

Sicomac PTO
Meeting Minutes | May 29, 2024

Wednesday, May 29 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, EMS Principal Mr. Faehndrich, Sicomac Principal Mr. Raimo, Staff Liaison Mrs. Mazie, parents and guardians of Sicomac students.

There were approximately 42 people in attendance.

Tonight's meeting minutes will be posted on the PTO website

We are hosting a popsicle party for the grade with most parents' attendance at this meeting and will be sharing the winner on Instagram. Please fill out the Google form to enter for your chance to win!

Officers' Reports:

Principal of EMS: Mr. Faehndrich (introduced by EMS PTO President Emily Adler)

- To the 5th grade parents who will soon have 6th grade students - we are very excited to greet those students and welcome them to our community
- We take education very seriously and we know the transition from elementary school to middle school is an important time in children's' lives; we look forward to making that transition with you and your student
- Drop off procedure: Students must be in their homerooms by 8am or they will be considered tardy; we have a discipline code and too many tardies lead to detention
 - Advice: Arrive before 7:50 because after that traffic is very bad
- Teams: We cannot move your child's team once it is assigned to them; for 5 of the 9 periods they are with other students outside of their team (including lunch) and they can socialize with people outside their teams then
- We highly recommend that your child join an after-school activity (sports, arts, etc.) to socialize and make new friends (a list is of all activities is on our website)
 - All activities are student run
 - If your child has an interest that there is currently no club for, they can find a teacher advisor and start their own club
- **Mr. Raimo-** Try not to focus so much on the team your child is assigned to; middle school is a time to build new relationships; students will see their friends at lunch and other activities and half the day is mixed up with cross-teaming. The teams are a good opportunity to meet new people and expand social groups. Please model that

resilience for your children so they follow your lead and don't feel nervous about their assigned team. Encourage them to join clubs as a way to make new friends.

• ***Emily Adler-***

- Within the 1st week of school, teachers will advise on school supplies
 - Information about specials, music and foreign language will be coming out soon
 - August 30 - there will be a scavenger hunt and kids will get to walk around school, meet kids on their team and find their lockers
 - Please remember to send in your money for the overnight trip
 - Register soon for the 6th grade canteen which takes place early September
- If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Emily Adler (emilysadler2@gmail.com) or the main EMS office

Treasurer's Report: Karen Sagot

- Reviewed current budget (attached below)
 - By using Zeffy for credit card orders we have saved over \$3,700 in fees
 - Please remember to enter ZERO when asked for a tip at check out

Secretary's Report: Danielle Brick

- Thank you to our 2023-2024 chairpeople for your time, dedication and efforts throughout the year; you helped to make our events special and memorable
- Please look out for a thank you gift from us that will be coming in your mailbox!

President's Report: Courtney Carrelha

- It takes a village to provide our kids with amazing experiences, to support our teachers, and to give back at the end of the year; thank you to those who donated their time, money, etc. - this couldn't be done without all of you
- ***Document shared (please see below)***: This summary sheet shows the year in review at a glance of who the PTO supports and where our money is spent
 - Color coded to show our biggest fundraisers
 - There are many existing and new traditions that the PTO funded, such as: Purchasing school supplies, books for media, Kindergarten rookie t-shirts, polar express, and much more
- We have currently purchased:
 - 3 matching tables and umbrellas for outdoor classroom
 - 2 Sicomac School 10x10 tents to be utilized by staff and PTO for events such as Field Day, Theme Day, Harvest Fest, etc.
 - Upgrades to our staff bathrooms and new parking lot spot signs
- Next phase:
 - New Sicomac sign at the front of the school to replace the stone sign
 - Project Yellow Door: We were hoping to create beautiful artwork on the blacktop this year, but we cannot do it just yet because the town will be re-paving; once we pave the new blacktop, then Yellow Door will be able to paint (2025-2026)
 - Within the Sicomac building, Yellow Door will beautify the front vestibule area with a facelift, as well as the hallways with murals, and the last piece is a special surprise which will be unveiled when we come back in September

- Chairpeople/class parents: In the next 24 hours, sign-ups for 2024-2025 chairpeople and class parents will be live; we would love to have you, whether you have chaired before or not; we need volunteers and your support!
 - Reach out to anyone on the PTO if you have questions about committees or volunteering; you will not be in it alone - each member of the board is in charge of several committees and we are there to help and support you

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

- Thank you to all of our volunteers; we had such a great showing for Sicomac and never had to close
- We are no longer taking any donations for the year
- Economy Shop will be closing on June 6 - all items must go!
- We are looking for two new Presidents - email wycoffeconomy@gmail.com

