

## JSSPVA BOARD MEETING AGENDA: OCTOBER 19, 2022, KENILWORTH ASSEMBLY HALL

Board Attendees: Beth Ottsen, Lydia Mathas, Renee Buck, Marjorie Bransfield, Kyra Nelson, Joe Guarino, Kate Tarbert, Eleanor Husman, Emily Wyner, Anne Wortel, Julia Petersen, Julia McNelley, Renee Buck, Robin Maher

### Regular Attendees:

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

Called to order at 8:32

1. Welcome (Beth Ottsen) – Introductions and September meeting minutes approved.
2. Benefit Update (Anne Wortel and Marjorie Bransfield) – Thank you, the event was fun and huge success. Total net \$125,503, we have a profit. Operating cost \$90,000 for the JSSPVA. 275 tickets sold, well supported and attended. Sign up parties were a huge hit and successful. Snowball sign up party is Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Co-chairs will pass on detailed notes for future fundraisers.
3. President's Report (Beth Ottsen) – Any spending over \$5,000 need to be approved by Beth and Lydia. If proposal is over the budget, must get approval first.
4. Principal/Superintendent's Report

Dr. Helfand – Halloween class parties, first Halloween post covid. Students will go home and have lunch and change. Students will return in costumes – no props like weapons. Costumes need to be appropriate for all grade level, no face paint, inflatables could be hard. Going to try do the Halloween parade. Planning for an outside parade, if bad weather it will be for families in the auditorium. Day of call if parade will be inside or outside. Parade first then class parties from 2:35-3:15. Students leave at 1 and return at 2pm. Students can stay and have lunch then change into costume. Remember not to order Marla's lunch. as last year 300 lunches were left at school and the school brought them to the fire department

Social event – to build a culture of care and connect with the community at the administration and teachers will be out front of school 8am-10am (teachers before school starts). There will be a donut truck. The school will send a reminder.

Parents teacher conferences – A shift in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade conferences. Parents can reach out to teachers after conferences with additional comments or questions. All teachers are always available to meet during the school year. Survey will be sent out to the junior high parents to get concerns before conferences.

Four-part series of portrait of a Sears graduate. This focus was developed during the 2018 school year. Four outcomes before graduation are the goal created by an advisory

committee. The school is revisiting this year and defining what it will look like. The advisory is making clear expectations to help design the curriculum and materials and can be worked in every class and in the community. Once completed the committee and administration will bring it back to the JSSPVA for review. First advisory meeting 20 people for the community, which is also made up of students attended.

Construction on target with Baker walk through in a couple weeks. Next summer, original building HVAC will be installed for the entire school. It will have heating and a/c. This will require a lot of packing in K -5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. Classroom will need to completely emptied by the last day of school. To assist, field trips will be scheduled at the end of the year to help teachers pack. Suggestion from a board member was to do a service project in January to purge and donate unwanted items in these classrooms.

Cultural of care – update morning circle focus is spark conversation to get to know each other and to foster social emotional skills like empathy. Some junior high students spoke with administration privately and mentioned that it is working. Comments that conversations can be uncomfortable and annoying in the morning circle have shifted that they moving towards more empathy for one another and that they are implementing these skills in their social interactions.

Elementary is thriving with the new curriculum. Kindergarten students had a tour on how the school works. There were lots of smiles to support one another Administration asked to please bring any issues, if that is not your child's experience. An attended of the meeting brought up a concerns of New Trier math students missing this part of advisory and morning circle – administration will problem solve around this concern. Number one priority is creating an environment that people care at school and in the community. In the Sears to home – cultural of care summary

5. Communications Update (Eleanor and Emily) At this time, nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report (Valerie Gaines and Kyra Nelson) – treasurer passed out report. New format, fundraising is the major source of revenue. Report so how and where money comes from and where it is goes out. Budget is outlined. We need to stick to our budge. Chairs need to be careful if items or event comes in over budget. If proposal comes in over budget, please get Beth's approval first before moving forward. If a contract is more than \$5,000 you will need to get Lydia or Beth signature. Inflation is going up, so we can budget appropriately the following year.

