

Sicomac PTO
Meeting Minutes | January 3, 2024

Wednesday, January 3, 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-Coordinator Lindsay Calhoun & Nicole Morin, Principal Mr. Raimo, Teacher Liaison Mrs. Mazie, School Counselor Ms. Boele, parents and guardians of Sicomac students.

There were approximately 59 people in attendance.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary: Danielle Brick

- Tonight's meeting minutes will be posted on the PTO website
- Kid's Night begins this Friday! The schedule is:
 - January 5: Kid's Night for Kindergarten (6:30) and 5th (7:45)
 - January 12: Kid's Night for 1st (6:30) and 4th (7:45)
 - January 19: Kid's Night for 2nd (6:30) and 3rd (7:45)
 - Please register your child on the PTO website if you have not done so already

Treasurer's Report: Karen Sagot

- Reviewed current budget (attached below)
 - Incoming money includes items such as: lunches, Economy Shop (thank you for all those who volunteered!), Military Bridge, etc.
 - Outgoing money includes items such as: staff holiday gifts and breakfast, lunch vendors, outdoor classroom, Polar Express, etc.
- The lunch store has re-opened on the PTO website for those who missed ordering; please place your orders before end of this week

Vice President's Report: Lauren Westmark-Gonzalez

- Mom's Night Out: February 8, 7-9pm at The Brick House
- Julianne Albano and Pam Christ are the committee chairs; Julianne spoke:
 - \$50 per person; this is not a fundraiser so the cost directly pays for the event
 - Raffle baskets and tarot card reader!
 - Pop in anytime throughout the 2 hours
 - Registration will be coming soon through email, social and Friday folder

President's Update: Courtney Carrelha

- Some changes to lunches (pizza, bagel, Jersey Mike's) for next year:
 - Based on feedback, many families would rather order for the entire year at once
 - Next year we will offer two options: Buy lunch for the whole year or half the year
 - If you buy for half the year it will be September - January and February - June

Fundraising Chair's Report: Alex Bottino & Allison Vartabedian

- Sicomac Social: March 15, 2024 - our biggest fundraiser of the year!
 - Will be held at Indian Trail Club - a casual, fun evening with music and games
 - Tickets will go on sale soon
 - We have started reaching out for sponsorship/gift basket opportunities; please let us know if you have any ideas, or if you have a business that wants to get involved
 - If you want to get involved to help with decorations, get things ready, etc. please reach out; we welcome any and all help

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

- First check from Economy Shop was \$4,000, outperforming any other time before!
- A slideshow was reviewed showing how items in the shop are displayed
- You can help by volunteering, donating your items, or shopping
- Upcoming Sicomac Weeks are: January 16-20, March 12-16 and May 14-18

Guidance Counselor Update: Ms. Boele

- School counseling update (presentation attached)
- Ways Ms. Boele helps: Meets with all the students for social and emotional lessons; meets in small groups during student's SGI time focusing on various topics; organizes the Lunch Bunch which is discussion-based; meets with students anytime they need to speak
- Marking period newsletters available on the Sicomac School website with information

Staff Report: Mrs. Mazie

- Each teacher asked their class *what would you like to do more of and less of in 2024*

Principal's Report: Mr. Raimo

- We can learn from our kids if we listen - there were some beautiful things in that list that Mrs. Mazie just read off!
- Thank you to Ms. Boele for showing us what goes on behind the scenes; we are fortunate to have a full time position because we used to share this position
- Thank you for attending the winter concerts
- Mr. Potosnak announced the 5th grade play - *Finding Nemo*
- 4G's teacher will be going on maternity leave; her last day will be January 19 and a great leave replacement is coming January 22
- Mr. Raimo is joining the 5th grade band trip to the NY Philharmonic; last year was a huge success; this is a district-wide trip that all 5th grade band members can attend
- Kid's Night - A simple wholesome night of fun; please join us and cheer on your child!