Principal's Report: Mr. Raimo

- On behalf of the staff, thank you to the PTO for your leadership and vision; there is thoughtfulness behind everything you do and you have done an amazing job
- Thank you to all of those who gave back to the school
- Thank you to Mrs. Mazie for being our liaison - you are a great advocate for the teachers and students
- The teachers are the backbone of what makes Sicomac an excellent school and they are the hardest working staff; they problem solve, they care, and they are always trying to do better for the kids
- 2nd grade section issue:
 - Thank you for your emails and honest concerns about this issue
 - The district made this decision primarily based on bringing the total section numbers to be what they currently are in 3rd-5th grade - 22 kids per class
 - I have passed along your concerns to Dr. Postma and please go to the board meeting on Monday if you have more concerns
 - Whatever the final decision ends up being, we are here for the kids
- Help your child succeed as we wind down the year:
 - Our philosophy of having a responsive classroom (which goes back to the beginning) means fewer freedoms and a tighter model
 - Students are getting very frenzied this time of the year and their energy is flowing; it can be exciting and scary (for 5th graders) and the school is beginning to use more constraints; you should do the same; it's comforting to a child to have more constraints when things can feel tenuous
- We had an excellent time at the 5th grade Spring Lake Day Camp trip
- The 5th grade Spring Lake Wyckoff Y trip is coming up soon in the middle of June
- We are excited for Field Day and we are going to have a nice sunny day
- Finally, thank you to our outgoing 5th grade parents - you have been excellent partners and I've seen your kids grow up; it's been an honor and privilege to work with you and to be your principal; congratulations!

Staff Report: Mrs. Mazie

- On behalf of myself and colleagues, thank you to the PTO; we have felt your love and support!
- Words of wisdom from current classes to the entering classes:
 - K: Listen to your teachers, be kind, Kindergarten is a lot of fun, be friends with everyone, don't yell, go down the slide on your bottom not head first, make a lot of new friends, be a good friend, have fun, you will have a book basket, learning is fun, never give up, the playground is a lot of fun, you will have center time, polar express, Healthbarn, and you will have no homework
 - 1st: Be gentle with your chrome books, you will have a desk for all your stuff, you will have a seat sack, the class pet will be butterflies, you will read chapter books, you're getting older and stronger, you will read and write harder stuff, learn numbers and letters you didn't know, improve your handwriting, always ask questions, try your hardest, never give up, and listen more
 - 2nd: Pay attention, be kind and respectful, put up your hand when you hear the class chime, have fun, pack your post-its, be a good friend, division is the opposite of multiplication, use your best handwriting, don't talk when others talk, try your hardest, and never give up
 - 3rd: Never give up, don't do something you aren't supposed to do when the teacher isn't looking, learning is fun, multiplication and division are hard but you catch on, you go to the Bronx Zoo, join student council, become more responsible like picking your own seat, you get class tadpoles, try your best and don't give up, you will learn hard things, learn from your mistakes, make sure you always put your name on your paper, pay attention to the teacher and lessons, remember to bring things home and bring your HW back, don't be scared, everyone makes mistakes, you get to earn a pen
 - 4th: Don't be scared to ask questions, do your HW, be yourself and have fun, be kind and include people, math can be hard but study and you will do great, don't stress
 - 5th: Try your hardest, don't be afraid to ask questions, pay attention to teachers, do the school play, do safety patrol, try your best, go to your safety patrol post on time, always put your last name on paper, pay attention, ask your teacher if you need help, do your HW, be nice, don't overthink things and don't get overwhelmed, believe in yourself

President Courtney Carrelha:

- A special congratulations to our 5th graders! You have committed so much time and effort and we can follow your lead; we wish you the best as you venture to EMS and we are so excited for your next chapter; this is not a goodbye this is a congratulations and you will always be part of the Sicomac family

Additional Reminders and Dates

May 30: Makerspace/STEM night, 6pm

May 31: Field Day - lunch will be provided for all students!

June 2: Dad's softball event

June 3: Chick-fil-A lunch

June 3: BOE meeting, 6:30pm at EMS
June 4: Field Day rain date
June 5: Grade 5 musical for students
June 6: Grade 5 musical for parents, 7:30pm
June 10: Staff Sweets sponsored by 4th grade - please sign up to donate
June 10: Grade 4-5 band concert, 2pm and 7pm
June 12: Kindergarten celebration, 9:45am
June 14: Family Picnic, 6:30pm at Sicomac - please consider volunteering
June 20: Last day of school

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Minutes compiled by Danielle Brick, Secretary

