

Sands Montessori Parent Organization

# SMPO Rudder General Parent Meeting / Minutes

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April 19, 2022 / 7 PM / In Person + 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

Sarah Lord –Principal

Caitlin LaVine - 3-6 Teacher Representative

Vanessa Barth – 6-9 Teacher Representative

Robyn Appino – Fine Arts Representative

Nikki Marksberry – Community Coordinator

Rachel Danhires – SEP Coordinator

Amy Hueneman – Volunteer Coordinator

Holly Fritz – Fundraising Coordinator

Brittany Able – Communications Coordinator

Chris Vockell – Athletics

Kim Fulbright - ILT

# SMPO Rudder GENERAL PARENT Meeting - April 19

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

**April 19, 7pm IN PERSON!**

**Or join us via Zoom, registration link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvdumsrDoqEtaT119MnYcIV0etZPmvaxc5>

TIME	CONTENT
7 - 7:10	<p><b>Welcome and call the meeting to order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nametags - welcome and introduce yourself to someone sitting next to you (folks on zoom can chat together too)</li> <li>• Mission review - will be reflected on at the beginning of every meeting</li> <li>• Welcome to first-time attendees, we are glad you are here!</li> <li>• Approval of <a href="#">minutes from March meeting</a></li> <li>• Such a busy season - thank you so much to everyone who has stepped up to lead event planning or fundraisers, we truly couldn't do it without you! We just wrapped up the Read-a-thon, will soon celebrate community at the Sands Carnival, and then Field Day is right around the corner too!</li> </ul>
7:10 - 7:45	<p><b>Reports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Principal Lord's report here.</a></li> <li>• Business Manager (Becky Economou)- link to <a href="#">the budget</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Checking: \$64,029.67</li> <li>○ Savings: \$61,101.03</li> <li>○ Quarterly Kroger Rewards earnings: \$1190.36</li> <li>○ Read-a-thon made a total of \$40,166.37, after all expenses.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Spring Carnival/Event (April 23) updates on planning - Emily McNicholas and Erin Woods           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need all the volunteers to make the event successful!</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Volunteer Coordinator (Amy Hueneman)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Room Parent Update: status of Rooms</li> <li>○ Share the example of how we're using the Room Parent Network - Carnival Volunteers, SMPO Rudder Nomination Process</li> <li>○ Carnival and Field Day Volunteer Needs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Frozen ticket Giveaway to encourage filling remaining spots.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Field Day Needs and Posting of Sign Up Genius</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Athletics (Chris Vockell)</li> <li>• LSDMC (Erin Seidel, Priya Rolfes, Richard Gross, &amp; Sharice Wood)</li> <li>• 3-6 teacher rep (Caitlin Lavine)</li> <li>• 9-12 teacher rep (Lisa Bowden)</li> <li>• Fine Arts rep (Robyn Appino)</li> <li>• Any questions on reports listed below?</li> </ul>

	<a href="#">View reports sent via email below.</a>
<b>7:45 - 8:15</b>	<b>Old Business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mini-grant awardees - committee to recommend and Rudder to vote</li> <li>• <a href="#">Outdoor Campus</a> presentation and vote for approval</li> <li>• Field Day planning updates</li> <li>• Yard Sign purchase</li> <li>• Please send in Regal Eagle stories so we can continue to highlight the amazing students and staff at Sands</li> <li>• Any other "old business" to address?</li> </ul>
<b>8:15 - 8:25</b>	<b>New Business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voting for SMPO Rudder positions next school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Take nominations for remaining Open Positions for the SMPO Rudder</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>8:25 - 8:30</b>	<b>Wrap up and questions - a reminder to review reports sent via email below!</b>
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>

## Reports sent via email:

### 6-9 teacher rep (Vanessa Barth)

- Things are rolling along well for 6-9. We have some gardening activities getting started, continent studies and projects in the works, and testing coming up. The next few weeks will include Math OST for third grade; MAP testing for grades 1-3 for Language Arts, iReady for grades 1-3 for Math, and Acadience (DIBELS) for grades 1-3, which focuses on fluency, and retelling of stories. The kids are getting excited for roller skating in gym class, end of year field trips, and of course the carnival.

### Intervention Specialist rep (Kris Spurgeon)

- The Intervention team is working hard to make sure all students receive accommodations for the state and district tests. We are also starting the process of placement for rising Ks and 3rd.

### ILT (Alissa Paasch & Kim Fulbright)

- We heard back from the district that Sarah Lord's budget/staffing appeal was successful. The 6-9 team will be able to retain the 11th teacher/classroom next year. (No one from this team will be let go) We will be discussing ways to advocate for the 9-12 team, as they are still losing a teacher/classroom next year.
- Per the district's recommendation, Sarah Lord and Cybil Brown have been visiting classrooms on a regular basis. The goal of these visits is to help support teachers and is not meant to be evaluative in nature. The hope is to provide guidance with the new scope and sequence and provide positive feedback for successes. It was suggested that teachers find times to visit other classrooms to gain insights and praise best practices. The team is exploring whether a school-wide learning walk schedule should be developed. They are polling teachers and paras to gauge interest.

