

Syringa Mountain School
Board Meeting Minutes – 3/15/2023
Approved 4/19/23

School Staff:

Christi Thompson-Director
Shawn Meyers-Teacher Liaison

Board Members:

Mike Allaire
Jennifer Barrett-Neet
Sarah Seppa
Sandi Viau
John Casey

Public attendance:

Michele Harris-Parent Council Liaison

5:35 pm Time Quorum is present

- I. Public comment
 1. None
- II. Consent agenda

All items listed are Action Items and the Board may approve all of the following items by a single motion or vote unless any member of the Board asks that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for consideration under New Business. If an item is removed from consideration under the Consent Agenda and moved into New Business such items shall remain an Action Item for consideration of Board Approval.

 1. Board Minutes: 2/15/23
 2. Financials: January 2023
 - a) Sandi Viau made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Sarah Seppa seconded. All in favor, motion approved.
- III. Old Business
 - a. Parent Council Update
 1. March Parent council meeting met in the evening
 2. Parent/council will take over making pencil pouches
 3. Sticker design contest: in process of voting and then will go back to students to vote
 4. Raffle: kicking off strong.
 - a. 2 week turn in is helpful to gauge where we are
 - b. Prizes are motivating
 5. Coordinating with teachers about may fair and teacher appreciation
 6. New parent feedback: very positive: "So far loving it and enjoying the environment....."
 - b. Teacher Update
 1. Thank you to PC for communications
 - a. Much more streamlined this year: Thank you Michele
 2. Letter from teachers to Thank you to Christi Thompson for being a great leader and taking on the SPED: She is doing an amazing job and deserves more than a Thank you!
 3. Shout-out to the younger grades teachers for coordinating all the rides for the Ski week
 4. Thank you to PC for making the pencil pouches
 5. Thank you to Jennifer Barrett-Neet for reaching out to community school about transportations
 6. All grades are participating in a rigorous curriculum that is diverse and arts based; as well as outdoor and in the community activities.

- a. "The more they are out in the community and outdoors the more likely they will take care of it"
 7. Music program is flourishing and each grade is working towards their spring performances (one this week and was very successful)
 8. The newsletter is up and running completely by the 5% grade
 9. Plant Sale in the spring
 10. Teachers request a channel of communication for the teachers to communicate with board members when going through the director is not the correct way. Christi and Mike will work on this
- c. Fundraising Update
1. We have an 80k deficit
 - a. Can be covered with ESSER for this year
 - b. Working on a plan for next year is main focus
 2. Discussed transportation issues
 3. Asked Carter Cox to spearhead IdahoGives for the school
 - a. She will also help us find Grants
 4. WickedSpud not really worth our time
 - a. They will reach out to see if it will work differently
 5. We will look into doing a raffle with the SUNS
 6. ECOTHON will come back in the Fall
 7. HoeDown
 - a. Working on this for next year
 8. Yoga Retreat
 - a. Is it marketing or fundraising
 - b. Womens only
 - c. Thinking about options
- d. Financial Update
1. Discuss the lower payment from the State department
 2. Still trying to get credit card online access
 3. Foundation payments will be deposited directly to state treasurer account
 4. Discussed salary schedule and will be revising
 5. Insurance for next year - no premium increase
 6. Discussed ESSER Funds requests are caught up
 7. Fundraising up to \$48000 YTD
- d. Marketing/Enrollment Update
1. Talked about enrollment numbers for this year and next year
 2. We discussed different way to showcase what we do in syringa and bring people into our building
 3. Mythbusters social media campaign doing great, we need to up our Instagram numbers
 4. Committee will work to get preschool and ECE teachers in the building
 5. Sarah contacted Wood River EL collaborated and we will host them at the school
 6. White shirts with logo for anything we do in the school
- f. Director Update
1. Lottery numbers look good but can use more growth in certain grades, but not all
 2. This year lost 1 and gained 10 families
 - a. This is not historically the case
 3. Director will send acceptance letters
 4. Looping was on the application
 - a. Staff would like to discuss 2 year looping bring it to next board meeting
 - b. Looping concerns about how to collaborate between grades
 - c. Would be able to embed more academics into their arts and visa versa
 - d. Teachers would be able to go deeper in their abilities and do their job even better
 5. We need to update our Student Information system which is expensive: PowerSchool
 - a. Is 10k or more
 6. Legislative update
 - a. Bathroom Bill could cause some issues
 - b. Funding is going back to daily attendance

c. Voter day may requires schools to closed

7. Insurance Policies

a. Volunteers are not covered on our insurance

b. Teachers are not covered in their own vehicles

g. Action Item: 2023-23 School Calendar

1. Sarah Seppa makes a motion to approve the calendar, John Casey seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

h. Approval of snow day closure 3/1/20203

1. Sarah Seppa makes a motion to approve snow day, John Casey seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

IV. New Items

i. Action Item: Puberty Education

1. Tabled for later date

V. Adjourn meeting at 7:51 pm

A. Sarah Seppa makes a motion to adjourn, John Casey seconded. All in favor, motion approved.