

Sands Montessori Parent Organization

SMPO September Rudder Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2022 / 7 PM / Zoom Meeting

SMPO LEADERSHIP ATTENDEES:

Heather Gerker - President

Courtney Ryan - Vice President

Dave Rolfes – Executive Secretary

Becky Economou – Business Manager

Michelle Durban – Business Manager in Training

Allyse Sonnega – Parent at Large

Cybil Brown – Assistant Principal

Caitlin Lavine – 3-6 Teacher Representative

Sarah Fullen – 6-9 Teacher Representative

Lisa Bowden – 9-12 Teacher Representative

Robyn Appino – Fine Arts Representative

Kris Spurgeon – Intervention Specialist

Nikki Marksberry – Community Coordinator

Rachel Danhires – SEP Coordinator

Amy Hueneman – Volunteer Coordinator

Holly Fritz – Fundraising Coordinator

Brittany Able – Communications Coordinator

Chris Vockell – Athletics

SMPO Rudder Meeting Agenda - January 18

Our mission is for families, staff, and students to work together to strengthen the Sands Montessori community of lifelong learners.

January 18, 7pm via Zoom, registration link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qceGupjggEtZHGv8kcLM9edNr3vWmR8Qr](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?meetingRef=1234567890)

TIME	CONTENT
7 - 7:10	<p>Welcome and call the meeting to order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check-in chat: • Thanks to those that joined us at Fifty West in December - it was a perfect evening by the fire • Mission review - will be reflected on at the beginning of every meeting • Approval of minutes from November meeting
7:10 - 7:45	<p>Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Lord • Community Coordinator (Nikki Marksberry) • Business Manager (Becky Economou)- link to the budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current balances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ checking: \$52,872.39 ▪ savings: \$36,900.81 ▪ We provided breakfast for the teachers in December and in January, as well as some amazon gift cards at Principal Lord's request for their recent professional development day. Other than that most transactions have been related to athletics. • Fundraiser Coordinator (Holly Fritz) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Readathon (March 4 - 18) updates on planning - Beth Delay and Brooke Rice ○ Spring Carnival/Event (April 9) updates on planning - Emily McNicholas and Erin Woods • Volunteer Coordinator (Amy Hueneman) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RVR updates ○ Need Field Day Co-chair (field day is scheduled for 5/23 with 5/24 as a rain day) ○ For upcoming big events, can the co-chairs set up a short meeting with me so we can go over volunteer needs? ○ Nominating Committee finalized • Athletics (Chris Vockell) • LSDMC (Erin Seidel, Priya Rolfes, Richard Grosse, & Sharice Wood) • 6-9 teacher rep (Vanessa Barth & Sarah Fullen) • 9-12 teacher rep (Lisa Bowden) • Intervention Specialist rep (Kris Sturgeon) • Fine Arts rep (Robyn Appino) • Any questions on reports listed below? <p>View reports sent via email below.</p>

7:45 - 8:15	Old Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey Results review - share with the whole group then break out into small groups for discussion • Any other "old business" to address?
8:15 - 8:25	New Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt. Washington traffic calming request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Mt. Washington Community Council is looking for feedback as they put in their request to the city for traffic calming in our neighborhood. Their options include Corbly, right in front of Sands Montessori. You do not need to live in Mt. Washington to complete the survey (it actually asks how you are impacted by traffic in MW). ○ Link to survey here.
8:25 - 8:30	Wrap up and questions - a reminder to review reports sent via email below!
8:30	Adjourn

Reports sent via email:

3-6 teacher rep (Caitlin Lavine)

- 3-6 doesn't have anything to report this week, just a big "thanks" for breakfast on our PD day. It's been amazing to see our Sands community wrap its arms around our littlest learners making sure they are present and ready to engage during remote learning.

Parent At Large (Allyse Sonnega)

- Donut breakfast was sent to staff on 1/6 as a thank you for their work during this difficult time.
- Field day is a go for Monday, May 23. Ali Gumbert has volunteered to chair but is looking for a co-chair. If you're available to help in this way, please reach out! We will be calling on room parents to help and secure volunteers as well.

Communication Coordinator (Brittany Able)

- The E-newsletter is now bi-weekly, keep that in mind when sending Brittany blurbs in case they 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. Brittany's email: britthuff@gmail.com
- Be sure to send an end date for announcements so Brittany knows when to remove them from the e-newsletter and FB.

Technology (Leann Gardner)

- Working with Brittany to keep everything up to date. Please send website edits or suggestions to Leann: secen81@gmail.com

Sands Extracurricular Program - SEP (Rachel Danhires)

- A few providers have delayed the start of the winter session due to remote learning. Registration has closed but families can still contact providers and be invited to the courses. I will be creating a spring semester for the few providers offering a separate session. Homeroom is working out well so far.

ILT (Alissa Paasch & Kim Fulbright)

- One Plan – Per the district, Sands Montessori teams will need to make some updates to their One Plan. A district administrator has been invited to an ILT meeting in the future to work through the details.
- 3rd Grade OST – 66% of students were proficient or higher after taking the fall test, which matches where Sands students were scoring pre-pandemic. Teams will be putting measures in place to get every student at proficient or higher by spring.
- Summer Scholars – There will be summer scholars this year. It will be a minimum of a 5 -6 hour day provided from June 1 to 28. The district will provide a curriculum, and Sarah Lord is hoping to convince them to allow for a more Montessori curriculum this year. Sands will begin recruiting teachers.
- JumpStart will be available as well for students entering 3rd to 6th grade from August 8 to 12.
- Retaining Gifted Students – The team thinks it would be helpful to have a pre-written letter describing the benefits of a Sands Montessori education. They would love some parent quotes and are trying to pull together information from each team on why Sands is unique. It was suggested that this letter could also be helpful in recruiting students to Sands, as well.
- Student Work Ethic –There is concern that work ethic is declining. It was suggested that a group letter be sent home to families with report cards that review school expectations and give advice on how to motivate students. At some point, students having difficulty with executive functioning or social-emotional awareness will be identified, and strategies to help these students will be put in place.

