of food donated to New Trier Pantry and Northfield Pantry. Scouts helped to load up all the food items. The big need continues, especially into Spring/Summer. We would like to run another food drive in Spring

Spirit Wear - most items have arrived, a couple of running late with delivery issues.

Used Sport Equipment Drive - Jan/Feb is target to collect equipment to refurbish and donate to in need schools in the city.

Booster is working on a survey for the students as to what items they would like to see in the blacktop and field. Information will be collected in January. Intent is to have things that will get the kids moving and interacting. Any parent suggestions, please let Kathy or Amy know. This initiative is working together with the group that is working on the physical overhaul of the structures and flow of the outdoor school spaces.

11. Adjourn: Robin motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Amy and Joe. Motion to adjourn approved.

NEXT MEETING: January 12th @8:20am, via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Stone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robin Stone, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Scholl', written in a cursive style.

Janet Scholl, Secretary