

SMPO Rudder Meeting
NOVEMBER MINUTES

November 15, 2022; 6:30pm via in-person and Zoom

Meeting Agenda & Reports Sent Prior to Meeting

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES:

Courtney Ryan - President

Dave Rolfes - Fundraising Coordinator

Laura Hughes - Executive Secretary

Chris Vockell - Athletics

Robyn Appino - Library Media Specialist

Karen Huneke - 6-9 rep

Kim Fulbright - Vice President

Keith Schomaker - Resource Coordinator

Beth Tracy-Kaliski - 3-6 Teacher Rep

ZOOM ATTENDEES:

Lisa Bowden - 9-12 rep

Allyse Sonnega - Parent-at-large

LeAnn Gardner - Community Coordinator

Jen Robbins - Sands Extracurricular Program (SEP)

Heather Gerker - Parent Liaison

Amy Hueneman - Volunteer Coordinator

Cybil Brown - Vice Principal

Sharice Wood - LSDMC

Michelle Durban - Business Manager

Jacob Ottlinger - Teacher Rep

Alissa Paasch - ILT

Jimmy Franxman - Athletics

Erin Seidel

Meeting called to order at 6:36pm

- Tonight's meeting was hosted by **Courtney Ryan**, SMPO President.
- **Courtney** reviews the Sands Mission for inspiration.
- **Chris Vockell** motions to approve the meeting minutes from October.
- **Shanice Wood** seconds the motion.
- *Meeting minutes approved at 6:38pm.*
- **Courtney** dives right in with a discussion about the new library furniture and making a motion to approve it. **Robyn** shares that she has been doing some research about a different company and expresses that she would like to use the library budget to pay for any costs exceeding \$15,000. She plans to look into the quality and warranty situations with the new potential company.
- **Heather** asks for clarification on where the extra money for the library budget would really come from because the money we raise this year would need to be used next year...
- **Jen** points out that she is going to be \$1,000 under
- **Keith** motions to bring it to a vote.
- **Beth** seconds the motion to bring it to a vote.
- **Courtney** facilitates the vote.
- The motion to spend \$15,000 on community furniture (that will live in the library) is approved with a unanimous yes!

REPORTS AND UPDATES

➤ **Cybil Brown:**

- starts by thanking SMPO for providing dinner for both conferences
- thanks to all who attended and volunteered at the outdoor playscape fundraiser; 200+ people were there;
- Fuel Up Ambassadors hosted the pumpkin election
- Class Dojo has taken off and is and rocking!
 - 929 skills were celebrated in the 1st week alone and we have received 100 percent positive feedback. Need to spread the word in order to get families connected.
- Academics:
 - looking for strategies to teach
 - Reading will be focusing on literary and informational texts
- ILT approved fall diagnostic
- The Student Council hosted a very successful bake sale on conference night!
- *Black Violin* field trip was also a huge success!
- 15 highschool students from Mcnick are assisting students with reading and reading fluency

➤ **Keith:**

- Saturday is the Thanksgiving food giveaway at the Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church (6474 Beechmont Avenue)
 - There are 8 community vendors involved and Student Council will be there to pass out books to promote reading and literacy
- Wednesday, December 14th from 4-6pm in the cafeteria we will host the annual family holiday giveaway (there are many leftover presents from last year! A flier will be coming out soon!
 - need volunteers to wrap presents up

➤ **Michelle Durban:**

- Checking 57, 816.35
- Savings 33,104.45
 - most of our expenses have been from conference night dinners and a few mini grant field trip purchases,
 - taxes have been filed and we will be paying accountant a big fee soon

➤ **Kim F. and Karen H.** speak on SMPO and Student Council collaboration:

- Raised \$240.00 from bake sales during conference nights and book fair night
- Going to host staff holiday breakfast the last day before winter break
- Going to do a canned food drive; planning with Cybil
- Going to get most of the candy shipped for treats for the troops
- Looking into hosting a winter dance at the end of January/beginning of February for grades 4-6.
 - need to confirm with Sara and Cybil so we can book a DJ and move full steam ahead!

➤ **Heather Gerker and Allyse Sonnega:**

- Our team has been busy! Stephanie is working hard to strengthen community connections by creating a Sands Montessori Family Directory. It's completely optional to add your family details but if you are interested, [fill out this form here](#). She also started a Sands Families Buy Nothing Holiday Season Facebook Group - [check it out here!](#) Allyse is leading the way with the Donuts with Grownups plans. This event is an updated version of "Grandparents Day," scheduled for November 22. We've had a great response for volunteers and donut donations! Currently working on plans for coffee and ironing out all the details of the day. Heather has been focused on feeding our teachers - we served Larosa's pizza and pasta for the first conference night and for the second conference night, Currito Burrito bowls were on the menu.

➤ **Jen Robbins:**

- All extra curricular classes and their providers are returning for the Spring sessions.
- We are not using all of our scholarship money according to the budget.
- SMPO provides 60% of cost for extracurriculars to families in need based on their financial status
 - asks that the SMPO give money to families in need if child writes a letter about why they want to be in the class instead of being based on proof of income
 - only gave away \$1,087 to families this year. There were limited applicants this year
 - only spent \$877.00 in scholarships this year

- I enjoy the Homeroom system for enrollment in extracurriculars; it also allows people to contribute a donation towards families in need
- Proposes that the SMPO increase their contribution from 60% to 70% for scholarships and make it more available for families;
 - if we bump it up, we will still be under the budget level. Explains that by bumping the scholarship money to 70%, SEP will still be \$1,200 under budget, especially if donations remain stable and attendance stays up.
- **Karen** discusses her dislike of Homeroom as a provider;
 - parents are paying more for a service and instructors are going home with less.
 - would like for Homeroom to offer families the option of paying with something other than credit cards.

