

JSSPVA BOARD MEETING AGENDA: SEPTEMBER 14, 2022, KENILWORTH ASSEMBLY HALL

Board Attendees: Beth Ottsen, Lydia Mathas, Carly Cape, Valerie Gaines, Stephanie Joyce, Renee Buck, Kate Foran, Marjorie Bransfield, Kyra Nelson, Jenica Myszkowski, Lieke Hakkenberg, Joe Guarino, Kate Tarbert, Eleanor Husman, Emily Wyner, Robin Stone

Regular Attendees:

Kelly Mangel, Stephanie Helfand, Kate Donegan, Lisa Metzger Mugg, Marty Heffner, Chris Mannara

Called to order at 8:32

1. Welcome – Introductions and August meeting minutes approved.
2. Benefit Update (Marjorie Bransfield) - The Benefit team has been working hard and has high hopes for a great night! We really hope everyone will support our school. Rain or shine it's going to be beautiful. Beth added – the JSSPVA only has one benefit per year and the funds raised go to support JSSPVA programs, including Family Fun Day, Field Day, Turkey Trot, Staff Appreciation, etc. If you can't attend, you do have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets and participate in sign-up parties. Many sign-up parties are donated by teachers and are unique Sears experiences.
3. President's Report (Beth Ottsen) – Reported on the staff appreciation luncheon the JSSPVA provided for the teachers and staff the day before school started. Carly Cape shared details - Julie McNelly ordered food, set-up was in the gym and assistance provided by Susan White. The teachers were really appreciative.

Family Fun Day – Was in a new location this year, is a lot of work and went well!

8th Grade Beach Day – Lots of support, huge success. Kids had a wonderful time. – started with a scavenger hunt around town and ended at the beach with activities (DJ, watermelon contest, bag toss tournament, etc.) Adjusted the time this year to accommodate for after school activity conflicts. 8th grade parent party also took place last weekend. Talked a little bit about 8th grade traditions and the importance of early and clear communication to engage all 8th grade parents prior to the start of the year.

4. Principal/Superintendent's Report

Dr. Helfand - Student advisory meetings first thing in the morning makes the 8:30 JSSPVA start time difficult for the administration, so they will be joining late going forward.

School has started. They feel it's been a really good start to the school year. Students are very excited about the new building. We have launched the new SEL curriculum, Caring

School Community, and are very excited about the way they are seeing CSC move students forward. Universal expectations for behavior in the school have been rolled out – have been met with a little resistance at the junior high levels.

Meet & Greet went well and they have appreciated the use of name tags to help build community and connections. The Administration is excited about the Benefit and Homecoming next weekend. They asked for ways they and the staff can get involved to help support the events.

Kate Donegan – Noted we have Back to School Night the next two nights. The Administrative Team will be there to answer questions and continue to get to know the Parent Community. The opening presentation will be the same both nights other than the technology overview – Seesaw for K-54 and Canvas for 5-8.

Marty – Parent Education and Information section to be included in weekly Sears to Home communications.

Fire Event the day prior – a fire alarm was pulled in the Link, but they haven't been able to identify by whom. Investigation is ongoing but the evacuation and emergency response was fabulous.

Question on Directory Updates – and when the online and paper directories would be updated. Chris explained that the information gets uploaded and then sent to an outside vendor, but there was an issue with the upload so it may take some time to correct some discrepancies. Constant Contact list is not up to date either – will follow-up offline on process going forward. Paper directories are still in progress and will be a few more weeks.

5. Communications Update

Eleanor and Emily passed around a handout with the newsletter distribution dates and instructions. They have archives of last year's newsletters if you need an example – no need to reinvent the wheel. But, also no need to include the communications chairs on your subcommittee discussions – just send them the final copy for distribution. Also, graphics can be tricky given the format and size/spacing issues. It's better to just send the text to Emily and Eleanor via email and they can make it pretty! Our newsletter is meant to disseminate information about JSSPVA events and news only – other events such as scouts or community programs – need to be shared via a different method.

