

## **SPPS PTO Meeting Minutes November 15, 2022**

The November 15th, 2022 meeting of the SPPS PTO was called to order by Principal Todd Leonard and then Todd opened the meeting with a prayer. Father Arul and Todd Leonard announced that they had appointed new PTO officers and they are as follows:

Tami Haverkamp - President  
Molly Strathman - Vice President  
Amber Sudbeck - Treasurer  
Megan Olberding - Secretary

Todd then turned the meeting over to President Tami Haverkamp.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read. There were no additions or corrections. Brooke Stallbaumer moved to approve the minutes as read. Jenna Kramer seconded the motion. All present voted "yes" and the motion was carried.

Treasurer Amber Sudbeck reported a checking account balance of \$28,516.13, savings account balance of \$25,320.94 and CD balance of \$75,329.24. There are no outstanding bills.

Tami Haverkamp then introduced the guest presentation of the night, the newly formed SPPS Grandparents Club. Grandparents Club member, Carol Sack, reported that the Grandparents Club had formed in September 2022 with 6 grandparents of SPPS students and their membership continues to grow. They have 3 projects that they completed so far this year:

- 1) Morning Greeters - They gave the kids high fives as they entered the building or a piece of candy and younger children received a pencil.
- 2) Guest Reader in the classrooms
- 3) Listening to classroom prayers - this allows the teachers time to continue teaching and shows the students that their grandparents/family members are interested in their faith journey.

There is also a Grandparents Club member volunteering with the After School Program/tutoring. They would love new members and will be meeting soon to see what their projects for next semester will be.

### **Committee Reports**

**Booster Club** - Molly Strathman reported that 100 Booster Club sponsorship letters were mailed to businesses as well as sent home in family packets. There are 91 donors, of that 57 were business donors. Total money raised was \$3,070. Molly would like to send a thank you postcard to businesses to post in their windows identifying that business as a SPPS Booster Club sponsor. She would also like to support the referees with a thank you note from the 7th/8th grade athletes. Michelle Haverkamp said to add in bus drivers for away games. Molly also reported that game day treats are going well.

**Nature Area** - Molly Strathman reported on behalf of Kathy Ganstrom. Kathy & Molly have had discussions on what to do with the nature area but those are all pending the new location of the playground. Also discussed a new plaque for the donors of the Nature Area, as the current plaques are cracking.

**Night to Reignite** - Julie Bergman presented on the newly formed Night to Reignite committee. This will replace the Trivia Night committee. The vision for the event is to be a gala of sorts with cocktail hour starting at 5pm, followed by a nice meal with a speaker, and then an auction and live music. The

committee has been in contact with potential speaker Sister Delores and Father Greg Hammes. They have also been in touch with many vendors and have a budget prepared to present in New Business. Their goal is to sell 300 tickets and request sponsorships from local businesses. Discussion followed that they were looking for a group to serve the meal and Jennie Rusche suggested Fellowship of Christian Athletes at the High School.

**Christmas Wish List** - Brooke Strathman presented that she had emailed the teachers for their lists. Discussion was had if this should be for larger or smaller items. Brooke asked that teachers just request their most pressing needs.

**Book Fair** - Megan Olberding presented for Maggie Grier. Total Books sold 418 and non books sold 117. Total sales \$6,418 and total profit \$1,483.12. The money was used to purchase books for all SPPS students to receive on Saint Nicholas day. The Preschool-5th grade will receive non-fiction books and 6th-8th will receive new Bibles, as requested by the Junior High teachers. The total for all the books was \$3,056. The PTO officers approved spending an additional \$1,573 to be able to purchase all the books for the students. Also at the Book Fair, almost all the Library Wish list books were purchased by the community.

**Teacher Appreciation** - Lacey Frehe presented that the committee had made casseroles for the teachers at the beginning of school. The teachers all gave many thanks for this wonderful gift. The community will continue to request snacks/drinks/food for in-service and Parent Teacher conferences, this is working well so far. She said they will also have food/drinks for Catholic Schools Week and Teacher Appreciation week.

**Smoke Off** - Stacey & Cody Steinlage presented that the 1st SPPSmoke Off was a big success. Stacey presented how the smoke off worked for those who didn't have a chance to see the whole process going on. There were 10 teams that participated. Due to the great weather, many of the teams had their family/friends out helping & having fun and they enjoyed the fellowship. Judges were made up of staff/parents. The food and games went over very well and had positive comments from the community. Total gross was \$16,713 and expenses were \$4,907.10. The profit was \$11,805.90. Their committee has met for ideas for next year already.

**Stuff the Bus** - Alicia Bergman presented that Stuff the Bus still has a little over \$2,000 in funds available and these need to be used up soon. Teachers had some discussion of what they could request. Alicia asked that they send these requests to her or Amber Sudbeck soon.

### **PTO Officers Report**

There were two expenses that had been requested to be paid between the meetings and these were approved by the PTO Officers:

1. Approved to pay for shipping costs on Care Packages for troops in Kuwait in the amount of \$168.10
2. Approved to pay for the costs of St. Nicholas Day Books/Bibles that the income from the Book Fair did not cover in the amount of \$1,573

Also announced that there were three new forms available for Committees/Teachers to fill out via google docs. Amber will send these forms out if requested.

