

## **JSSVPA – April 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

**Board Attendees:** Robin Stone, Bridget Pennise, Eleanor Husman, Nora Jewett, Katie Alexander, Beth Ottsen, Joe Guarino, Valerie Gaines, Amy Hannus, Betsy Kilroy, Sarah Halack, Janet Scholl, Hillary Kallop, Meredith Sullivan, Julia Peterson, Stephanie Joyce, Lauren Garner

**Regular Attendees:** Kate Donegan, Chris Mannara, Nate McBride

**1. Approve March 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes:** Robin motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Amy and Joe. Minutes were approved.

### **2. Principal/Superintendent's Report: (Kate Donegan)**

Firstly, Kate introduced Nate McBride, Director of Technology and Innovation, and passed the floor to him for comments.

Nate gave a presentation to the Board on Monday, which will be posted to the website, and was an overview of what was done this year. A lot of the work was focused on construction and infrastructure work. Over the summer, we plan on bringing in the classroom side of things with the educational technology and partnering with the staff on this.

**Question:** are you making investments in technology? Yes, if equipment is over 6 years old then we will sell it off. Our intent is to refresh the fleet with new iPads. We will look at Jr High to determine if there needs to be a transitional device for moving onto high school.

**Question:** does the school offer any keyboarding instruction for the kids? There is a resource that the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers use, but I would like this to be part of the curriculum. Once we get the right tool, it can be very self-guided.

**Question:** What is the process if a student's iPad is damaged? If it is a one-time thing, then you get a pass. If gross negligence occurs in terms of large-scale damage, I will team with the Vice Principal to determine next steps. Accidents do happen, but not reoccurring. Fortunately, we have not seen a lot of large-scale damage.

**Question:** The community is seeing ups and downs with our Wi-Fi connectivity, is the school experiencing similar issues? Yes, our cellular has been terrible with Verizon and AT&T. Unfortunately, the school has no control over this. Teachers can connect to Guest Wi-Fi and get fairly good reception from this.

**Question:** What about outdoor connectivity? This is being included in the construction plans, to add outdoor connection points. Goal is to make the outdoor spaces more usable, so connectivity is key.

**Question:** What is cell phone policy for students? They can't have them out during class, but ideally, they would leave them in their locker.

**Question:** What kind of monitoring is used to watch for cyber bullying? We use Securly and Gaggle, which scan through emails, all things Google and picks up types of threats. If it reaches a certain threshold, then the Principals and Nate get alerted to deal with it. It has worked out well. Next year, we will roll out a parent piece that when devices come home, parents have better access to turn devices off, what links/websites are allowed, etc. When this is utilized, parents will get a report as to what websites your kids were on.

**Question:** Why can we not email our kids school address, as it impacts accountability? There is a law in place that prevents this from happening, as it is an open domain. Any emails can then get to your kids. We do need a foundational tool to help with this communication flow and this is included in go forward plan.

**Question:** Can we return to a back- to- school night, where parents are shown how to access kids works, especially for Jr High parents? Yes, this is great feedback and we will review.

### **3. President's Report (Robin):**

#### **a) Donation request from the Park District:**

The patio is being renovated, at a cost of \$1M and they have \$500,000 in funds available. They are asking for community donations to assist.

**Question:** What have we historically done for the community? \$2500 for the Heritage trees, \$4000 to the play. We have spent 54% of our yearly budget, to date.

Robin motioned to approve \$5000 to donate, seconded by Beth and Valerie. All approved.

**b) Teacher Service Award:**

Any further ideas on this? Kristin volunteered to take this on. Please get back to Kristin with ideas on what is the criteria, what is the award, how is this voted on.

**c) Monthly Drop-ins: (from Sarah)**

Marty agreed to have the school take back the running of the Drop-in's. Sarah has proposed that 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade room parents take this on. There are 2 room parents per home room, so a total of 12 room parents are between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Signup genius will be sent out to organize food, theme and volunteers to help. The room parents would not have to be at every Drop-in. Drop-in is an optional add-on, so dues associated are optional. Robin motioned to designate 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade room parents as leads on Drop-ins. Seconded by Joe and Lauren. All approved.

**4. Nominating (Vote on Slate):** (Bridget)

Bridget distributed copies of the proposed slate to the meeting attendees, and reviewed details. A lot of new names are on the slate, which is fantastic. Robin motioned to approve the slate, seconded by Kristen and Valerie. All approved.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** (Valerie)

Through March, we are at 54% of our budget. The Giving Tree is going ahead with where we are at (we are short \$1500, over previous year). Giving Tree was initially only a holiday bonus, but evolved into a twice a

year gift. Lauren will send another reminder, but the JSSPVA will not be subsidizing.