Sicomac School PTO - April Treasurer's Report
Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Checking Account	
Register Balance as of 04/01/24	109,186.67
Cash Receipts:	
5th Grade - Towel Return	\$ 169.98
Donations	500.00
Membership Dues	19.12
Sicomac Social - Silet Auction / 50/50	16,169.12
Interest	4.21
Total Cash Receipts	16,862.43
Cash Disbursements:	
Business Expenses	\$ 57.54
Bagel Lunch	1,380.00
Cultural Assemblies / Enrichment Experiences	2,650.00
Family Picnic	2,217.50
Harlem Wizards Basketball - Shirts	850.00
Jersey Mike's Lunch	6,137.25
Miscellaneous Expense - Appreciation Days	100.00
Miscellaneous Expense - Sicomac Tents	1,090.00
Outdoor Classroom - 3 tables	2,828.00
Pizza Lunch	3,651.00
Sicomac Social - Gaming License	40.00
Sicomac Surprise	119.96
Staff Appreciation Week	1,278.29
Teacher Grants - K, 1st Grade, 3rd Grade	40.00
Theme Day & Luncheon	5,572.90
Total Cash Disbursements	28,012.44
Register Balance as of 04/30/24	98,036.66
Deposits in Transit as of 04/30/24	-
Outstanding Checks as of 04/30/24	4,683.47
Bank Balance as of 04/30/24	102,720.13

SICOMAC PTO 2023-2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

**TEAM
PTO 267**



**STUDENTS
SUPPORTED
365**



**STAFF
SUPPORTED
94**

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

ART APPRECIATION	MOM'S NIGHT PLANNING
BOOK FAIR	NEWCOMERS SOCIAL
CLASS PARENTS	ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK
FAMILY PICNIC	READ ACROSS AMERICA
5TH GRADE COMMITTEE	SICOMAC STRUT
GREEN TEAM	SOCIAL COMMITTEE
MEDIA VOLUNTEERS	THEME DAY COMMITTEE
MILITARY BRIDGE	WIZARDS COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY GIVE BACKS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
CULTURAL AND ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCES
DONATED LUNCHES TO LOCAL PANTRIES
FRIENDSHIP BASKETS
HEALING MEALS FOUNDATION



CLASSROOM & TEACHING RESOURCES

- BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR NURSE, ART APPRECIATION, TECH
- BOOKS FOR MEDIA CENTER
- KINDERGARTEN ROOKIE SHIRTS
- POLAR EXPRESS
- PROMETHEAN BOARDS
- TEACHER GRANTS AND WISHLISTS

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- ASSEMBLIES AND AUTHOR VISIT
- FIELD DAY
- FIELD TRIPS
- SURPRISES
- THEME DAY

FAMILY & COMMUNITY EVENTS

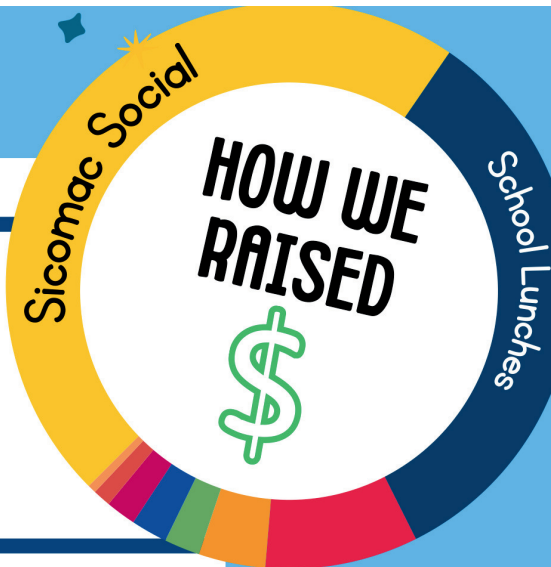
- FAMILY PICNIC
- 5TH GRADE CELEBRATIONS
- HARVEST FESTIVAL
- KIDS NIGHTS
- NEWCOMERS SOCIAL
- SCIENCE FAIR
- WALK, BIKE, ROLL TO SCHOOL DAYS

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM UPGRADES

- 2 OUTDOOR TENTS
- 3 OUTDOOR TABLES
- 3 UMBRELLAS
- POND MAINTENANCE
- TURF
- WEEKLY MAINTENANCE

STAFF SUPPORT

- LUNCHES
- MONTHLY STAFF SWEETS
- STAFF GIFT CARDS
- TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK



- ECONOMY SHOP
- MILITARY BRIDGE
- SPIRIT WEAR
- MEMBERSHIP DUES
- WIZARDS
- BOOK FAIR
- DIRECTORY

****Other fundraisers include: JIBBITZ, School Toolbox, Cards for a Cause, Hands Down Cookies, Local Holiday shopping, No Cook Dinners, Donations****



**HOW WE
SPENT
OUR MONEY**

**BETTER
TOGETHER**

**THANK
YOU**