

Sands Montessori Parent Organization

# SMPO October Rudder Meeting Minutes

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October 19, 2021 / 7 PM / Zoom Meeting

## SMPO LEADERSHIP ATTENDEES:

Courtney Ryan - Vice President

Emily McNicholas – Past President

Dave Rolfes – Executive Secretary

Becky Economou – Business Manager

Cybil Brown – Assistant Principal

Caitlin LaVine – 3-6 Teacher Representative

Sarah Fullen – 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

LeAnn Gardner – Technology Coordinator

Brittany Able – Communications Coordinator

Chris Vockell – Athletics

Erin Seidel - LSDMC

Alissa Paasch & Kim Fulbright – ILT

**Meeting Agenda & Reports Sent Prior to Meeting:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FbJMU9nB1KKL9In1l3LdB9R76k4PZ3wGTsHr yV\\_262I/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FbJMU9nB1KKL9In1l3LdB9R76k4PZ3wGTsHr yV_262I/edit#)

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting started promptly at 7pm and is hosted by **Courtney Ryan**, SMPO Vice President.

**Emily McNicholas** makes motion to approve minutes. **Rachel Danhires** seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Nikki Marksberry** recaps the joint play date between Sands & Mt. Washington at Stanberry park. It was successful & very informal. The plan is to wait until the spring to start it back up. **Emily McNicholas** recommends continued connections with Mt. Washington Parent Organization since they are just starting back up. Nikki brings up mentoring them for their Read-a-thon later in the school year.

Garden beds are cleared out at Sands. **Kim Fulbright** helped organize a cleanup this past weekend with other parents and kids involved as well. There is a plan to have an event on Sunday November 7 with some repairs of the beds, tentatively slated for 4p - 6p. There will be a post about it as well. **Robyn Appino** mentions that all beds around the school grounds need cleanup and maybe they could be cleaned out as well. Possible chance to form a good partnership with 6<sup>th</sup> grade leaders as well.

**Assistant Principal Cybil Brown** filling in for Sarah Lord:

- 3 adds to staff. 2 paraprofessionals in 1001 and 2014 respectively. Also a school nurse, Ms. Price who will be at Sands on Tuesday & Thursday
- Character recognition occurring at school
- Teachers and admins are pushing CPS to adopt Montessori Curriculum with possible positive outcomes by January 2023.
- ILT goal of all 1<sup>st</sup> graders reading with increase in other subjects
- Kindergarten snack is being worked on with Kroger so that snacks can be provided. This effort was spearheaded by **Nikki Marksberry**

**Nikki Marksberry** Update:

- Link in the agenda to help with Sands families that need help through the holidays. If you know someone specifically please let Nikki know.
- Trunk or Treat is at CRC next week.
- Toy sale coming for the holidays!

**Becky Economou** Update:

- All checks out to teachers for direct classroom support
- Balance - Checking: \$76,599 & Savings: \$36,098

#### Rachel Danhires Update:

- Hoping to implement a new platform for sign up; typically in the background Rachel is spending 8-10 hours a week leading up to the Fall & Winter SEP programs. New platform is \$0 cost, but 6% fee will be charged to parents. Program costs can be financed at 0% by Homeroom so that those unable to pay upfront can still participate. Providers are also charged 3%.
- **Nikki Marksberry** makes a motion to adopt the platform. **Leann Gardner** seconds the motion. The motion passes with unanimous consent.

#### Holly Fritz

- See report in notes; in search of a Read-a-thon chair or co-chairs; prior leader **Krystan Krailer** will be available for guidance
- Ms. Robyn mentions how she supports the read-a-thon as well
- Discussion ensues about how to solicit the Sands Community for leaders for the read-a-thon. Suggestions include newsletter, Facebook, and a flyer sent home with students. **Courtney Ryan** will work on it with Krystan.
- Chipotle fundraiser is tomorrow!