6. Treasurer's Report (Valerie Gaines and Kyra Nelson) - Valerie reviewed the monthly report, noting that the format would be adjusted going forward as last year was a bit of a transition year coming out of COVID. Zelle for everything- grade dues and giving tree, and also a new Pay Pal drop down where you can pay for everything in one place and just select from a drop down menu. You don't have to have a Pay Pal account to pay this way. Still need to set up an Option for spirit wear and a separate Zelle account for Boosters. Details are

posted on the JSSPVA website. Reminder that we don't reimburse for sales tax, so it needs to be backed out or people can use the tax exemption letter.

7. Booster Update (Lieke Hakkenberg) - Homecoming activities to start at 10:30 am on Saturday, 9/24. Will start with a choir performance lead by Mr. Gordon. Peter Huften has volunteered a convertible to drive the mascot (Joey) in and around. There will be a bake sale – please donate if you are a baker!
We have some inventory left from last year with Spiritwear. Lieke will do a quick pop up sale for that – particularly for new families. Reached out to Boy Scouts to get their assistance with set-up and break-down.

Kickball event – sign-up is open and communication has gone out. Registration closes Monday and then team will be made, rules distributed, etc. Volunteers are needed to umpire the various fields/games.

School open house so parents and community members can walk through the space.

Homecoming dance Friday evening for 7th and 8th Grades.

Next up is the Turkey Trot!

8. Vice President's Sub-Committees (Lydia Mathas) – Reported further on Family Fun Day and plans for transition next year. Room Parents have been identified and will introduce themselves at Curriculum Night this evening. Room Parent Chairs are hosting a zoom meeting on Thursday morning to provide training and information for the room parents. Would be great if Valerie and Kyra could assist with payment details for class dues.

Student Picture Day is next week – September 22 for JK – 7 and September 23 for 8th grade. Retakes in October and a second date in January for any new students who move in throughout the year.

After Hour Kid Power is up and running and registration numbers were strong for Chess, Coding and Debate other than the 6th – 8th grade lunch offering of Coding. Many families have also taken advantage of the Tuesday activities offered by the JSSPVA, the school and the Park District.

Enrichment, Display Case and Book Fair Chairs are all at work and in discussions with the school on fall field trips and options for the fall book fair.

Veteran's Day – Please let Kristie Bennett know if you, a family, community member or neighbor has served. She is working on an updated list of veterans and planning for Veteran's Day.

Lieke provided a recap of School Supplies process and plan to continue for next year.

9. VP of Inclusion (Joe Guarino) - Newcomers committee request for a rolling/past chair to stay on committee. A few people stopped by the table at Family Fun Day. Tables of 8 initial invitation to go out for the first round to be held on October 14. Common Threads will start up again soon – Joe to work with Marty on that.

Joe had the idea of “Positive Parent” accolades – recognizing parents for special efforts in our community. Beth and Lydia to follow up with the Administration on the idea. Also discussed using social media sites as part of this, and possibly adding a JSSPVA role next year to assist with historian, photos, social media, etc.

10. VP of Green – Lydia read report from Robin Maher on Grounds Beautification activities, Trex recycling in the works, and Green Team goals for the year including working with Nate McBride and John Scheidt to encourage lunchtime and classroom recycling, including possibly reinitiating the Planet Panthers club at school. Will be reinstituting bi-weekly meetings with Nate and John to discuss opportunities and planning for green initiatives.

11. VP of Community Relations (Kate Tarbert)

Park District

One item to report from the Park District: The first café in Kenilworth will have its grand opening on September 19, 2022 at the Kenilworth Assembly Hall. Hours are from 6:30-10:30 am, and the café will be serving Colectivo Coffee, muffins, cinnamon rolls, snacks, and breakfast sandwiches. The Park District is relying on the support of the community in order to keep the café open and hopes to see you there!