- Your messaging to your children about what you think they can do is important; we need to model for our children that if they work hard and don't give up then they will have opportunity for growth; let them hear (don't assume they know) that you believe in them and that they can work hard at things that are challenging
- As part of the staff's responsive classroom training we learned that the language we use around our children is important; call them Mathematicians and Readers and Writers because then you are telling them they ARE these things
- Always remind them of your values and your expectations; set boundaries; trust but verify and let them know you will be checking their online use

Additional Reminders and Announcements

January 5: Kid's Night for Kindergarten (6:30) and 5th (7:45)

January 12: Kid's Night for 1st (6:30) and 4th (7:45)

January 16: Sicomac Week at the Economy Shop

January 19: Kid's Night for 2nd (6:30) and 3rd (7:45)

February 8: Mom's Night Out at The Brick House (7pm)

March 12: Sicomac Week at the Economy Shop

March 15: Sicomac Social

Next Meeting: February 7, 2024 at 7:30pm VIRTUAL

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Minutes compiled by Danielle Brick, Secretary

Sicomac School PTO - December Treasurer's Report
Wednesday, January 03, 2024

Checking Account	
Register Balance as of 12/01/2023	43,731.32
Cash Receipts:	
Bagel Lunch	10,371.00
Economy Shop	4,000.00
Fifth Grade - Medieval Times	160.00
Fifth Grade - T-shirts	150.00
Jersey Mike's	22,800.75
Military Bridge	7,475.00
Pizza Lunch	32,631.50
Interest	3.22
Total Cash Receipts	77,591.47
Cash Disbursements:	
Bagel Lunch	996.00
Bank Charges	2.90
Holiday Staff Gifts	5,650.00
Jersey Mike's Lunch	1,983.40
Misc - Teacher Holiday Breakfast	59.13
One School / One Book	617.00
Outdoor Classroom	5,680.00
Pizza Lunch	5,464.00
Polar Express	106.71
Pond Maintenance	466.60
Sicomac Strut	95.98
Total Cash Disbursements	21,121.72
Register Balance as of 12/31/2023	100,201.07
Deposits in Transit as of 12/31/2023	-
Outstanding Checks as of 12/31/2023	9,881.58
Bank Balance as of 12/31/2023	110,082.65

As of 1/2/23

2023-2024
PROPOSED

ACTUAL DIFF

REVENUE

BAGEL LUNCH	4,500	6,537	2,037
CARDS FOR ALL OCCASIONS	750	741	(9)
DIRECTORY ADVERTISING	1,000	2,054	1,054
ECONOMY SHOP	7,500	8,000	500
HOT LUNCH / NICHOLAS MARKETS	250	129	(121)
INTEREST	20	12	(8)
JERSEY MIKES	6,500	8,405	1,905
MEDIA/BOOK FAIR	4,000	2,943	(1,057)
MEMBERSHIP DUES	3,000	5,073	2,073
MILITARY BRIDGE	10,000	8,321	(1,679)
NO COOK DINNER NIGHTS	-	464	464
PIZZA LUNCH	18,000	18,577	577
PUMPKIN SALE & AUCTION	1,000	2,350	1,350
SCHOOL TOOL BOX	1,000	1,132	132
SICOMAC SOCIAL	25,000		
SICOMAC SPIRIT WEAR	4,000	4,750	750

TOTAL REVENUE

86,520	69,488	7,968
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EXPENSES

