

FINAL MINUTES

SSCPS Parents Association

WWW.SSCPS-PA.ORG

Meeting Date & Time: October 28 @ 6:30pm

Meeting Location: Zoom

Parents Attending: Abhinav, Rich Ahern, Sade Akinwumi, Rianna Allen-Charles, Jen Anderson, Jessica Barbour, Manusca Belony, Patricia Bien-aime, Karen Boyle, Brooke, Tiffany Brown-Grier, Colette Bycinte, Marie Claude, Cheryl Carrigan, Christina Centrella, Serge Chery, Wildlyne Colimon, Eileen Dorian Lefsky, Dan Egerton, Guisi Egerton, Meredith Eschauzier, Laura Foley, Linda Fordjour, Guerline Guervil, Stephanie Inniss, Elin Harter, Stephanie Inniss, Natacha Julien, Patricia Kelley, Amy Koskowski, Mariko Lee, Eileen Dorian Lefsky, Lisena, Brittany Lofstand, Carla Lopez-Codio, Joanne Manning, Emma Mwaura, Esohe Okungbowa, Myrlande Pamphile, Lisena Paul, Kendra Polefka, Andrea Poudrier, Michelle Rankin, Caitlin Rogers, Alicia Savage, Liz Sweeney, Alisha Uhlenbrock Furst, Katie Vecchione, Achille Yangambi, Joselyn Zhong

1. Welcome

- Katie opened meeting
 - Minutes from last PA meeting to be voted/approved
 - Motioned – Katie Vecchione
 - 2nd – Laura Foley
 - Approved unanimously
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2. Treasurer Update/Grant Requests

- Alisha and grant requestors described the grant requests
- EdPuzzle: \$1140 - Requested by Achille Yangambi, K-12 Math Curriculum Coordinator, described EdPuzzle
 - Web-based interactive video and formative assessment tool
 - Key features include voice-overs, audio comments, and embedded assessment questions
 - Needing increased usage up from free version limited by data storage; cheaper for group membership
 - Deliver instruction with video lectures; teacher can create lessons
 - Comprehension – allows teachers to build lesson with embedded questions; student responses are tracked with feedback back to students and can help teachers determine comprehension
 - Students learn at on pace
 - One teacher fee is \$20/month; membership is \$1,140 for year
- Mystery Science: \$499 - Requested by Deana Tondorf
 - For 1st grade teachers but good for K-8 – current science lessons on-line
 - Takes place of Foss Science Curriculum due to COVID-19 because Foss requires shared materials
- Nearpod: \$349 - Requested by Amy Koskowski, Level II 3/4th grade teacher, described
 - Benefits all level 2 students and teachers across all subjects (social studies, science, math, ELA and projects)
 - Already in use
 - Slide show programs, flashcards, matching activities, virtual field trips
 - Interactive for students
 - Teachers can add quizzes
 - Free versions limits number of students using at one time to 80
 - Only 1 MB storage with free version
- SSCP Sign Fundraiser: \$1,000 to purchase school spirit signs
 - Will purchase 100 signs at \$10 each from Rustic Marlin, then sell for \$20 each

- Initial Investment will be paid back to fund. Additional funds raised will purchase new signs or other grant requested items
- Free kiosk included.
- Rolling Fundraiser
- BoomLearning: \$942 - Level 1 (*K-2) – benefits 19 teachers and 160-180 students
 - Annual membership
 - Allows teachers to purchase/create digital activities like task cards – made up of “decks”
 - Compatible with Google Classroom
 - Geared towards younger crowd with digital rewards
 - Active engagement – makes it funOther
- Plan to continually use these tools will be evaluated prior to next school year.
 - If still needed, monies will be budgeted from the appropriate departments instead of PA funds
- Parent question regarding if all requests approved – will the older students be deprived of resources?
 - The SSCPS Marlin Sign fundraiser is ongoing and funds will return to the PA budget so there will be funds if requests come through from higher levels
- EdPuzzle, Mystery Science, Nearpod, and Boom Learning proposed to SSCPS but denied due to budget restraints, hence requests made for funding through PA
- Motion by Alisha to vote Yes for all requests totaling \$3,930 (with \$1,000 to be re-paid).
 - 2nd – Katie Vecchione
 - Approved unanimously

3. Level & Grade Representative Updates

- **Kindergarten**
 - No update
- **Level I**
 - No Update
- **Level II**
 - No Update
- **Level III**
 - Krista – students were able to carve pumpkins for Wildlife night of a thousand faces
- **Level IV**
 - Flu shot issue? Will wait to hear more from school.
 - Per Weekly Update: All students in grade 7 must submit an current physical including immunizations.
 - Nov 1st needs to be summer reading done to get grade
- **Grade 9**
 - No Update
- **Grade 10**
 - No Update
- **Grade 11**
 - No Update
- **Grade 12**
 - Reminder for seniors - early action deadlines are 11/1 and 11/15
 - Nov 13, 2020 quarter ends
 - Seniors can check Guidance Google Classroom for info on scholarships, virtual college, financial aid and other college info.