- The 2022/2023 calendar was approved.
- Sands is still looking for Summer Scholars teachers.

#### **Fundraiser Coordinator (Holly Fritz)**

- One more restaurant fundraiser!
  - Tuesday, May 17  
Gold Star  
2231 Beechmont Ave  
All day!

#### **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](mailto: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)**

- Reminder that we have an SMPO website - [sandsparents.org](http://sandsparents.org) that contains lots of information including many of the items and events in the bi-weekly newsletters.
- Check out the homepage that features a new scrolling carousel that showcases our Sands Regal Eagles, and more!

#### **Sands Extracurricular Program - SEP (Rachel Danhires)**

- All spring sessions are currently running. Registration is now open for summer sessions. SEP Scholarship total for the 2021-22 year was approximately \$3300, which comes in at budget with the additional funds collected through the Homeroom platform.

#### **Parent At Large (Alyse Sonega)**

- Shelter for the back-to-school picnic has been booked for August 11.

#### **Other announcements**

[SMPO calendar here for review.](#)

## **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Heather Gerker at 7:08pm

Reviewed SMPO mission

Michelle Durban makes motion to approve the March minutes. Courtney Ryan seconds the motion and the March minutes were approved.

Quick recap of Read-a-thon totals with over \$40k raised even after expenses.

**Principal report** – Sarah Lord not available to attend but her report was read aloud by Heather Gerker – [Full report is posted here](#)

### **Mini Grant Committee Proposal – Heather Gerker**

Nearly all mini grants are able to be approved; full list in presentation provided at meeting – [See slide 6 in meeting materials](#)

Kaitlin Levin motions to approve; Amy Hueneman seconds. Vote taken & mini grants were approved.

Next steps are to communicate approvals and work with Becky to provide actual funding

### **Outdoor Campus Proposal – Courtney Ryan**

[See slides 7 – 18 in meeting materials](#)

Recap survey results including Montessori Materials + Outdoor campus being the top two items; Montessori Materials key but also should be provided by district through accreditation.

Outdoor campus will require funds & volunteer hours to get started.

Current outdoor campus facilities not being used to their maximum potential and were left incomplete due to COVID pause

Outdoor campus would allow for unstructured time outdoors to allow for kids to explore and understand nature better. Maria Montessori also believed being outdoors was important.

### Partnership with Native Roots

Discussion of all the items that can be included such as 40+ native trees, a shade structure, using stencils on the blacktop, playscape, etc.

Total ask is about \$28000; [itemized list available here](#)

Other partners include Madison Tree & Hyde Park Landscaping

Ideas to add to funding include having families sponsor trees

Quick discussion of where volunteer hours may come from including local high schools like Clark Montessori & McNicholas

**Vanessa Barth** asks about the details and what needs to be approved again; answer is that the details do not need to be vetted again but another large spend would need to be.

Nikki Marksberry motioned to approve; Holly Fritz seconded; no dissenters on the motion to spend the amount requested.

### **Business Manager – Becky Economou**

- Checking: \$64,029.67
- Savings: \$61,101.03
- Quarterly Kroger Rewards earnings: \$1190.36
- Read-a-thon made a total of \$40,166.37, after all expenses.

Numbers are listed above which includes all the read-a-thon proceeds as well; just received approx. \$1190 from Kroger as well

### **Carnival Update - Emily McNicholas**

Weather is looking good & turnout looks to be strong; some items will be free to the community & there will be a COVID vaccine clinic as well; volunteer spots are nearly filled up; some vendors will be on site as well. Bring pop & cakes and drop them off

with Nikki at Sands. Folding tables would be nice as well; mark clearly & they will be returned.

Volunteers can be sent to [AmyHueneman@me.com](mailto:AmyHueneman@me.com)

### **Volunteer Update – Amy Hueneman**

Last few volunteers spots to fill for Carnival

Room Parent – Nearly all rooms have a representative; about 9 left still with the hope that many will be able to carry into next year.

Field Day Volunteers – Sign up requests coming April 25!

### **Athletics Update – Chris Vockell**

Nothing to report

### **LSDMC – Sarah Lord**

A lead agency has been hired – Community Health Matters; next step will be to hire a person

### **Teacher Updates – Robin Appino**

Roller Skating starting this week

Book Fair coming soon (May 9) and volunteers would be nice and we it looks like we can do a family shopping night given updated COVID protocols

### **Parent at Large – Allyse Sonnegea**

New date for back to school picnic – August 11, 2022

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming soon!

### **Field Day**

Coming soon and is “back to normal” with a DJ and other activities planned in partnership with Student Council

### **Yard Signs**

Available for purchase at \$12.00 through SMPO

### **Regal Eagle**

Shared in Newsletter; send stories to Courtney Ryan

### **SMPO Rudder**

[2022-2023 matrix on slide 20 in meeting materials](#); one open spot for Business Manager in Training

Motion made by Chris Vockell; Second by Rachel Danhires; no dissenters on the vote

### **Closing**

Quick discussion about SMPO newsletter and how it can get lost in email; Principal Lord offered to include it in her update

Amy Hueneman motions to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 826pm