

JSSPVA Board Meeting (via Zoom) – April 14, 2021

Attendance: Sarah Halack, Sarah Czepiel, Jonna Rescho, Eleanor Husman, Lara Scarborough, Jen Riefe, Debby Caldwell, Kathleen Lyman, Betsy Kilroy, Nora Jewett, Jen Dixton, Kristin Pilant, Robin Stone, Julia Peterson, Meredith Sullivan, Emily Tzur, Mia Sachs, Katie Alexander, Amy Hannus, Kristie Bennett, Beth Ottsen, Rebecca Quigley, Bridget Pennise, Anne Ryan, Stephanie Joyce, Amy O’Dell, Beth Beeler, Lauren Garner.

1. Approve Mar 2021 minutes - Sarah Halack motioned to approve the minutes, Lara seconded. The minutes were approved.
2. Superintendent’s/Principal’s Report (Kate Donegan & Stephanie Helfand) – Reviewed the staffing plan covered during the March 5th Board of Education meeting, which included a non-academic and non-performance-based reduction in force. Would like to address questions and address what they believe to be some inaccurate information out there. Recognize that families live here for quality of the school, low class sizes and resources and have worked closely with the BOE to ensure all students have the opportunity to obtain their full potential. Neither the BOE nor administration would take action or make decisions without careful consideration. People believe this plan would require teachers to do more with less. Reduction in staff is never simple nor without grief, but it is a common practice across the country. It had not been in Kenilworth, had been abandoned and needed review. Had staffing been addressed in past, the school would be in better position. Saddened by the impression staffing plan has left on community and want to address specific points. The plan retains small class sizes. Some also believe by reducing staffing decreases personalization. Not eliminating interventionist role, no changes in PK-5, in junior high it is more concept and skill-based so students will work with content specialists in every area. Those with IEPs will continue to get support from student services teachers. Junior high teachers are very credentialed in their subject areas and the change means more people available for intervention and enrichment versus just 1 reading and 1 math specialist for 3 grade levels. The need for changes are due to lower enrollment and fewer IEPs. The staffing and master schedule had not been addressed in years and will now be significantly improved and more efficient. The number of teachers required for remote learning will also be significantly reduced next year, as remote will only be available to those with a documented need. Planning for a full day “normal” school schedule. Likely still have mitigation measures (masks, plexiglass, some lunch/bathroom procedures). Junior high will have 4 sections for 7th and 8th grades, 2 sections in 6th due to smaller grade size.
3. President’s Report (Sarah) – Proposal to remove Enrichment and Room Parent Chairs off the JSSPVA Board of Directors. Will help increase the pool of candidates for future VP/President roles due to the 4-year rule. There has been some confusion over DEB’s relationship with the PVA. In March it was clarified that DEB is a distinct entity, separate from the JSSPVA, which is a good thing as allows DEB to pursue activities that the PVA cannot. Changes needed to the Board of Directors to reflect this; renaming the Diversity & Awareness role to VP of Inclusion Initiatives and reinventing the role. This role will be filled through the JSSPVA nominating process, independent of DEB. Like other community organizations, DEB is welcome to submit proposals for the funding of projects that fit within our charitable mission and are consistent with Section 501(c)(3)’s requirements.

- a. A motion was made to invite DEB to appoint a liaison to the PVA who will report to the VP of Community Relations and update us at PVA meetings. A vote was taken and the motion approved.
 - b. A motion was made to move Enrichment and Room Parent Chair roles off the Board, a vote was taken and the motion approved.
 - c. A motion was made to add the Benefit Chairs role to the Board, a vote was taken and the motion approved.
 - d. A proposal was made to make change one name on the initially presented slate, naming Joe Guarino as the new VP of Inclusion Initiatives, a vote was taken and the change approved.
 - e. The final slate (attached) was presented, a vote was taken and the slate approved.
4. Treasurer's Report (Stephanie) – Please submit any reimbursement/check requests. We are still waiting on funds from the Village House. Stephanie distributed the March 2021 Treasurer's Report to the President, Vice President, Past President and Past Treasurer. It is available to anyone who would like to see it.
5. Board Member Reports
- a. Staff Appreciation (Kristie & Debby) – Planning events for the Staff Appreciation the first week of May. Looking for volunteers to help with implementing daily expressions of gratitude. Please reach out to Kristie Bennett if interested or with ideas. Giving Tree has raised \$10,926 for the year which will allow us to give the teachers/staff a little over \$120 each during Teacher Appreciation Week (based on approximately 90 teachers/staff). Our goal was to raise enough money to give them all \$100 so the extra money is icing on the cake. Debby will send an e-mail blast out to parents next week to let them know we exceeded our goal.
 - b. Enrichment- We continue to work on Enrichment opportunities. Setting up a virtual animal field trip for Kindergarten and a possible virtual show for 1st Grade.
6. Vice President's Sub-Committees
- a. World Culture Fair & Spring Book Fair & Field Day (Robin) – Book Fair will be May 10-17, hosted in conjunction with the Book Stall. Families will be able to order online or in the store and JSSPVA will receive 20% of the profits. World Culture Fair will be May 21. A SignUp Genius is in process to get volunteers. New format due to COVID, each class will enter a drawing and get paired with a different country. The event will take place in the classroom during the day. Field Day will happen in some form, details are in the works.
7. VP of Community Relations (Lara)
- a. District 38 Board of Education:
 - i. The Board reviewed and approved the new staffing plan. While the administration and the Board do not make decisions related to reduction in force lightly, this staffing plan better aligns the District's staffing with its student population while continuing to offer the high-quality education and small class-sizes which The Joseph Sears School is known for.
 - ii. The Board approved the first phase of the Master Facilities Plan which will be the renovation of the JK/K classrooms and hub area.
 - iii. Approved next year's school calendar -- note we will be starting earlier in August than usual in order to have a longer summer in 2022 for construction.
 - iv. The following policies were put up for review and open for community feedback. They will be voted on at the meeting next week.