4. Committee Updates

- **Fundraising**
 - Position Open – Interested? Let us know!

- **Community Building**
 - No update provided
- **Volunteer Committee**
 - No update
- **Communications & Technology Committee**
 - No update

5. Additional Topics

- **Virtual Back to School Night**
 - Not possible at this time due to time constraints
 - Teachers are currently working on virtual parent/teacher conferences
 - Suggestion for videos from move-up days for parents to see school / teachers faces
- **School Council**
 - Starting in December
 - Needs parent involvement – one to two parents from each level for representation
 - Meetings are once per month
 - Parents interested:
 - Joanne Manning Della Barba volunteered for either level 3 or 4
 - Christina Centrella Kindergarten, 2nd grade or 3rd grade
 - Karen Boyle for high school
 - Natacha Julien for 6th or 7th grade
 - Carla Lopez-Codio – 4th and 9th grade
 - Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst for either 2nd 5th and 8th grade
- **Fundraisers**
 - Raffle Calendar
 - Share with friends and family
 - Local businesses - packed with over \$5000 worth of items
 - Calendar from Nov 16 to Dec 15
 - Can win multiple times
 - Link on PA website SSCPS-PA.ORG
 - SSCPS Magnets (10) and Stickers (150) available for sale
 - Masks: we have contact to make masks with SSCPS designs
 - Andrea will reach out for few designs for adults and kids sizes
 - On demand – no purchasing in advance
- **Teacher Appreciation**
 - Liz Sweeney is coordinator and will be collecting money
 - Random raffle every Friday (cards or baskets from local businesses), \$49.99 limit. May include two drawings per week. Hoping to kick off on the 30th Oct. Total staff is around 180.
 - Voted to extend to all staff
 - Venmo account on PA website SSCPS-PA.ORG
- **Parents Association By-Laws**
 - Need to be reviewed and updated periodically
 - Subcommittee to be formed to review current by-laws and update - i.e. zoom meetings previously now allowed

- Reach out to Andrea Poudrier, Co-Chair, apoudrier48@yahoo.com
- Will probably review at February meeting
- **Remote Learning**
 - **Parent thoughts**
 - Parent reiterated excellent job of school, but the difficulties of frustrated students; feeling like students going backwards
 - Level 1 parents wanted thoughts represented – very difficult with this younger group of students
 - View from parent with kids in multiple levels – her kids are drowning in tears, work, stress concern about the decrease in work - this parent has hired tutor
 - Another parent view: asynchronous work is struggle to complete – some students don't want to ask questions on camera; wanting to go back to school; parent concern for decline in academics; depression; parents needing to sit with students and have a full time job to tend to as well; student doesn't want to be left alone in a separate room due to anxiety if she can't do something online
 - Elementary students: parent asking about returning to hybrid despite the red districts due to seeing her children with sliding academics, screen fatigue, feeling remote learning not sustainable.
 - Not enough time with the teachers
 - **Brief overview of decision for remote learning by Alicia Savage**
 - Faculty and parents volunteered over summer – looking at guidelines provided by many associations
 - August 5th was first required date for plan so other districts voted on provisional plan
 - Color coded system came after plan submission end of August. Dept of Education provided metrics – notification or remote learning on 9/21 after voting
 - Weymouth district most likely follow 25% of sending district so if 25% of districts red then will go full remote
 - Could look at the remote metric – discussions are ongoing
 - It is clear that the remote plan is not ideal ; Nat'l and state news is difficult
 - Have brought highest need students in person
 - Today – second graders were brought in for trip to the farm
 - Consider reconvening some of the task force committees
 - Questionable about whether some teachers will come back if hybrid model returns or is approved
 - Remote vs. in person to be discussed at Board of Trustees meeting, Thursday 11/12 at 7:30pm
 - Latest message from Dept of Ed is not to keep kids home; but this message is different than September's message – people are growing weary and skeptical
 - Team will review the metric – latest recommendations can change
 - All recommendations from CDC, Governor, Dept. of Education are considered
 - PA to send parent survey for opinions on remote vs. in person learning
- **PA website**
 - WWW.SSCPS-PA.ORG - weekly update, useful links, meeting times
 - Meeting earlier November due to Thanksgiving – November 18th, 2020 at 6:30PM

6. Open Discussion & Call for Agenda Topics for Future Meetings

- **Parent Survey Requested for Remote Learning**
 - Alicia will be sending out soon

7. REMINDERS: Non-Financial ways ALL PARENTS can help SSCPS

- **Log your volunteer hours:** Attend Parent Association Meetings. Every Parent is a member of the SSCPS PA!
- **Box Tops for Education:** Clip & drop neatly trimmed Box Tops in the folder at the front desk
 - Now online – download Box Tops for Education app and scan receipts.
- **Stop & Shop A+ Rewards:** Be sure your store loyalty card is registered to support SSCPS. Visit: stopandshop.com/schoolrewards.
- **Amazon Smile** donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Be sure SSCPS is listed as the recipient of your AmazonSmile purchases. Smile.Amazon.com
- **Big Y:** Assign SSCPS to your store loyalty card. Stop at the Service Desk for help.