Class dues are 50% received, room parents will be asked to reach out to their class. Question was asked if room parents can get a list of who hasn't paid to give a nudge.

Book fair – funds go back to the library to buy new book.

6. Booster Update (Lieke Hakkenberg) – Turkey Trot Friday before Thanksgiving. it will happen during PE – donations for food drive one week and will be delivered to a food

bank – looking for volunteers. There will be prizes for class winners. No shirts this year instead bicycle lights.

#### 7. Vice President's Sub-Committees (Lydia Mathas)

Book Fair (Erin Papuga, Alison Dempsey, Beth Barakat) – Wed. 11/2-Fri. 11/14. In light of the ongoing construction, the Book Fair will be split into two locations. JK – 4<sup>th</sup> grade in one area and 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade in another area. Need volunteers, sign up Genius will be sent out. Will be in JSSPVA newsletter and Sears to Home.

Veteran's Day (Kristie Bennett) - if you or your family member have served, please contact Kristie Bennett. Also, let her know if you know anyone in the community has served. They are updating our list of veterans in the community in preparation for the Veterans Day Celebration. The plan is to have an all-school assembly on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Waiting on confirmation of one or two veterans to speak at the assembly. Students will then return to the class to write thank you notes to parent/local veterans. The school will run a Tuesday schedule and wrap up at 2pm with the all-school assembly following.

Room parents (Kirby Kelly, Mary Jane Melgaard) – Room parents are up in running, Parent parties have been confirmed, except for 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Halloween parties are being planned.

Student Picture Day 9 Nora Jewett, Rachel Smith) - Retakes today. Comments from people at the meeting was to have more parent helpers for pictures. Volunteers for making sure the students nice, ex: hair fixed and clothes in place. January 25<sup>th</sup>, new student picture day.

After Hour Kid Power (Carly Cook, Jessica Cardoni – is up and running for Fall Semester. They will start scheduling, planning and registering for the next trimester soon.

Lost and Found (Lydia Barhight) – Biweekly sort and tidy up started on 9/16. Sent newsletter asking for families to label clothing. Created Google Photo album of lost items, link was in newsletter.

Enrichment (Julie Kras, Kate Logan, Shannon Ford) Field trips started – Kdg – the Grove 10/18 and in February they will attend Emily Oaks Nature Center. 1<sup>st</sup> grade in October attended the Grove. Working Froebel Blocks in November and Great Works theater. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Botanic Garden 10/7 and Evanston Ecology Center 11/10, then High Touch High Tech in Jan. or Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade attended Heller Nature Center October 28<sup>th</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup> grade Holocaust Museum and November 21 Feed my Starving Children. 5<sup>th</sup> grade working on Planetarium for early November. 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade will do a joint field trip to the Shedd/Field Museum on November 21, date not finalized. 8<sup>th</sup> grade – working on scheduling Feed My Starving Children in December. Comments from attendees is to look for more Junior High extended learning experiences outside of school. Suggestions included Metropolis Theater in Arlington Heights and to check with other Junior High Schools on what they do for their field trips or bring in motivational speaker for Junior High students.

Display Case (Carolyn Brougham) – Back to school themed display case was installed.  
Planning on doing a thankful display in November.

Sears Café (Jessica Rechten) – There have been a few issues with missing Marla's lunches, but Marla has been very responsive.

Can food drive in November

8. VP of Inclusion (Joe Guarino) –  
New comer attendance was well attended and received. 10 tables were established for table of 8. January or February early call for hosts then invite for attendees. New idea to reach out to extended community. Add to village newsletter to get non-Sears families at Table of 8. It is time to start working on Polar plunge. Common thread will shortly start, Joe is meeting with Marty tomorrow in it.
9. VP of Green – (Robin Maher) Bike to school went well, teachers tracked and participation was huge, announcements were fun facts, pizza party for grade level winners.

Sustainable meeting – room for volunteers for finishing touches reach out to Robin Maher.  
Air quality sensors will be installed in the building.

Outdoor classrooms – Event next fall, if possible, of outdoor classroom  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Cerniglia is passionate in the sustainable initiative. She has interest and experience in sustainable/science curriculum. This is great addition to the Green Initiatives at school.