## **6. Vice President's Sub-Committees:** (Beth)

Book Fair – is returning to full in person and you can attend with your child on May 12 and 13. It will open at 7:45am and close at 4pm. Bernie's Books will also be accepting donation of gently used books.

Enrichment: a great job this year, considering all the obstacles that came up. Kinder is going to the zoo, 7<sup>th</sup> is going to Shed and Architectural boat tour on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Creative Dramatic: we are in jeopardy of losing debate, due to low number of participants. We are working on adding a coding and high ropes club for next year.

Field Day: Megan Bradley and Kristie Bennett are planning it now. Kids will stay at school for a pizza lunch, get into their team shirts, etc.

New Club: our new librarian, Lynette Bromiel, would like to start a new book club. Kids read book, write book report on them, discuss, etc.

Homework and Art Club: both are now happening at school, during lunch

## **7. Benefit:** (Meredith)

As of now, 215 tickets have been sold. 18 Administration and teacher tickets have been purchased. 20 sign-up parties and 15 teacher experiences have been donated, with every grade having representation.

We are looking for volunteers either before check-in, to sell raffle tickets, or at the benefit to help with live auction, manage the heads and tails game.

A Signup Genius will be sent. The benefit book will be distributed prior to the event, so that you can review items.

**Question:** I will be out of town that weekend, can I signup remotely? Best to have a friend sign up for you, as we want to promote attendance

**Question:** Do you have enough books for every kid, or just kids with tickets? This would be a great way to foster more interest, with families looking through the book ahead of time. This would help get families involved, who may not be able to attend in person.

**Question:** Can a link be sent out to a remote bidding option, maybe the morning of, for those who cannot attend? Meredith will discuss with the committee, as she is meeting directly after this meeting.

## **8. VP of Inclusion:** (Joe)

Polar Plunge wrap-up: the remainder of the sweatshirts arrived and have been distributed. For kids who went above their thresholds, awards will come direct in the mail

Common Threads: Lunchtime meet up did not work so great. Next option is to try before school, for donuts and juice

Paws for Patrick: May is mental health awareness month and this committee is asking if we can put up yard signs and green ribbons. Joe is continuing to attempt to contact the person to understand more details. For example, how will the communication be handled with the kids, to be age appropriate.

Newcomers: Coffee meet up was held last week. Joe also sent an invite to the new families at our school to offer a pre-benefit party. A good way to welcome newcomers and ensure they feel comfortable going to the Benefit.

### **9. Staff Appreciation:** (Katie)

We stocked the teacher lounge for the last time, for this year. Teacher Appreciation week is coming up, at the first of May. Lunch will be provided on the Friday of that week, flowers from the kids and appreciation banners are also arriving to the school. Suggestion: could we give the kids the option to write a note of thanks to their teachers? The committee will continue to work on this.

### **10. VP of Green:** (Julia)

Bike/walk to school is this week and next. We will track participation for next week.

Next week is also Earth Week and the theme is trees. On April 19<sup>th</sup>, ceremonial tree planting will take place after school and the village arborist will plant a tree in front of the school. The Panther will be there! Kids are being asked to wear green to school this day.

### **11. VP of Community Relations:** (Robin covered)

Rising freshmen: refer to the NT website for updated information

No attendee to give a Board update

Memorial Day parade is being held May 22

Girl Scouts raised \$300 in the egg hunt, this past weekend

### **12. Booster:** (Amy):

Recess have been very positive and kids have been helping with set up and put away. What would be helpful now is if we can get some more volunteers that could commit to one day a week, just 15 minutes prior to lunch and 15 min after. There is a list of what needs to be put away, where. This would help with continuity.

April 18<sup>th</sup>: start of the sport equipment drive. Bins will be at every entrance to collect for the Sports Shed. Details of what they are looking for are in Sears to Home.

We'd like to do one more pop up for Spirit Wear sales – summer focused, with sun visors, bucket hats and beach towels.

**13. Adjourn:** Robin motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Beth and Amy. Motion to adjourn approved.

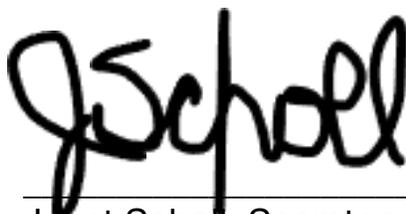
NEXT MEETING: May 11th, @ 8:20am at Kenilworth Assembly Hall

Respectfully submitted by:



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Robin Stone, President



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Janet Scholl, Secretary