5:10 – Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

5:20 – Workplace Harassment Prohibited

5:330 – Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves

5:186 – Private Professional Services

7:310 – Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools

7:325 – Student Fundraising Activities

b. New Trier Board of Education

- i. District Plans Rotating Block Schedule for 2021-2022: New Trier is making plans to move to a rotating Blue/Green block schedule for the 2021-2022 school year in which students would attend individual classes for longer periods every other day. After weighing input from parents, students, and faculty, the District found that the rotating schedule achieved many of the goals set out by a schoolwide committee. Those goals included allowing for more depth of discussion and longer hands-on activities in classes, maintaining a similar amount of instructional time, maintaining student course selection choices, reducing student stress over the schedule, and ensuring easy adaptation to any circumstances that might require hybrid or remote learning next year. Under the proposed schedule, classes would meet in 85-minute blocks each day. Some student services as well as science labs would meet for half-blocks, giving flexibility for students to have the same sort of regular contacts and science instruction as they had under the 9-period daily schedule. Regular school days would run from 8 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. on the Northfield Campus and from 8:20 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the Winnetka Campus. Early Bird classes on the Winnetka Campus would not meet on Mondays and would instead meet Tuesdays through Fridays, with science classes starting at 7:05 a.m. and non-science classes starting at 7:25 a.m.
- ii. Update on School Reopening: Vaccinations, Grey Days, 4th Quarter Planning: Vaccinations - More than 80% of New Trier staff members reported they have been vaccinated against COVID-19, and the District has been able to offer vaccines to all staff members who indicated they wanted to be vaccinated, Associate Superintendent Chris Johnson told the Board. New Trier has now hosted one retail vaccination clinic and three first responder/educator clinics in cooperation with local first responders. While these clinics have been limited to designated groups, the District remains open to expanding the clinic to community members if additional vaccines become available from the county. Additional vaccine appointments are being made available this month for NT Township residents. Emails will continue to go out regarding the availability for appointments. 4th Quarter all students who are interested are able to attend, 4 days in person, 2 days in person or fully remote. Many sports are now back in session at New Trier for the spring/summer to make up for missed fall contact sport.

c. Family Action Network

4/15 – Ian Rosenberg engages in a timely discussion of the First Amendment with Michael Signer.

4/19 – Larayia Gaston offers inspiring ideas on how to integrate a kindness practice with Kriste Peoples.

4/20 – Bishop Michael Curry reflects on the power of hope with Bishop Jeffrey Lee.

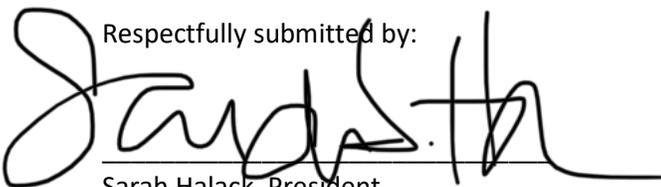
4/22 – Julie Lythcott-Haims returns to FAN to discuss emerging adulthood with Gia Clarke.

- d. Alliance – New Let's Play! Guide is on the website. www.theallianceforec.com. 3 Recorded Pandemic Parenting Tools & Tips webinars are available to view for free on the website. May Family Event - 5/15 Beach Exploration. Register on the website. Honor a Teacher! - Teacher Tributes can be made at <https://theallianceforec.org/teacher-tributes>
8. VP of Green Initiatives (Julia) - Sears Earth Day activities below (these are reflected in the JSSPVA newsletter #15). Also, happy news from the Outdoor Classroom! The Outdoor Classroom is expected to remain open through the summer before the construction begins. Students will be able to utilize it this spring during school. We are also planning for a full summer of planting and harvesting with the Organic Gardener. Watch out for opportunities to sign up to help in the garden.
 - a. Anytime - Join Joseph Sears and Humanscale to take doing good to a global scale with Handprinter.org. There are many opportunities for families through this partnership. Organization Invite Code: joseph-sears-school.
 - b. All of 2021 - The Heritage Tree Program 2021 - Considering donating a tree here to commemorate the 125th Anniversary for The Village of Kenilworth and support the goal to plant 125 Heritage Trees in 2021!
 - c. April 15 - TREX plastic film Challenge ends 4/15. Recycle your plastic film (grocery bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, zip lock bags, etc.) Any questions, please contact Meredith Sullivan at msd.sullivan@gmail.com.
 - d. April 19 - April 23 - National Walk to School Day. Leave the car in the garage and join the nation in walking (or biking) to Sears all week of April 19 - 23rd. Prizes will be provided for lucky participants!
 - e. April 22 - EARTH DAY!!! Wear GREEN on Earth day with the Planet Panthers, and stay tuned for the Planet Panthers led Sears Scavenger Seek on Earth Day!
 - f. April 30 - Arbor Day. Plant a tree.

