

**SRDS Parents Guild Meeting -
Thursday September 7, 2023**

- I. Welcome & Approval of May 2023 minutes** - The September 2023 Parents Guild meeting commenced with a welcome to all parents / guardians from Ms. Rosanna Young and Ms. Nassdja Anthony and the approval of the past meeting's minutes.
- Today's session officially starts of the 2023/24 school year for the Parents Guild!
- II. Welcome from the SRDS Board of Trustees - Wes Powell**, President of the SRDS Board of Trustees
- We officially began the school year with 408 students and is a result of the dedication and hard work from Mr. Desai and the support from the SRDS staff starting over 5 years ago.
 - Our amazing performance has resulted in successful ranking of a #2 position taking into consideration we offer a K-12 experience.
 - Inspiring words to begin the SRDS academic 2023/24 school year from Mr. Powell:
 - "We are about to become what we are not yet!" and "we will find the possible from the impossible".
 - Mr. Powell encouraged parents/guardians to become part of the SRDS experience as their children grow and experience the great place SRDS has to offer.

III. Division News:

Ms. Dana Stern, Head of Lower School welcomed the new and returning parents to the SRDS community. Updates include:

- Stay tuned for the class coffee sessions and back to school night.
- Teachers will be communicating to the LS parents.

Ms. Anastasia Kelly, Head of Middle School was unable to attend, however, provided these key notes:

- MS welcomes 40 new students to SRDS.
- The MS Happenings doc for the up to the minute information – remember to check the link frequently. This Sunday's edition will include N-Block choice; students will sign up on Tuesday, 9/12.
- MS has 2 Deans – Ms. Amanda Bieglecki – grades 5th & 6th and Mr. Steve Osbold – grades 7th & 8th.

Mr. Shai Zacaraev, Head of Upper School

- Welcome Mr. Zacaraev to SRDS!

- Seniors will be encouraged to take a leadership role and set the example for US students.

- The US Retreat was wonderful, with students showing their caring of each other and help throughout the time they were together – field trips are an important part of the experience as they create comfortable, safe spaces and foster a sense of belonging.
- IV. **Admissions Update – Mr. Geoffrey Bowman, Director of Admissions** thanked the parents for support with welcoming new families – truly amazing to see the outreach.
- He welcomed the new families and encouraged new and existing families to contact him and the Admissions team with any questions.
 - Upcoming Open House dates: 9/27 at 6pm; 10/14 at 10am before the Homecoming event.
 - The 2024-25 application is now online – let's get started early!
- V. **Community Engagement at SRDS with Ms. Chris Lebovitz, Director of Community Engagement & Assistant Director of Lower School Admissions**
- Ms. Lebovitz encouraged parents to get involved as volunteers during the school year and experience the extraordinary community SRDS has to offer.
 - Open house volunteers are needed!
 - Look at for registration for the Rebel Craft series on 10/18 for a resin workshop.
- VI. **Creating opportunities for our students through The SRDS Fund - Ms. Lynn McCormack Director of Development**
- SRDS is a 501C organization which permits the fundamental funding essential for the betterment of the students.
 - The SRDS is a continuous campaign through the year, with focal points in the Fall and Spring. Donations contribute to:
 - **Professional development of the staff**
 - **Allows for innovation and needed resources.**
 - **Protects from the unexpected.**
 - The staff and board of trustees are committed to contribute and has been successful with 100% participation.
 - Additional sources of funding come from grants in which the CIE was established.
 - Please consider a contribution! Any questions, contact Ms. McCormack.
- VII. **Deans of Students at SRDS – New & exiting roles!**
- Amanda Bieglecki – grades 5th & 6th Steve Osvald – grades 7th & 8th – welcomed the parents / guardians and they look forward to partnering closely with parents to build strong bonds with the students, helping with any social / disciplinary concerns.
 - Robert Kettlewell – grades 9th & 10th reminded us that every student counts. The Deans are the biggest advocates for students and will help them celebrate the highs and pick them up from the lows. There is no limit to what our students can accomplish.
 - Jennifer Maylath – grades 11th & 12th is also the Head of the English Department and Cross-Country sports. The SRDS book club begins in October and the 1st book will be "Housekeeper & the Professor".

- VIII. Save the Date for Ladies' Night Out** – Wednesday, November 8th at The Tides Estate, North Haledon, NJ. The new chairs for this event are Ms. Jackie Vasquez and Ms. Sarah Aufgang. The 1st planning session will be held via zoom on 9/13 at 8pm. Volunteers are needed!
- **Parents Guild Volunteer Opportunities** – contact **Ms. Rosanna Young, Co-President and Ms. Nassdja Anthony, Co-President of the Parents Guild** introduced the Parents Guild Executive Board. The PG helps to facilitate the communications between the school and parents/guardians. Any questions and/or concerns, Ms. Young, Ms. Anthony, and the entire board are here to help.
- IX. News from the SRDS Athletics Department PJ Petrow, SRDS Director of Athletics and Girls Varsity Soccer Coach** – Welcome to Mr. Petrow!
- X. Motion to Adjourn** – Next meeting on October 5, 2023, 8:30am Alford Hall, PAC