

JSSPVA Board Meeting
Friday November 10, 2023

Board Attendees: Lydia Mathas, Jenelle Chalmers, Tara Stafford, Kate Tarbert, Kyra Nelson, Adrienne Eynon, Amy O'Dell, Megan Bradley, Emily Wyner, Renee Buck, Julia Peterson, Rachel Smith, Christine Klewin, Steph Helfand (Principal) & Marty Heffner (Assistant Principal)

Regular Attendees: Katie Lojkovic, Shawn Bard

1. Welcome – Happy Birthday to Renee Buck!

Call to order

2. Approval of October Meeting Minutes – Camie Park

Motion, Second – Minutes approved

3. Administrator Report – Marty Heffner

- Veteran's Day Assembly
- Tuesday night the Administration is holding a parent presentation sharing result of survey data from junior high study – challenge success. Sears is a unique school – this conference was full of high achieving schools with unique issues and a lot of resources. Collaborated with colleagues that are employed at schools similar to Sears across the nation. Looking at different master schedule, grading systems, changing learning experience to be hands on and collaborative, how you assess students. The Administration will share the data on Tuesday night. Students are experiencing a lot of stress and anxiety. We should promote event so that we have a good turnout.
- The group brainstormed how we might increase parent participation?
 - Change time
 - Child care
 - Explore how we communicate
 - