

JSSVPA – March 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board Attendees: Robin Stone, Bridget Pennise, Eleanor Husman, Nora Jewett, Katie Alexander, Joe Guarino, Valerie Gaines, Amy Hannus, Sarah Halack, Jennifer Dixton, Janet Scholl, Hillary Kallop, Meredith Sullivan, Kathy Ambrosino, Julia Peterson

Regular Attendees: Kate Donegan, Chris Mannara

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

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

Firstly, Kate introduced Chris Mannara, as our new Communication Director.

The construction trailer is in place and fencing will go up over spring break, with them moving to break ground in mid-April. Thank you to Booster for the new playground options and communication will go out, prior to Spring break, regarding new routes for the kids, etc.

Question: When the blacktop goes away, are we doing something with Townley to add in activities? No, a construction fence will be erected with a gate, at the end of Richmond. This is where basketball courts will be set and summer camp drop off, etc will occur. We will likely also shut off the turn-around at Ivey court during recess, so there is a hard surface for kids to play on.

Question: Coming through the tunnel, will kids be able to go around by the playground, or does everyone has to go by Kindergarten? Coming out of tunnel, you can go North, and south, in small direction to get into Village House, but not as far as the blacktop. The entrance into the building will be the south side of the Baker Building, or kindergarten, or the front of the building. Only access points. Marty has met with the Fire and Police Departments regarding entrance/exit plans and this will come out, prior to Spring Break.

Will kids still have access to the playground? Yes, but not directly to Townley.

The teacher's contract was settled.

Question:

What are areas that the teachers gave in on negotiation? Kate feels like it is very kid centric. For example: before/after school time, the fact that there is common preparation time to give teachers time to work collaboratively, and some of that preparation time can be used as internal substitutes. Early release is a win for students with a Professional Development program being established (Tuesday early release). All of this will be used for Professional Development, except for some preparation time for report cards and conference prep. Common teacher programs will also be a part of this - for example, there is a behavior program called Champs - all teachers will attend, as a common group for learning and messaging. The majority of things will be everyone coming together as one group, for grade continuity. This has been very difficult in the past, without having common time together.

Question:

What is the plan for kids at early release? Park district programming, and all the TA's (teacher assistant) work until 3:15, so we could run a homework club, for example. The kids will be able to do something of an academic nature, during this time.

Question:

How does the before/after school drop in happen? Currently, teachers are required to be at school at the same time kids are (8:10-3:15). Going forward, teachers need to now be at school for 7:55, and they will stay until 3:30. During this time, teachers will be available for lots of thing. If kids want additional help, it may be best to make an appointment. At 8:00, the first bell will ring, so they are ready, in their desks, ready to learn at 8:10.

Question:

Are we tacking on time at end of year for the Tuesday early release? We have a longer calendar than is required by the State and we have 3 additional days. These will be added on for additional instruction time, so we don't need to extend the calendar year.

Question:

Is graduation going to run into June? No, it will stay same and we tie that into New Trier's graduation.

Question:

Can Jr High teachers communicate office hours, in prep for high school? Yes, if this is something of benefit, we can look at this.

Input from Chris: Early release days and early times are so important, it's a huge win for the students and teachers. Office hours will definitely help to prepare them for high school and college.

Sears to Home will re-run the Q&A. Please review and reach out with any questions.

3. President's Report (Robin):**a) Update on Panther Park:**

The space was surveyed yesterday (Panther Park) as well as the 'other courtyard' (unnamed as yet). Panther Park is the space that is completely land locked and was identified by the students as an area of improvement. We'll have more information and potential drawing by May. Until the school construction is complete, no work can be done on this.

b) Changes to Drop in:

Drop in is a dance/field trips for 7th and 8th grades, offered monthly on a Friday night, and is run by a private board. The two people who have run it for the past couple of years are rolling off and only one person has volunteered to keep it running next year. As this is a private event, you are personally responsible for any issues/situations/liability that occur. If this is not able to be passed down, should it try to be a school run activity, that the JSSPVA runs?

