

Sands Montessori Parent Organization

SMPO September Rudder Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2021 / 7 PM / Zoom Meeting

SMPO LEADERSHIP ATTENDEES:

Heather Gerker – President

Courtney Ryan - Vice President

Emily McNicholas – Past President

Dave Rolfes – Executive Secretary

Becky Economou – Business Manager

Michelle Durban – Business Manager in Training

Sarah Lord - Principal

Caitlin Levine – 3-6 Teacher Representative

Vanessa Barth – 6-9 Teacher Representative

Lisa Boweden – 9-12 Teacher Representative

Robyn Appino – Specials Teacher Rep

Kris Spurgeon – Intervention Specialist

Nikki Marksberry – Community Coordinator

Rachel Danhires – SEP Coordinator

Amy Hueneman – Volunteer Coordinator

Holly Fritz – Fundraising Coordinator

Brittany Able – Communications Coordinator

LeAnn Gardner – Co-Technology Coordinator

Chris Vockell – Athletics

Erin Seidel - LSDMC

Sharice Wood - LSDMC

Richrad Groose – LSDMC

AGENDA

SMPO Rudder Meeting, September 21 at 7pm via Zoom

- **Welcome and call the meeting to order - share something fun that you did in the past week in the chat while we wait for folks to log on!**
 - Connected to Mt. Washington PTO (book club, playdates, future events)
 - Approval of minutes from August 31 - [minutes](#)
- **Reports:**
 - See reports submitted via email below.
 - Principal Lord
 - Parent Resource Coordinator (Nikki Marksberry)
 - Business Manager (Becky Economou)- link to [budget](#)
 - Current balances (as of 9/19/21)
 - Checking: \$85,354.74
 - Savings: \$36,098.60
 - Kroger fundraiser check just received: \$1,192
 - Fundraising (Holly Fritz)
 - Dream Dinners said they could do a big drop-off at the school where parents receive their order in the parking lot after some event in November. I wanted to get everyone's opinion if they think that by changing the pickup procedures that the fundraiser might do better.
 - Wednesday, November 17 or Saturday, November 20 or I could ask after our meeting on Tuesday, November 16
 - 3-6 teacher rep (Caitlin Lavine)
 - 6-9 teacher rep (Vanessa Barth & Sarah Fullen)
 - 9-12 teacher rep (Lisa Bowden)
 - Intervention Specialist rep (Kris Sturgeon)
 - Fine Arts rep (Robyn Appino)
 - LSDMC (Priya Rolfes, Sharice Wood, Erin Seidel, & Richard Grosse)
- **Old Business**
 - Decision on next steps for Mini-grant process (at the last meeting, we mistakenly thought LSDMC/ILT had to approve this spending, they do not - just SMPO)
 - Proposal 1: Two mini-grant cycles - (\$5k each) one in the Fall and one in the Spring
 - Proposal 2: One mini-grant cycle in Spring, with double the amount available (\$10k)
 - Fine Arts team votes for 2 cycles, 3-6 team votes for 1 cycle in Spring
 - Decision on how to disperse funds to teachers and Principal Lord
 - Proposal 1: Give staff \$500 upfront (as a "gift") and they do not have to submit receipts for this year only - **approved by the accountant!**
 - Air purifier purchase/reimbursement for classrooms - Courtney
 - Speaker: Vu Mai from Bachman, Inc. (commercial HVAC company)
 - [Notes on the discussion here.](#)
 - Important to note: SMPO can use funds in checking account to purchase purifiers if approved. Originally, we thought it needed

approval from ILT and LSDMC. However, this is what the bylaws state:

- *Regardless of the approved budget, the Rudder may execute the single-purpose expenditure of funds in excess of \$15,000 only with the majority consent of the members present at a general membership meeting, provided notice of the proposed expenditure shall be given at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.*