10. VP of Community Relations (Kate Tarbert)  
Café is open – Mon. – Sat. 6:30-10:30 – We need support from community to make it successful and to keep it open.

Music concerts – Park district is sponsoring these concerts at Assembly Hall. Nov 10-Miles Davis Kind of Blue, performed by Chad McCullough  
Dec 3 – Holiday Spectacular – Performed by Anthony Bruno Orchestra. This will be right after the tree lighting, which will run during our Holiday Market. This is a free event and we hope you will support the local businesses.  
Dec 8 – The Nutcracker – Performed by Michael Nearpass Ensemble - tickets on sale now. The concerts feature a cash bar, with heaving appetizers and desserts available for purchase.

The park district has several fall programs with registration now open, including pumpkin carving on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>. They are also offering ballroom dancing for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Village – nothing to report

Boy Scouts – The scouts had a successful fall campout (Shot off rockets that scouts built) with over 70 scouts attending. Popcorn sales, which is a big fundraiser for scouts, will start soon. Fall Pack night is Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Kenilworth Assembly Hall.

Girl Scouts – No new announcements, but wanted to share that Betsy Kilroy has stepped up to fill the vacancy for Scamper Leader.

School Board – The Sears School Board met this past Monday and will meet again on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup>. Lisa is here to speak about it.

New Trier – Launched a new initiative this year that defines what it means to be a Trevian: Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Proud. The New Trier Board approved a \$125.7 million operating budget for the fiscal year 2023 that is balanced and will support the district's strategic plan. Progress continues on the East Side Academic and Athletic project, much of the interior work is completed. Exterior window installation is planned for October. Reminder – Sat., Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> is 8<sup>th</sup> grade placement testing at the Northfield Campus. 7:45-12:45pm. Students will enter through any of the open gates between 7:15- 7:45 Testing will start approximately at 7:45 – 12:45 for WJHS and Sears.

DEB – Is always open to new members. There is a form on the DEB website if anyone looking to learn more. Next DEB meeting is Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. First parent-support coffee of the year will be on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30-10:30, Kenilworth Assembly Hall.

The Eynon and Gottschall Families are bringing a 5K Color Run to Kenilworth on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness for Tuberosus Sclerosis and Pediatric Cancer. Registration is open until November, 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Alliance for Early Childhood – Honor a teacher, educator or support staff with Teacher Tribute from the Alliance of Early Childhood! With each donation, the honoree will receive: a letter from The Alliance with optional comments from the donor, a notification to the principal, recognition on The Alliance website, and honor at the Alliance for Early Childhood networking Dinner on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Link to honor an educator:  
<https://theallianceforec.org/make-a-teacher-tribute>

11. Staff appreciation (Julie Peterson)- \$13,000 to spend – email blast to get more donations

Hosting a staff dinner tomorrow for conferences – grab and go Grateful Bites, Pumpkin Bread and more

QR code for giving tree, Giving Tree shorter time to collect and ends in December, get room parents to follow up- all funds will be giving in December to staff.

12. BOE Update (Lisa Metzger Mugg) – School board meeting this past Monday, strategic plan outlined with 6 focus areas, annual action plan. The board approved staff to use sick time for religious holiday because of construction those days aren't off this year. The board is holding informal meetings to get parent/community feedback and questions. Once a month, two board members will meet at Café to chat. Also, looking at bringing back parent surveys as they don't go to the board. The board is looking at ways to be more accessible, as board meeting are not a great place for dialogue.

Working on Spirit Sales for online ordering in November, suggestion from meeting is every Friday Spirit Day, JSSPVA will ask admin to implement.

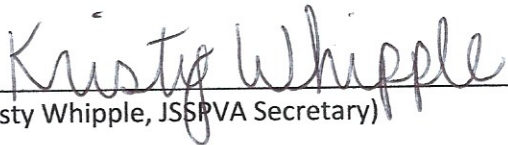
8<sup>th</sup> grade Halloween tunnel – Sunday night 7-9pm invitations to each 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> tunnel, village house dance with DJ – tunnel is closed during this tradition.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 am.



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(Beth Ottsen, JSSPVA President)



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(Kristy Whipple, JSSPVA Secretary)