Village

The Village would like to invite everyone to attend a meeting regarding Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE). It is Monday, September 26, from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM at Sears. The Kenilworth Police Department will be providing the community with an opportunity to learn what to do in the event of an active shooter event or other emergency situation. Every year our kids learn what to do in the event of an emergency at school. Do you know what to do if you find yourself in an emergency situation? What you do matters and could save your life and those that you love. This program is designed for the adult participant who will be able to learn from and ask questions of our own Kenilworth Police Department. Additionally, representatives from Sears School will be providing an update on security improvements associated with the construction project. This event is available to those living or working in Kenilworth only and registration is required in order to attend. To confirm your attendance at this event, please send an email to KenilworthPoliceDepartment@vok.org with your name, address and number of those attending.

Scouts

Boy Scouts:

1. Registration is open for all grade levels

2. Meetings are starting in the next 1-2 weeks depending on grade levels. Den Leaders will reach out to each grade level directly.
3. Please contact Kristie Bennett with any questions.

Girl Scouts:

1. The Girl Scouts are having their Dad/parent/daughter dance on 9/29. It is hosted by the 4th grade troop.
2. We have 9 new leaders this year - 7 for our new 3rd grade troop and 2 new leaders in 6th grade. All troop leader groups are busy planning their calendars for the year, with climbing outings, camping and lots of service activities planned!

School Board

The Sears School Board is next meeting on September 19. Lisa is attending to give an update on Board activities.

New Trier

The New Trier Board of Education generally meets on the third Monday of each month, with the business portion of the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. The theme for the District's strategic planning for the year is "Many Voices, One New Trier." The theme will be reflected in the "Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud" student initiative. Like Sears, New Trier was busy with construction work over the summer, which you can see on the East Campus. The next board meeting is 9/19.

A new store has opened in Glencoe, at 640 Vernon Avenue, that sells New Trier gear. It is part of the New Trier Transitions Program, which serves district students with disabilities from graduation through age 22 and offers job training and community engagement opportunities.

Finally, Saturday, November 12, 2022 is the 8th grade placement testing for New Trier. It is at the Northfield campus and runs from 7:45am to 12:45 pm. Students may enter any of the open gates between 7:15 am and 7:45.

DEB

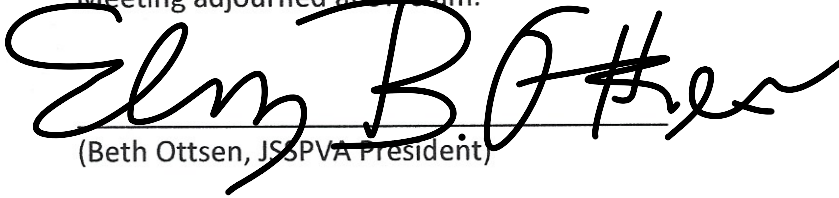
The first meeting of the year is scheduled for 9/27 at 7pm. All are welcome!

Alliance for Early Childhood

Join The Alliance for Early Childhood in partnership with the Winnetka Park District and Tinkering School of Chicago to use simple, natural materials to build at Let's Play! Fort Building activity. It will be held at Lloyd Park on Sheridan Road on Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2, from 10-3 pm both days.

12. BOE Update (Lisa Metzger Mugg) – Encouraged people to read the Board Briefs emails to keep up with the Board of Ed happenings. Business and Finance Committee meeting was held last week. Some of the new initiatives are discussed in that committee. Policy Committee meeting held this past Monday – one topic of note is the new Comprehensive Standards for Health and Sex Ed. Recommendation from the Policy Committee is likely that we will opt out of the new standards this year. Some concerns with where the state is at in terms of ability to implement, as well as some parent feedback. Will be covered at the upcoming Board meeting next Monday, September 19. Parents are welcome to attend any Board or Committee meetings, and also provide comments via email.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.



(Beth Ottosen, JSSPVA President)



(Kristy Whipple, JSSPVA Secretary)