

Sicomac PTO

Meeting Minutes | September 13, 2023

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 7:30pm held virtually on Zoom

Meeting called to order by President Courtney Carrelha

Attendance:

PTO Executive Board Members Present: President Courtney Carrelha, Vice President Lauren Westmark-Gonzalez, Fundraising Co-Chairs Alex Bottino & Allison Vartabedian, Secretary Danielle Brick, Treasurer Karen Sagot, Volunteer Co-Coordinators Lindsay Calhoun & Nicole Morin, Principal Mr. Raimo and Teacher Liaison Mrs. Mazie.

There were approximately 51 people in attendance. No guests in attendance.

Officers' Reports:

Welcome and Technological Information: Lauren Westmark-Gonzalez

- Welcome everyone to the first meeting of the year
- Lauren will be handling the PTO's tech components: website, social media, zoom meetings
- Send any pictures you take from school related events to Lauren so she can post
- If anyone has tech issues they can reach out: lauren.westmark@gmail.com

Introductions of PTO Executive Board: Courtney Carrelha

- President: Courtney Carrelha
- Vice President: Lauren Westmark-Gonzalez
- Fundraising Co-Chairs: Alex Bottino & Allison Vartabedian
- Secretary: Danielle Brick
- Treasurer: Karen Sagot
- Volunteer Co-Coordinators: Lindsay Calhoun & Nicole Morin

Secretary: Danielle Brick

- Tonight's meeting minutes will be posted on the PTO website
- Dara Polera (Class Parent Coordinator) will be sending an email to all class parents with important points from tonight's meeting along with a link to the minutes on the PTO site

Treasurer's Report: Karen Sagot

- Proposed budget for this fiscal year: \$86,520
- We are currently at 20% of the proposed amount through fundraising
- 2023-2024 budget formally read, voted on, and accepted
- Last 6 Promethean Panels have been paid for and will be installed this month
- Register balance as of 8/31/2023: \$19,169.32
- Next month all lunches, spirit wear and PTO membership dues will be accounted for

President's Report: Courtney Carrelha

- Thank you to last year's PTO for all your hard work; we promise to continue the tradition!
- Our board wants to hear from parents (both new families and returning families) and we want everyone to get involved and volunteer. We are here to support you- please reach out to us
- Our goals for future projects for our students include creating and maintaining interactive, experiential, and beautiful outdoor school spaces, such as the outdoor classroom and adding colorful artwork and activities to the blacktop areas

- You will be hearing about different fundraising goals from us. It's important that you know what we are fundraising for and what we will be spending the money on

Vice President's Report: Lauren Westmark-Gonzalez

- Newcomer's Social: September 14
- Thank you to Christina Arbucho for chairing this fun event which is a great way to meet other new families; a magician is performing and sweet treats will be served
- Please RSVP and reach out to her with any questions

Fundraising Chair's Report: Alex Bottino & Allison Vartabedian

- Everything you give to the school will go back to our students!
- Spirit wear update
 - Thank you to all who have purchased; due to such a successful outcome, we will reopen in October with some new Fall items
- Book Fair: September 27-28
 - Michelle Joffe and Maggie Zozzaro are our co-chairs; more info to come in Friday folders
 - The money we make goes towards our media center
- Harvest Fest: October 13
 - Lauren Levis and Kimberly Yenicay are our co-chairs; more info to come in Friday folders
 - DJ, apple cider donuts, ice cream truck, pumpkin sale, auction, and activities
 - In the past, the pumpkin sale pays for the event, so please purchase pumpkins!
- One School One Book: October 9 kick-off
 - Karen Woessner and Amy Leavy are our co-chairs
 - The whole school reads and discusses one book together
 - We are working on an exciting fundraiser component to cover the cost of the books
- Military Bridge: November 15
 - Julianne Albano, Pam Christ, Lauren Kanter and Connie Piccirillo are our co-chairs
 - More info to come
- Sicomac Social: Save the date for March 15 at Indian Trail Club
- Card box sale in late Fall: More info to come
- We are adding fun and allergy-friendly food pop-ups throughout the year for students to purchase
- For the week of Back to School Night we are partnering with local restaurants 3 Chicas and Pizza Love for a food fundraiser that gives 20% back to the school- more info to come