Other announcements

- [SMPO calendar here for review.](#)

SMPO Rudder Meeting Minutes - January 18

Meeting Called to Order by **Heather Gerker & Courtney Ryan**

Review of Mission

[Link to November Minutes](#) – **Michelle Durban** moves to approve – **Courtney Ryan** seconds the motion & it is approved

Assistant Principal **Cybil Brown** with an Update:

- Remote for now; plan to go back to in person learning on 1/24; prior to remote average of 16 staff members out per day
- Monday Jan 10 – all CPS Montessori schools met; review of curriculum and a pilot to present the results to CPS with intent to put into place in January 2023
- Summer Scholars & Jumpstart will both occur as planned
- Dads on Duty Update – Just 5 volunteers thus far; training / planning / implementation are underway but more volunteers are needed
- Priorities of OnePlan continue with same goals in mind, even in remote learning

Nikki Marksberry with an Update:

- December Toy Sale was good, but will work with some updates for next year
- Looking for additional community partners in Mt. Washington; goal for the year is 20 and we need to find a few more
- Keep an eye out for basic needs for families at Sands and refer to Nikki

Becky Economou with an Update:

- Balances are above in the notes
- Breakfast was purchased for teachers in December & January
- Amazon gift cards have been purchased as well

Holly Fritz with an Update:

- Tom + Chee fundraiser earned \$275
- Ramundos fundraiser tonight
- Readathon is coming up March 4 – March 18
- Spring event happening in a few months

Beth DeLay with an Update:

- Beth is the Readathon chair for this year and **Brooke Rice** will be co-chair
- Recent meeting with past folks; more info coming up
- They are in of a good business sponsor if available
- Will work with Robyn on family reading night, etc.
- We plan to start gathering participants towards end of February

Emily McNicholas with an Update:

- Helping to run the Spring Carnival for 2022
- They are looking to rebrand a bit since it will be outside
- **Erin Wood** will be co-chair & there is a committee together but more help is needed
- Also looking for good sponsorships
- Tentatively scheduled for April 9, but may move back a bit
- Likely will need help with volunteers since it is so close to Field Day
- Grant from Community Council to ensure that other friends & neighbors can take part
- McNicholas students could be very a great resource to help volunteer for day of activities per **Nikki Marksberry**

Amy Hueneman with an Update:

- We can connect Bookfair w/ volunteers which will help
- Offer to use Signup Genius to solicit volunteers for both Bookfair & Carnival
- Discussion about Family Reading Night; parameters and requirements are that it will almost certainly have to be virtual which means minimal needs for volunteers
- Sharing list of current volunteers; ask for teacher reps to update
- Nominating Committee is in place:
 - Dave Rolfes
 - Brittany Able
 - Kim Fulbright

Chris Vockell with an Update:

- Basketball moving along even w/ COVID
- Soccer registrations are up & running; working through logistics

LSDMC Update

- The group had a recent meeting and the majority of it was going through list of agencies; not enough people were present to have a vote
- Working through 4 possible agencies to match up with

3-6 Report is Available Through the Agenda

6-9 Report – **Sarah Fullen**

- Thanks for donuts & treat giveaway
- Remote learning is going well

9-12 Report – Not available & not represented

Kris Spurgeon with an Update:

- Thanks for everything & looking forward to seeing kids on Monday

Robyn Appino with an Update:

- Thankful for kiddos coming to Specials during remote learning

Old Business

Becky Economou – Update on the Survey

- Review of the slides; see attached
- Continued discussion of low cost (high labor) items & discussion of using stencils on the blacktop in the parking lot (**Courtney Ryan**)
- Review of Tree Plan (**Courtney Ryan**); approx. \$30,000 in cost for full proposal
- Possible partnership w/ naturalist & teachers
- Hoping to vote on an amount to spend during next meeting for outdoors
- Ongoing discussion about Montessori Materials as well; still trying to balance what the district can cover versus what SMPO should cover
- **Kaitlin Lavine** points out outdoor area may be worthwhile based on broader impact to many more students for a much longer time versus the material refresh
- **Sarah Fullen** points out that district always pays for materials when changes occur; if Montessori is approved officially then they'd be likely to supply us going forward, but the road ahead is at least a year, maybe longer. Advocates for stencils on the playground as well, especially US map
- **Rachel Danhires** mentions keeping in mind knowing when the blacktop will be refreshed

New Business

- Reminder on the traffic calming survey that has been shared
- **Nikki Marksberry** shared the raised crosswalk near Mt. Washington school & how great it is
- **Kaitlin Lavine** mentions moving the 20mph school zone sign because it is based on old driveway and needs to be moved up Corbly towards Beechmont; **Nikki Marksberry** will bring it up at Mt. Lookout Community Council
- Sidewalk on Sussex is coming soon!

Courtney Ryan motions to adjourn