Question: What do other NT feeder schools have? Can we get Sears to take it back? Why was it separated from school? There used to be more kids from other schools who attended, and it was a Kenilworth village event, not Sears specific. It's now moved back to a Sears event. Robin and Beth will speak to the administration about this.

c) Teacher Award:

Robin was approached with a really nice idea from a family, inquiring about giving a teacher equivalent to Panther Pride. We could have a separate

paddle raise at the Benefit to raise money for this, and something could be purchased that they can use/display in the classroom.

Question:

How do we determine the criteria? It will be based off the 4 cornerstones, but also who goes 'above and beyond' the classroom and community. We would take nominations from the community at large and a link in our newsletter would allow the community to vote for their teacher.

Suggestion: gift something that the teacher could keep to display in their classroom (plaque, etc), that can move around to each winner each year. Keep thinking about what can go in the criteria, and the budget. This is something that we can do this year. Please let Robin know further thoughts.

d)Ropes Course:

Why aren't we using it? Covid and a lack of certified teacher are the reasons it hasn't been used in the last two years. It is located in the gym and 5th grade and older are able to use it, but any instructor who uses the high ropes course needs to be certified. The JSSPVA paid for this.

Robin proposed the JSSPVA support an after -school Ropes Course Club. This could be run like any other club within the school. Robin motioned to Motion to approve support for a Ropes Course Club, seconded by Joe and Eleanor. All approved.

4. Treasurer (Valerie):

Our next quarter payment from Amazon Smiles was \$765. Valerie set up a pay pal account for JSSPVA and also got onto the PayPal Giving Fund. If you donate to the Giving Fund, for JSSPVA, everything is fee free. A link is on the JSSPVA web site for donations - for example, go and look up Benefit donation, and the link will be there.

Suggestion: Can this move towards allowing parents to make one donation amount, to cover class dues, JSSPVA, giving tree, etc? Will investigate.

We've received donations for the benefit - about \$2000, from the letter that was sent to the community.

Question:

Is it possible for people to earmark donations for specific things? Example, for the after-school ropes course? Yes - they would approach the JSSPVA and we would vote on whether to accept it.

5. VP of Sub Committee (Sarah filled in for Beth):

Enrichment: JK - 1st just had The Great Works Theater at school; K has high tech/ high touch coming this week; 1st also has High Tech/High Touch coming for their flight and sound unit; 2nd has The Great Works Theater (Road to Freedom); 1st/2nd has Bill Buczinsky's child's voice poetry.

Field trips: Kindergarten will go to the Lincoln Park Zoo in May; 2nd grade to the Historical Society; 3rd grade is working on going to the Grove in April; 4th grade Historical Perspectives for Wilma Rudolph; 5th going to Candor health; 6th- Greek methodology workshop by Chicago Touring Theater Group; 7th off to the Shed in May and architectural boat tour, 8th day trip to Springfield.

6. Benefit:

The benefit is coming along nicely and the invitation has gone out, with a link to the tickets. You also have an option to sponsor a teacher.

Auctioneer is secured, along with the best band ever! We do still need big ticket items (event tickets, a lake house, etc). We will likely need help for day-of to check people in, etc. A Sign- up Genius will be sent out, closet to the date.

Question: how many tickets have been sold? 60, as of last Monday.

Question: Is tracking of Paperless post happening? Yes: 600 invites were sent and 500 opened right away. We have an incredible amount of sign-up parties, including great teacher experiences.

7. VP of Inclusion (Joe):

Polar plunge was a great success and raised about \$17,000 - exceeded expectations by \$12,000!! It will return next year and we're looking to make more of a fair out of it, the sound system needs enhancement, and we'd like to hire a DJ. Prizes are still coming in for those who raised money above their thresholds.

Paws for Patrick: A Lake Forest organization in memory of Patrick who committed suicide, after struggling with mental illness. He had a support dog and this organization works with therapy and support dogs. 'Paint the town Green' is their program and it runs in May. They are asking us to tie ribbons around trees and install yard signs. They will also bring support

animals into the school. Joe is waiting to hear back from our administration as to what we can help with.

Tables of 8: looking to May to have the next one. More information will be forthcoming.

8. Staff Appreciation: (Katie)

Staff Appreciation week is going on now, thank you to all for helping.

Restocking lounge is ongoing and will be presenting gifts at the concerts.

9. VP Green (Julia):

Treks is still ongoing through mid-April. Recycling will start back inside the schoolhouse.

Bike- Walk: April 11th and the following week. Tracking on one of the days will happen, for prizes.

Earth week: April 18th week - the faculty sustainability group is putting together a google doc of ideas. Fun facts for morning announcements, have kids wear green one day and we're working with the Village for a ceremonial tree planting ceremony. Location will be near, or on, school grounds - pep rally type thing, with the Panther making an appearance.

10. VP of Community Relations: (Jen):

Park district: registration for spring and summer camp is open

Easter bunny event and breakfast will be on April 9th

Village: survey on the business district closes this week. There have been very few responses so far, so please look to participate

School Board: during Monday's meeting the big focus was on the staffing plan for next year. Jr High - there is a core group of 4 teachers that will be teaching five classes, 2 - 7th grade and 3 -6th grade. 8th grade will not have a change in staffing.

Student fees: \$200 across the board for sports, no matter the sport. There is also a cap on what families will pay for sports teams.

A new flat fee for \$65 of club run enrichment opportunities will be implemented. More information on all this will be in the next Sears to Home

FAQ regarding the early dismissal will be sent out to the community again
Girl Scouts and Boys - May 21st is Memorial Day parade. Promotion for 5th grade GS, on April 9th (Doggie egg hunt) and the proceeds will benefit Famous Fido shelter. Boy Scouts just held a successful derby race, this past Sunday.

DEB committee: next meet up is March 19th: 10am-12pm at the Kenilworth Club. An outing to Feed my Starving Children is occurring on May 12th, 4:30 - 6:15. The Sears community can go and volunteer. You must register, so please sign up by April 29th. The link is in the newsletter

NT - no new update

FAN and Alliance - no updates

11. Nominating (Bridget): update on nominating. We have a fully slated Executive Board. One last spot to fill on the Executive Board is we need a communications partner for Eleanor. This is a tiered position and the person who was slated for this role is now moving.

12. Booster: (Amy):

We're working on enhancing recess, even prior to construction, and will be rolling out new actives after Spring Break. Containers have been ordered to store items, they are locked and controlled by an app, so we can monitor who is using it. Items will need to be set up and taken down and a Sign- up Genius for volunteers to help in 30 min shifts to set up and take down, will be sent out. Intent is to have senior kids eventually take on the set up and take down, with school staff there to supervise. Indoor and outdoor recess activities are being rolled out.

Pickle ball nets, spike balls, volleyball nets. - things that can be set up on Townley, when the blacktop is not available. This is for all the ages.

Last week of April for sport equipment drive. Bring in used equipment Sports Shed (they collect equipment for underfunded schools) - a list will be distributed. Bins will be around the school entry points. Suggestion was made to tie it in with Earth week.

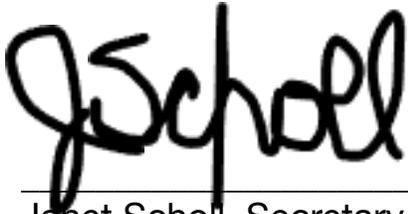
13. Adjourn: Robin motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sarah and Amy. Motion to adjourn approved.

NEXT MEETING: April 13th, @ 8:20am at Kenilworth Assembly Hall

Respectfully submitted by:

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

Robin Stone, President

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

Janet Scholl, Secretary