-Courtney proposes that we think about incorporating Homeroom fees into the budget.

-Courtney approves 70% scholarship coverage!

➤ **Amy Hueneman:**

- We have filled all but 4 rooms for the Room Parent role! They are actively sharing information for our next event, 11/22 Donuts with Grown Ups.
- We have almost all slots filled but need some extra help for the later morning slot - Allyse Sonnega has the details.
- The newsletter request for Room Parents has been updated to search for volunteers for the remaining 4 rooms.
- For any upcoming events that need volunteers, please let me know so we can plan appropriately for volunteer requests.

➤ **LeAnn Gardner:**

- If anyone would like something to be included in newsletter, send it in by this Wednesday, or for next week, by Tuesday the 22nd

➤ **Dave Rolfes:**

- The Saturday outdoor campus fund drive was a hit!
- Gives a special shout out to *Pizza To The People* for donating their tip money and a portion of their sales back to the SMPO

- Kicked off fundraiser for outdoor campus with a goal of raising \$3,000 from the Sands community and within a day we received an email from an anonymous donor that agreed to match the \$3,000!
- \$5,952 raised so far, and with the \$3,000 match, we have \$8,952 total plus an additional \$3,900 from June and July bringing us up to about \$12,000 raised for the outdoor campus just from asking!
- “Giving Tuesday” is Tuesday, November 29th
 - asks for donations on that day
- Chipotle fundraiser raised \$151.00
- Looking to have one at the Chipotle in Anderson in March
- There will be 2 restaurant fundraisers in December; see notes from last month

➤ **Chris Vockell:**

- Basketball has 17 teams (record number!) with 133 kids participating!
- Soccer registration for Spring is December 17th

➤ **Beth TK:**

- Thanks SMPO for dinner!
- Had our first *Schoolhouse Symphony* visit at the end of October. Thanks for that. They will be coming back twice more this school year.
- Would like to send a reminder to parents:
 - Children must have warm coat, hat, and gloves on cold days
 - if they don't have something, we can connect with Keith and get them something

➤ **Karen Huneke:**

- Gives thanks for dinner!
- Had our first activity that SMPO gave us money for:
 - *Birds of Wonder* came and all 6-9 classrooms went and thoroughly enjoyed the event! Very grateful to the SMPO money for that!
- Looking forward to *Donuts with Grownups* on November 22nd.
 - Encourages families to take children with them!

➤ **Lisa Bowden:**

- We have had so much fun with the mini grants with Scholastic and the Green Acres field trip that all of the 9-12 community was able to attend
- Had an author visit and we are learning more about her latest book of the “*I survive*” series, and her informational texts
 - Thanks SMPO for making this possible

➤ **Jacob Ottlinger:**

- Progress reports are coming out this week
- Had a curriculum access team come on November 4th to the computer lab and they assisted with getting tech for special needs students including two Osmo Genius Starter Kits which will be a great resource.

➤ **Robyn Appino:**

- We had another amazing book fair. We raised \$2500 in cash and almost \$3200 in Scholastic dollars. Some Scholastic dollars will go back to our readers as read-a-thon prizes to be used at the spring fair.

➤ **Sharice Wood:**

- Talking about outdoor campus expansion:
 - Brainstorming with Sara Lord about improving math scores all around using tools and interventions such as math buddies, flashcards (in a community pot?), etc.
 - What strategies can we utilize and implement? How do we reward kids' individual efforts? Parent volunteers could maybe come in and run through facts for 15-20 minutes with students as able; **Robyn** talks about training parent volunteers in *Rocket Math* (a fun paper and pencil way to learn math facts)
- Looking for approval from the board to partner with YMCA
- **Courtney** proposes on setting up a math stand at the STEM night coming up on January

➤ **Alyssa Paasch and Kasey Drotar:**

- The One Plan was completed and submitted to the district on 10/31/22

➤ **Mrs. Linger (via email)**

- Winter Concert - December 8, 7:00pm

- Eagle Choir (9-12) will visit Corbly Trace (retirement community across from Sands) on December 9. The choir will sing their songs from the concert and then have a sing-a-long with the residents.
- **Ms. Erin (via email)**
 - A huge thank you to all the 9-12 parents that sent in extra donations of colored pencils for art class. You are amazing!

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Courtney** asks to collect books that anyone brought to donate today
 - asks **Karen** about having Student Council members attend on Saturday to volunteer
- Goes over Memory Maker event ideas
 - Group brainstorms about pros and cons of breaking a movie night into different age groups
 - Asks group to add ideas to Google Doc
- **Chris Vockell** talks briefly about the sports schedule from now until the beginning of March:
 - Reminder that gymnasium is in use on Friday evenings; every Friday there is a game
- **Courtney** shares that *Native Root* is going to sell us trees for 30% off! There will be shade trees all over, climbing trees, wildlife support, etc.
 - plan to plant trees before Christmas!
 - Goal is to spend between \$3,000 and \$4,000 of fundraising money from this month
- **Kasik** discusses the need for a strong and secure barrier for outdoor playscape fence options

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Courtney** leads a brainstorming session about student councils' \$2,000 ask.
 - Proposes giving student council a line in the budget
- Would like to get the SMPO calendar to be the one "catch all" for all events; a one stop shop calendar for parents
- Birthday shout outs:
 - **Robyn's** birthday is tomorrow
 - **Dave's** was last Wednesday
 - **Chris's** was Saturday

- **Michelle's** is today
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE!!!

- Any other new business or questions?
- Proposes a social outing on December 13th at 6:30pm in lieu of a meeting

- **Karen H.** motions to adjourn.

- **Beth TK** seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm