

SSCPS Parents Association Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: Feb 12, 2024 @ 6:30PM

Mtg Location: In Person at 700 and on Zoom

Meeting Attendees:

- In Person - Ann Mantil, Rachel Broedeur, Bridget Boursiquot, Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst, Alicia Savage
- Online - Andrea Poudrier, Erin Rodenhiser, Emmy Garr, Margaret Ryan-Maloney, Rebecca Angland, Afiesha McMahon, Steve McMahon, Darcie Edwards, Nakeya Miller, Matt Dibb, Kevonna Jones Tandon, Kristen Duggan, Ted Muir, Lisa Travers Elwell, Melissa Mahady, Alyssa Kamalu, Sheina Prince, Krista Cafourek, Rowena Samuels, Melissa Freitas

Meeting Summary

- Alisha requested ideas from the group regarding how to revive the Parent-Teacher Association (PA). We need parent participation to rethink the roles and responsibilities as well as leaders to run in an election in May to serve on the leadership team of the PA. All parents/guardians are members and can vote in elections.
- PA Grant Review - Krista, Sheina, Rowena, Melissa, Nicole, and Laurie requested various educational resources, including headphones, books, manipulatives, and classroom rugs, to support their students' learning. They emphasized the importance of having adequate resources for hands-on learning and defined spaces for learning and play.
- Open the floor to share the groups ideas for PA and school improvement.

Action Items

- Matt - Reach out to Happy Atoms manufacturer for a potential bulk purchase discount
- Alisha - Prepare and distribute a list of all grant requests for voting. An email will go out to all attendees who can vote for this month's grants. Voting due by 5PM on Friday the 16th
- ALL - Complete the SSCPS Connect survey
- Alisha - Add a few additional questions to the grant voting ballot regarding participation and logistics for future meetings

Meeting Agenda

PA Welcome

- Welcome everyone and thank you for joining - This is our first meeting of the year. At the close out of the last school year there weren't enough self-nominations to run an election

so there has been no active PA activity in this school year to date. Alisha has agreed to step in and serve as the interim PA Chair. Alisha most recently served as the Vice Chair last year and is currently serving on the Board of Trustees.

- Meeting Limitations – My focus will be to make people connections during the meeting. Unfortunately, we don't have time to answer, discuss, analyze, and solve for all topics that arise given the meeting format and time constraints. For this reason the goal will be to log and understand questions/ideas so we can find the right person that can answer the question for you directly.
- Is there interest in pre/post-meetings to allow for introductions and to meet and connect with other parents?
- If there is a leadership interested community member who wants to organize a social event for parents to connect more informally that would be great too.
- Alisha proposed dedicating more time for open discussion, currently we only have 20 mins allocated.

Treasurer Report.

- Andrea Poudrier explains how the PA receives \$5,000 from the Educational Foundation for grants, with additional funds raised through fundraising.

Grant 1 - Classroom headphones for online learning.

- Krista requests 24 headphones for \$150 to address a classroom noise issue caused by students without headphones during iReady math program use.
- Krista mentioned that headphones are in high demand across multiple classrooms, and the school should consider providing a headset or headphone per student for sanitary reasons and to complete online iReady assignments.
- Speaker 4 suggested that the school could provide headphones for each student in the future, but it may not be feasible due to budget constraints.

Grant 2 - African diaspora books.

- Sheina requests grant for three books on African diaspora history and culture for literacy night.
- Sheina requests 100 copies of three books for a language program, totaling \$528.92.
- Organizer estimates 100 children attended literacy night, seeking books for donation.

Grant 3 - Science manipulatives for high school chemistry class – Happy Atoms.

- Rowena, a teacher, requests to buy magnetic manipulatives called Happy Atoms for her high school chemistry classes, as the old ones are breaking and lost. \$222
- Request to purchase two complete sets of molecular model kits for a class of 20 students, with each set containing 10 molecules.
- Matt suggests contacting the manufacturer directly to inquire about a possible discount for bulk purchases.

Grant 4 - Washable rugs for kindergarten classrooms.

- Melissa requests washable rugs for kindergarten classrooms to provide a defined space for learning and play. \$510
- Two classrooms will trial the rugs, with the possibility of adding them to other classrooms if successful.
- Washability is the request of the facilities manager.

Grant 5 - STEM classroom materials.

- Teacher Nicole requests \$269.99 for STEM bins and materials for her fourth-grade class.

Grant 6 – ELD Summer Program Materials

- Requests for \$1,850 for summer program materials, including T-shirts and reading books.
- Speaker 4 expresses concern about concentrating funds on one program versus dividing it among multiple teachers with classroom needs.
- Speaker 2 proposes partially funding a teacher's grant request for summer reading books, with the option to fully fund it later if the parent donation initiative is successful.
- The group discusses the feasibility of using existing parent donations to fund the grant, and Speaker 6 suggests voting on each item separately rather than as a block of \$2,000.

Voting for Grant Requests.

- Discussion on grant voting
- Alisha agreed to create a Google form to send out a ballot for all grant requests.
- Post meeting update: Andrea reviewed PA by-laws which state only those who attend a PA meeting can vote on grant requests for the month (I am guessing as a motivator to get ppl to attend.) So I will be limiting voting to only those who attended.)

WE RAN OUT OF TIME TO DISCUSS THESE TOPIC SO LISTED BELOW IS COPIED DIRECTLY FROM THE MEETING AGENDA

School Updates

- Strategic Planning Committee - Ann Mantil

South Shore Charter Public School Family Focus Groups

Focus Group	Location	Date
<i>Focus Group 1</i>	<i>South Shore Charter Public School</i>	<i>Tuesday, January 30, 2024 8:30 am</i>
<i>Focus Group 2</i>	<i>South Shore Charter Public School</i>	<i>Thursday, February 1, 2024 6:00 pm</i>
Focus Group 3	Tufts Library Weymouth	Tuesday, February 27, 2024 6:00 pm
Focus Group 4	Main Library Brockton Public Library	Monday, February 26, 2024 6:00 pm
Focus Group 5	Turner Free Library Randolph	Wednesday, February 28, 2024 6:00 pm
Focus Group 6	Thomas Crane Public Library Quincy	Thursday, February 29, 2024 6:00 pm
Focus Group 8	Virtual via Zoom	Friday, March 1, 2024 12:30 pm
Focus Group 7/ Kreyòl Ayisyen	Virtual via Zoom	Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:00 pm
Focus Group 9	Virtual via Zoom	Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:00 pm

- School Council - Ann Mantil
- Board of Trustees - Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst
 - SSCPS Connect - [SSCPS CONNECT](#)
 - Goal is to capture how the members of our community can and want to contribute (i.e. a volunteer database)
 - Action item - Please complete this survey to be included and spread the word

4. Upcoming Events and Opportunities for Parent Engagement

- African Diaspora Night - March 7th
 - Pls contact [Sheina Prince sprince@sscps.org](mailto:sprince@sscps.org)
- International Food Night – April 11th
 - If you are interested in helping with this event (planning, contributing food, set-up/clean-up, etc.) contact [Natacha Julien njulien@board.sscps.org](mailto:njulien@board.sscps.org)
- Student Council High School Fair (new event) – April Date TBD
 - The Senior class is planning a spring fair (SSCPS families and members of the community) and they need help. Think jumpy houses, cornhole tournament, food trucks, etc.
 - Please contact Alicia Savage who will connect you with the student leaders asavage@sscps.org
- Board of Trustees Membership

- o We are always looking for new members and new ideas. This year we are specifically looking for new members with the following expertise: financial management, corporate sponsorships, strategic partnerships, and capital campaign planning.
- o Contact [Natacha Julien njulien@board.sscps.org](mailto:njulien@board.sscps.org) or Katy Sullivan ksullivan2@board.sscps.org

5. Parent Questions/Concerns

Discussion: What do you think the PA should look like (roles and responsibilities) and how do you think it should operate going forward. Positions, objectives, topics to be discussed at meetings

- From the PA Website <https://sscpspa.weebly.com/>: ***In keeping with the school's mission and model and to be active partners in the education of our children, the South Shore Charter Public School Parents Association (PA), will serve the school community and participate in the governance and growth of SSCPS. Our goals are to promote a sense of community; to provide strong communications between the parent body and students, faculty, administration, and trustees; and to aid the school through support in the classroom, fundraising, administrative tasks and school activities.***
- Roles and responsibilities - Current list is on the SSCPS PA Website <https://sscpspa.weebly.com/pa-roles.html>
- Current Goal of PA: Identify new leaders/active members who want to redesign the operating model of the PA. By may we want to hold elections for PA leadership (via a formal voting process) as well as implement changes needed in the by-laws
- Break up responsibilities to have two chairs, vice chairs, and secretary for each grades k-8 and 9-12
- Consider having PA meetings on a level basis (not one big meeting)
- Consider extending the meeting by 30 mins (to a total of 90) to break meeting up by 2 parts
 - o 30 mins - Grades K-8 only items
 - o 30 mins – all school items
 - o 30 mins – High school items
- How do we make sure there is a fair and equitable way to allocate PA funds across the school levels and programs? We need to develop a fair and equitable evaluation process.

- PA is typically tasked with running fundraising and community building events. We need a calendar and a guide for how to run events.

Meeting Close

- Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM

Approved March 19, 2024