- **New Business**
- **Adjourn**

Reports - Submitted by leaders via email prior to the meeting please review

- Communications (Brittany Able)
 - E-newsletter will now be bi-weekly, keep that in mind when sending Brittany blurbs for it that are dated. Also, Facebook will be in real-time so anything anyone wants to be posted on social media can send it to Brittany and she will post it accordingly.
- Fundraising (Holly Fritz)
 - Monthly Fundraising Events:
 - Chipotle - Wednesday, October 20, 4-8pm
 - Waiting to hear back from Gold Star (November 16) Tom & Chee (December 14)
 - Mt. Washington Ramundo's Tuesday, January 18
 - Big Ash event - February
 - Read-a-thon - March
 - Food Truck Rally - April
 - May - still brainstorming, any ideas?
- Parent at large (Allyse Sonega) - no new updates, unable to attend meeting but please reach out if anyone needs anything!
- Parent liaison (Debbi McCoy) - no new updates, unable to attend meeting but please reach out if anyone needs anything!
- SEP (Sands Extracurricular Program) - Rachel Danhires
 - The Fall session of the Sands Extracurricular Program has begun and is off to a great start! We're so happy to have these in-person opportunities back. All providers are following CPS protocols for COVID-19. We were able to serve 24 students through the SEP scholarship fund so far..We plan to open Winter/Spring registration after Thanksgiving break and they will begin in January.
- Athletics (Chris Vockell)
 - Soccer: Games have started and all is going well.
 - Basketball: The official registration period is over. Working on signing up a few more kids for specific genders/grades and forming teams.
- Technology (Leann & Jonathon Gardner)
 - SEP was reopened to allow a few last minute registrations. Otherwise, mostly quiet. If anyone would like something featured

more prominently on the website, just let me know! Otherwise, just need to make time to archive some older items.

- ILT (Alissa Paasch & Kim Fulbright)
 - Schedule E (clubs led by staff members, like choir, student council, girls on the run, etc.) positions have been approved.
 - Per the district, teams need to have their ONE PLAN completed and submitted by October 2, 2021
 - ONE PLAN is the district's improvement plan to help regain learning loss that occurred last year. They need to explore ways to measure and improve student academic growth, staff/employee engagement/satisfaction, and positive school culture.
 - They are also tasked with delivering bi-weekly student assessments (temperature checks) in math and ELA.
 - ILT is hoping to find ongoing volunteers to help with interventions during school. We are gathering details/needs from teachers and developing a clear plan of action so that we can recruit volunteers and successfully manage expectations. We are currently working with:
 - Amy Hueneman (Volunteer Coordinator)
 - Nikki Marksberry
 - Gary Weuderman and Debbi McCory (Tutoring Volunteer Coordinators)
 - Erin Dean
 - Volunteer Coordinator (Amy Hueneman)
 - A volunteer landscape assessment on volunteer needs will go out in the next few days. Also working with the ILT to support teachers with consistent volunteers. If there are any immediate volunteer needs, please let me know.

Meeting Minutes

Richard Groose & Michelle Durban approve the minutes from the August 31 meeting

Heather Gerker met with Mt. Washington PTA recently to help build community between the schools; some combined events such as the adult book club will be added. Other events such as the play dates organized at Stanberry will be shared via SMPO.

Principal Sarah Lord with an update

- Celebrated Say Something week which ended with t-shirts that went home at the end of the week
- Recognizing students that display the behaviors including Eagle awards
- Soccer is underway & everyone is excited
- Working on two week cycle reviews for students and then discuss their progress
- Staff professional day coming up on 9/27
- Staff meetings for teachers will include building 12 habits for teachers

- Preschoolers are participating in "Mission to Move" and all are eating lunch
- McNicholas students will be tutoring second & third grade students in reading fluency
- Thanks for patience with COVID updates & close contact news; we are not allowed to share details on those. Nurse Lauren has been doing a great job!