General reminder – Everyone is welcome to join this meeting, link is always on the JSSPVA website.

Upcoming Meeting (Zoom – 9am): May 12th

Respectfully submitted by:



Sarah Halack, President



Lauren Garner, Secretary

FINAL 2021-2022 JSSPVA SLATE

Board of Directors (<i>Voting members of the Board</i>)	
Board Position	Board Member
President	Robin Stone
Vice President	Beth Ottsen
Immediate Past President	Sarah Halack
VP of Community Relations	Jennifer Dixon
VP of Green Initiatives	Julia Peterson
VP of Inclusion Initiatives	Joe Guarino
Secretary	Janet Scholl
Treasurer	Valerie Gaines
Immediate Past Treasurer	Stephanie Joyce
Communications Co-Chair (2)	Eleanor Husman Jen Riefe
Volunteer Coordination Chair	Kristin Pilant
Nominating Chair	Bridget Pennise
Booster Club	Kathy Ambrosino Amy Hannus
Staff Appreciation Co-Chairs (3)	Katie Alexander Nora Jewett Lauren Garner (Giving Tree)
Benefit Chairs (2021-2022)	Cailin Davis Hilary Kallop Rachel Smith Meredith Sullivan
Subcommittee Chair Positions (<i>Non-voting members of the Board</i>)	
Vice President's Subcommittees	
Board Position	Board Member
Benefit Future Chairs (2022-2023)	Megan Bradley Jenelle Chalmers Pamela Norris
Book Fair Chairs (2021-2022)	Carly Cook Kyra Nelson Tara Stafford
Book Fair Future Chairs (2022-2023)	Alison Dempsey Andrea Knabe Erin Papuga
Enrichment Co-Chairs (3)	Kate Anderson Nicole Borovicka Jonna Rescho
Future Booster Club 2022-2023	Kim Gill Lauren Jerome
Creative Dramatics/Chess Chair	Jenica Myszkowski
Display Case Chair	Nikki Klingenstein
Family Fun Day Co-Chairs (2) Fall 2021	Joanna Fields Kelly Vaez
Family Fun Day Future Co-Chairs (2) - Fall 2022	Carla Dunham Demetra Haralampu
Field Day Chair - 2022	Kristie Bennett Megan Bradley
Lost and Found Chair	Katy Cohan
Room Parent Co-Chairs (2)	Claudia Kocalis Lydia Mathas
School Supply Chair (2021-2022)	Mary Jane Melgaard
School Supply Chair (2022-2023)	Lieke Hakkenberg
Sears Café Chair	Christine Akkurt
Skate Exchange Chair	Kirby Kelly
Student Picture Co-Chairs (2)	Pamela Norris

FINAL 2021-2022 JSSPVA SLATE (CONTINUED)

	Stacey Sunderland
Veteran's Day Chair	Mindy Kelly
VP of Community Relations Subcommittees	
Committee Position	Proposed Committee Member
Alliance for Early Childhood Representative	Kelly Alli
FAN Representative	Brittany Gottschall
New Trier Liaison	Nancy O'Donnell
Community Representatives	Proposed Committee Member
DEB Liaison	<i>To be determined by DEB</i>
School Board Liaison	<i>To be determined by the Board of Education</i>
VP of Green Initiatives Subcommittees	
Committee Position	Proposed Committee Member
Earth Day Chair	Robin Maher
Grounds Group Chair	Taryn Boatman
Outdoor Classroom Liaison Chair	Laurel Lien
School Recycling Chair	Meredith Sullivan
Walk and Bike to School Chair	Carolyn Brougham (Spring), Patrick McEntee (Fall)
VP of Inclusion Initiatives	
Committee Position	Proposed Committee Member
Inclusion Initiatives Program Chair	Jennifer Sollecito
Newcomers Co-Chairs (3)	Carly Cape Antonine Kaiser Amy O'Dell
World Culture Fair Chair (2)	Vanessa Menton (2nd Year Chair) Anne Ryan (1st Year Chair)
Room Parent Co-Chair Subcommittees	
Committee Position	Proposed Committee Member
Room Parents 2 for each class (JK - 8th)	<i>To be determined by Room Parent Co-Chairs</i>
8th Grade Coordinators (4) <i>Coordinators typically include two Boy Moms and two Girl Moms</i>	Kerry Judy (Boy Mom) M'Liz Simonds (Boy Mom) Trish Saltzman (Girl Mom) Paula Smith (Girl Mom)