ART APPRECIATION	600	600	
AUTHOR VISIT	2,000	2,000	
BUSINESS EXPENSES	1,000	304.73	
BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY - QB	320	901.8	(582)
CLASSROOM GIFT CARDS TO TEACHERS	4,000	5650	1,650
COORDINATION COUNCIL DUES	2,000	2,000	-
CULTURAL ASSEMBLIES	2,250	2,250	
END OF YEAR PIZZA/ICE CREAM PARTIES	2,000	2,000	
ENVIRONMENTAL/GREEN AMBASSADORS	500	416.75	
FAMILY PICNIC	6,000	6,000	
FIELD DAY LUNCH	3,000	3,000	
FIFTH GRADE END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES	18,000	18,000	
FRIENDSHIP BASKET	1,000	1,000	
HARVEST FESTIVAL	1,500	901.8	598
HOLIDAY/END OF YEAR GIFTS	1,500	1,500	
K ROOKIE SHIRTS	549	548.55	-
MEDIA/BOOK FAIR	4,000	4,000	
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	6,001	6,001	
MUSICAL RIGHTS & COSTUMES	2,200	2,200	
NEWCOMERS ICE CREAM SOCIAL	650	450.76	199
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM MAINTENANCE	3,200	8190.6	4,991
POLAR EXPRESS/KINDERGARTEN & 1	50	133.1	83
POND MAINTENANCE	1,500	1,500	
SCIENCE FAIR	1,500	1,500	
SICOMAC SURPRISE	4,000	4,000	
SICOMAC TEACHER GRANTS (FIELD TRIPS)	5,000	5,000	
STAFF APPRECIATION DAY	2,500	2,500	
THEME DAY	7,500	7,500	
THEME DAY LUNCHEON	1,500	1,500	
WEBSITE SUPPORT (PTO OFFICE)	500	500	
ZOOM	200	159.83	40

86,520	92,209	6,980
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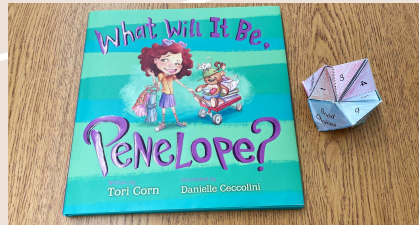
22,721

Fundraised YTD: 75.36%

Still needed: 24.64%

SEL Lessons in each classroom

- Each marking period
- Topics are based on a counselor created curriculum and/or teachers input
- Topics include:
 - Responsible decision making
 - Self awareness/Managing emotions
 - Relationship skills (I-messages, accepting differences, peer pressure, respect)
 - Social awareness/Bullying
 - Other - teacher requests



Small Groups

- Meets 1x a week for 6-8 weeks during SGI time
- General education students are recommended based on teacher input
- All students participating in groups require parent permission
- Topics are more specific focused such as self control, anxiety, coping skills



Lunch Bunch

- Varies by grade
- 3-6 students at a time
- Unlike small groups, does not meet a certain amount of times
- Discussion based - sometimes we talk, play a game or read a book together
- Students require parent permission to attend
- Some students are included/recommended based on parent or teacher input. Others just want to come for fun!



Meeting with students

- Any student may ask their teachers to speak with me, or can leave a "Let's Talk" slip in my mailbox
- Topics students typically come speak to me about
 - Social conflict
 - Anxiety/Worries
 - Frustration/Sadness
- Some students come take a break in my room
 - Sometimes students need to take a break to reset and will play a game or color
- There will be communication home to you when there is a concern!



LET'S TALK!

Name: _____

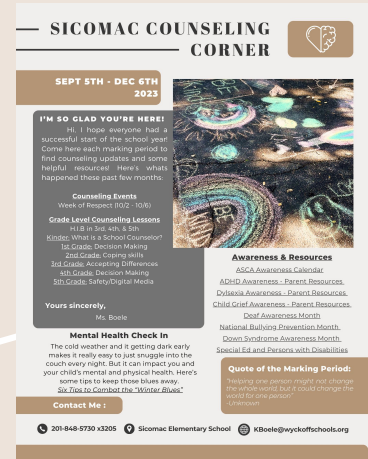
Teacher: _____

Date: _____



My newsletters

- Each marking period a new newsletter is created and will include the following:
 - Sicomac Counseling Events
 - SEL lesson topics for each grade
 - ASCA (American School Counselor Association) Awareness Calendar
 - Resources and information based on ASCA's calendar
 - A Mental Health Check-In Resource
 - MP1 - How to combat the winter blues
- To find my newsletters:
 - Go to the Sicomac School Website
 - Menu -> Services -> School Counseling -> Sicomac Counseling Newsletters
 - All newsletters will also be posted on the Sicomac Live Feed
 - To access the resources you will need to click on the newsletter then hover over the underlined title



Mental Health Check In