Nikki Marksberry with an update

- Combination with Mt. Washington school (resource coordinators + social works) as well as Beech Acres will be meeting together
- Send kids along if you know of someone that needs help
- There will be a more formal update next month

Becky Economou with budget update

- Account balances in updates
- No fundraising yet this year

Holly Fritz with fundraising update

- Once confirmed they will be communicated; one in October at Chipotle
- Dream Dinners mentioned doing a big pick up at Sands; not sure if this would work; discussion ensued with encouragement to move forward with November date and possibly move Gold Star to May - Tentative plans: Chipotle - Wednesday, October 20, 4-8pm, waiting to hear back from Gold Star (November 16) Tom & Chee (December 14), Mt. Washington Ramundo's Tuesday, January 18

Teacher Updates - Nothing material from teachers aside from what is listed above

Robyn Appino with Specials Update:

- Working on announcements with sixth graders; parents are welcome to watch via website (Robyn will provide)
- Whole team is collaborating on Global Read Aloud program and using themes that are shared across the world
- Library checkout is underway; books should be brought back every two weeks
- Ensure children are charging devices before school; especially the 9-12 kids

Erin Seidel with LSDMC Update:

- Talked about McNicholas partnership & meeting the high school students that will be helping the 2nd and 3rd graders read
- Looking for some more community sponsors

Heather Gerker - Other reports are listed above; reach out to the folks that were tied to the news with questions

Old Business

Heather Gerker

- Mini Grant process and confirms that no other group needs to approve the change; decision to double the amount has already

- been made but we need to decide on two cycles or one cycle. Vanessa Barth mentions that 6-9 teachers are in favor of waiting until Spring; also trying to engage Fine Arts and Intervention Specialists to allow them to have a voice. Other teachers seem to have preference on Spring cycle only.
- o Discussion about when the money would be spent; generally Spring awards are spent the next school year. All teacher reps agree that would be the most preferable based on current bandwidth and the hope that COVID situations have changed. It was confirmed that there is an ability to spend immediately; any request to do so should be included in the proposal.
 - o Heather Gerker motions to vote with Michelle Durban & Vanessa Barth seconding. Vote completed approving just one cycle for this year, but remain the amount at \$10,000.
- Discussion about \$500 / teacher gift. Accountant has approved this and there are on downstream tax implications. Emily McNicholas and Erin Siedel make a motion to vote. It was approved.
 - Courtney Ryan introduces the topic about the air purifiers, which has been discussed via email for the last few days. The summary of the emails can be found here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wq3KPXGjO5sSYnLAcFRbxWb4TTUY08r9XzulUO2CiyU/edit>
 - o Richard Groose discusses the current status of the HVAC system. He talks about the history of the building and Sands and his involvement historically.
 - Sands building is LEED Gold Certified - <https://www.usgbc.org/projects/sands-montessori-school-osfc>
 - Talks about the fact that the controls and monitoring that are currently in place
 - COVID process has included opening outdoor vents 2 hours prior to opening the building & the air flow changes the air 6-8 times a school day
 - If a COVID case is found there is a process to clean and open up the air flow
 - Discussion about responsibilities of the staff at the school and the facilities management team for CPS
 - o Vu Mai discusses an alternative to purifiers; his background is in this area as a professional.
 - Says that based on what he has learned, Sands is doing more than +99% of other buildings & facilities out there
 - Compares Purifiers vs. UV lights vs. Bipolar Ionization - can be installed on current system & has been lab tested and it deactivates COVID and other viruses within 30 minutes
 - This is a proactive solution that goes out into the environment to deactivate the viruses
 - This is the same system used by Cincinnati Childrens, Guardian Angels, CNE, and other schools

- Air Purifiers - Approx \$11k + \$4500 / annual for filters
- Bipolar Ionization - Approx. \$25k - \$35k / no annual cost & can be moved between HVAC systems
- **Kim Fulbright** mentions a large class action lawsuit against the company stating that it is not effective
- **Heather Gerker** mentions that purifiers can be voted on and approved by SMPO whereas the ionization would require ILT, LSDMC, and other approvals.
- **Nikki Marksberry** mentions going back to CPS and encouraging CPS as a whole to get on board in improving the air quality for all buildings in the district
- Continued discussions around alternatives and various cost/benefits
- **Vanessa Barth** states she has talked to her teachers and 38 out of 39 teachers weighed in prior to the call that they would want air purifiers. After further discussion it was asked as to whether or not the teachers might benefit from hearing about the current state of the HVAC.
- It is agreed that the conversation should continue; the teacher reps can take the information learned tonight back to their representatives and see how they are feeling. We can vote remotely as needed.
- Call made for new business; there is none
- The meeting adjourned at 833pm.