1. Reimbursement Form
2. Funding Requests Form
3. Committee Income/Expense Sheet

## **Principal's Report**

Todd Leonard presented the results from the survey that was sent out to all parents, staff and students. The link to this presentation will be emailed out to parents for them to review as well. Staff and Todd will discuss the results of the survey at the next in-service meeting. Todd also presented that 1st Reconciliation will be November 16th, 2022 and that Advent activities will be starting soon. Todd also announced that the Soup Supper committee is made up of parish members and the Soup Supper will be November 20th, 2022. The money made at the Soup Supper will be for the school. Molly Strathman asked Todd if there will be additional FastBridge testing. There will be some additional testing done soon. There was discussion about the testing for Social & Emotional health of the students. Discussion felt these tests were very helpful and helped Mrs. Gruber, school counselor, as well. Many teachers and parents were excited about the work that Mrs. Gruber is doing at the school.

## **Teachers Reports**

**1st Grade/4th Grade** - Allison Hermes presented that her class and Jenna Kramer's 4th grade class were participating in Adopt a Dairy Cow. This is a free program and they receive free weekly activities. There are STEM activities based on each grade level. The cow that the class adopted is named Bessie.

**5th-8th Grade Science** - Brooke Stallbaumer presented on 5th-8th grade science. The 5th graders are participating in Engineering Extravaganza with NC on November 16th, 2022 and they each get to do two projects. The 6th graders are working with a coding program to create a story. The 7th grade students are learning about population and ecosystems. The 8th grade students just finished learning about the human body and hope to dissect a pig soon. Also, Brooke announced that due to the location changes of Science Olympiad, SPPS will not be participating this year.

**Atrium** - Molly Strathman reported on behalf of Angie Hammes. This year the atrium is supporting 76 children in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This includes: MWF preschool, Kindergarten, 1st Grade and 2nd Grade. Kindergarten CCD also participates. Volunteers are: Donna Elder, Angie Hammes, Alcia Bergman, Audra Huffles, Jeanne Holthaus, Katie Nordhus, Cindy Hemman, Sharon Lueger. This is the 20th year of atrium. If anyone would like more information about atrium and resources available, please contact Angie.

**2nd Grade** - Gina Ronnebaum reported that the 2nd Graders are excited for 1st Reconciliation. The Grandparents Club has been helping the kids with their prayers as well. Several 2nd Graders have a Grandparent in the Grandparents Club and think it is very special to see them. They also reached a specific number of stars in the behavior chart and were allowed to pick a special activity. The 2nd Graders chose to be a buddy with the preschoolers and complete a fall project.

## **New Business**

**Booster Club** - Molly Strathman requested funds to send postcards to local businesses to display showing they are a SPPS Booster Club supporter. Estimated costs: \$50 to print the postcards and 35 cents per stamp. Also, she requested money to purchase items for thank you bags with concession stand vouchers for the referees and bus drivers. Lisa Kidd moved to approve this request for money. Julie Bergman seconded the motion. All present voted "yes" and the motion passed.

**Julie Lierz** - Julie Lierz had requested funds to purchase some wholesome valued books for her 4th grade room. She had researched a few new series of books. Alicia Bergman said that Stuff the Bus funds could be used to purchase books. No action was taken.

**Apparel Committee** - Bonnie Ridenour requested that the PTO purchase t-shirts for all students to be handed out at Catholic Schools week. Discussion was had that last year's t-shirts were very nice and students wear them quite often. Midwest Ink would print the shirts for \$10/shirt. Bonnie requested this be approved to be purchased annually. Kelli Uphaus moved to approve that PTO will purchase a t-shirt for each student every year for Catholic Schools Week. Michelle Thomas seconded the motion. All present voted "yes" and the motion passed.

**Reignite Night** - The committee is asking for approval of their budget of \$14,600. They have an itemized list of how they arrived at the budget and have worked with St. Gregory's to make sure they are accounting for everything. The plan is to sell 300 tickets and the lowest ticket price is \$50. This would amount to \$15,000 and cover their budget. There will also be an auction and sponsorship from businesses. Julie stated they hoped to use mostly local businesses/vendors when purchasing supplies. Brooke Stallbaumer moved to approve the budget. Jennie Rusche seconded the motion. There was additional discussion about changing up the theme/dress of the gala or adding in Trivia Night in the future. This did not change the motion. All present voted "yes" and the motion passed.

**Faith Families** - Molly Strathman presented on behalf of the PTO Officers. The PTO Officers would like to support one of the monthly Faith Family activities. Molly gave an overview of the SPPS Faith Families with several teachers chiming in how much the students enjoy their Faith Family time. The teachers have a committee meeting coming up and will discuss which monthly activity the PTO could support. No action was taken.

**New Committees** - The PTO Officers have ideas for three new PTO Committees. Information was shared about the idea for each committee and we will ask for approval of those committees at the February 2023 PTO meeting.

1. Maintenance Committee - Teachers/Staff would be able to submit small maintenance requests to the PTO Committee and that committee would line up volunteers using sign up genius or a particular day for volunteers to show up. These would be small requests, nothing that a professional would have to do. All requests would need to be approved by Todd.
2. Welcoming Committee - A committee of volunteers to show new families around the school during enrollment and let the families know about little things, such as how we park when picking the kids up for school. The committee would also help mainly during enrollment and possibly preschool open house.
3. Fellowship Committee - A committee to plan a few events for families and students to attend in the evening to foster fellowship amongst our faith community of all ages. Activities suggested include, a movie night, game night, a Bible study for older children. There was some discussion on including High School students and if this could include Fellowship of Christian Athletes for Junior High.

The next PTO meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, February 9th, 2023 at 7pm. The snack and pop winner is 4th Grade.

With no further discussion, Ashley Carlson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Brooke Stallbaumer. All present voted "yes" and the motion passed. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Father Arul and adjourned.

**Note: The New Committees will need to be approved at the February 2023 meeting. If you are interested in serving on these committees or being a committee head, please contact a PTO Officer.**