Volunteer Co-Coordinator's Report: Lindsay Calhoun & Nicole Morin

- Economy Shop: A non-profit re-sale shop located in the center of town
 - 100% volunteer staffed and profits are distributed to the 7 schools
 - This past year each school was given approximately \$10K each
 - You can help by donating items (full list of accepted items on the ES website), by shopping (opens September 19), and by volunteering (class parents to volunteer 2 shifts)
 - Sicomac responsible for filling volunteer positions the week of October 31
 - More info on the PTO website under the Fundraising tab, or contact Lindsay and Nicole

Quick Update: Courtney Carrelha

- We apologize for tonight's conflict with the EMS Back to School Night; we try to keep scheduling conflicts to a minimum
- Please follow the PTO organizational chart with any questions/concerns about upcoming events. Please work with the PTO first and then all items can go to Mr. Raimo once finalized

Principal's Report: Mr. Raimo

- Welcome to all new families; we are committed to doing our best for your children and to partner with you

- Our school theme this year is Sicomac Eagles SOAR:
 - S - Self regulation
 - O - On task
 - A - Acting responsibly
 - R - Respect
- We are a responsive classroom school which means we embrace challenging academics while also empowering students to work hard and make intentional choices
- We have morning meetings set in our daily schedule which provide a calm moment to connect before starting the school day
- Constraints are hard for kids and school is filled with constraints, so we make sure to go outside, take nature walks and let the kids be kids
- Both at home and school, we should be setting expectations and parameters, working on manners, holding the kids accountable, and sharing our values
- New Staff Member:
 - The district has hired a a team of special law enforcement officers (SLEO III) to provide security during the academic school day
 - Sicomac is so grateful to have Officer Rob, a police officer in Wayne for 25 years
 - He is armed, will have his squad car visibly parked in front of the school, and checks the school inside and outside throughout the day
- Never prop open a door - always get buzzed in by the front office
- Parking lot update:
 - The barricade goes up at 3pm, please do not enter the parking lot if the barricade is up
 - The parking lot will reopen after Kindergarten is dismissed
 - Do not let kids run through the lot - meet your children at the top of the school or on the sidewalks
- Safety Patrol just held it's first meeting and consists of our 5th graders
- Front lobby update:
 - The sign in process has become more secure; please always bring your license to sign in
- Promethean Panels are being installed on September 14 and the whole building is now complete with these powerful tools for learning
- Now that Picture Day is over, please check your email for communication from the photographer
- The Strategic Planning Meeting will be at EMS on 10/12, 11/2, and 11/30 at 7pm
- Sicomac holds 2 emergency drills every month:
 - In case of a relocation emergency, everyone will head to the Sicomac soccer field, and if school grounds ever need to be cleared all students will be bussed to Ramapo High School

Staff Report: Jayne Mazie

- Mrs. Mazie is our PTO liaison who will report what is going on in the classrooms
- Shared some fun facts about what each class wants to learn this year

Health Message from Nurse Nancy

- Cold and flu season returning, along with an uptick in Covid
- The school will encourage hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes
- If your child is sick please stay home

Open for Q&A: Danielle Brick

- One question was asked to clarify the location of the Newcomer's Social

Reminders and Announcements: Danielle Brick

September 13: Last chance tonight to order bagel, pizza and Jersey Mike's lunch

September 14: Newcomer's Social

September 18: 1st grade teacher treats

September 25: School closed for Yom Kippur

September 27-28: Book fair

September 28: Back to School Night

September 29: PTO memberships due; if you don't pay by this date you will no longer receive PTO emails starting October 1

October 2-6: Week of Respect

Next Meeting: October 11 at 9:15am in person in the Sicomac Multi-Purpose Room

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Minutes compiled by Danielle Brick, Secretary