#### Amy Hueneman

- 7 of 30 room volunteer spots filled thus far

#### Chris Vockell

- Soccer is wrapping up & basketball is on the way!
- Soccer season has been very successful

#### Teacher Rep Report Outs

- **Caitlin LaVine (3-6)** - Thanks for the SMPO check!
- **Sarah Fullen (6-9)** - Thanks for the SMPO check! Sarah also went over recent testing including IOWA (2<sup>nd</sup> graders) and Ohio Reading (3<sup>rd</sup> graders)
- **Lisa Bowden (9-12)** - Thanks for the SMPO check! Field trip coming to Gorman Farms for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders!
- **Kris Spurgeon (Intervention)** - Thanks for the check! Supporting testing and working on a positive hallway experience with Colleen Noble.
- **Robyn Appino (Fine Arts)** - Dance Team started with Ms. Toebe; book fair comes next week! Kids get to shop during their Library time & there is an online link to shop as well.
  - eWallet Account in 2020 to ensure all kids walk out with a book via "The Book Fairy". Trying to figure out how get a small bit of additional funding. **Courtney Ryan** suggests taking it from the Community Building fund. **Emily McNicholas** makes a motion to vote to support the book fair with \$100. **Erin Seidel** seconds the motion. A vote was taken in the chat & it was unanimous to move the money to Robyn for The Book Fairy.
  - A second vote is taken on a contingency amount for an additional \$400 to be taken on an as needed basis to cover The Book Fairy account. **Emily McNicholas** motions to vote. **Erin Seidel** seconds & it is unanimously approved.

Erin Seidel

- Recap of community events
- Talk of a district wide LSDMC meeting
- The team also discussed the air purifier topic

### New Business

#### Change to By-Laws for Teacher Reps

Courtney Ryan discusses the concept of adding Fine Arts and Intervention Specialists to the voting ranks on the SMPO. Richard Grosse (parent) brings up the fact that this will need to be more formalized. "The motion to amend bylaws to allow one vote each for the Fine Arts Team and Intervention Team". Caitlin LaVine makes a motion "following the verbatim written" Rachel Danhires seconds the motion. Vote is unanimous.

Richard Grosse points out that this will need to be published before the next general meeting. It will need to get a "yay or nay" vote at that meeting. A quick discussion ensues around when that next meeting should be called. Emily McNicholas makes a point that it possibly should be made at the start of 2022. **This is later determined not to be the process. The Rudder can make this edit to the bylaws without a full general parent vote.**

#### Discussion for 3-5 Year Spending & Fundraising Plan

A small team led by President Heather Gerker to talk more about longer-term plans & goals. No action needed here at this point, but just wanted to get the group thinking about it and Heather will lead a conversation about it next month. Richard Grosse points out that this will probably require changes to the by-laws about the timing of leadership on SMPO since positions on SMPO are held for a shorter amount of time.

#### Air Purifier Discussion

Courtney Ryan brings up that Mr. Bob confirmed that HVAC filters are a MERV 8 and not a MERV 10 as previously discussed. Mr. Bob also confirmed that they are not changing filters for COVID positive rooms this year, but they are fogging & thoroughly cleaning the rooms if a case is found.

Courtney recaps the expected cost; around \$13,000 initial outlay for air purifiers and about \$5,000 for filters.

Some discussion ensues about what district protocols actually are and what is being done at Sands because there is a disconnect. It sounds as though the district expects filters to be changed when a COVID case is found, but the materials are not being provided to Sands. There was some discussion and disagreement about what district protocols are currently versus what they were last year.

Nikki Marksberry found and shared a document from the district that clarifies the current protocols from the district if a COVID case is found and it only says that that air filter should be changed more frequently, not for every case.

A quick discussion occurs about how frequently the air changes in the building 6-8 times every hour and how that makes the air inside the building as close to fresh air as possible.

Costs & Facts for air purifiers:

- 40 units = \$12,999 delivered & ready to be plugged in
- If purifiers run 24hrs / day = \$2,800 to change filters which would need to be done twice a year for a total of about \$6,000
- 20-year warranty on the model being discussed
- Plan would be to reimburse teachers that have already paid for these purifiers based on what is left from the approved amount

Discussion about prior meeting discussion for the Ion filtration discussed in September. It sounds as though the cost is too much to upgrade. **Emily McNicholas** brings up the fact that this process should require formal RFP through the district.

**Richard Gosse** brings up the idea of allowing classrooms to opt in versus mandating that all classrooms have them and having the vote be about a cap amount spent. **Chris Vockell** mentions that if we leave it up to the teachers it may not be viewed as fair by all parents.

**Courtney Ryan** asks if there is a motion to spend \$14,000 with a guarantee for \$6,000 a year for the filters? No motion was made and therefore no vote will be taken.

Meeting adjourns at 904pm.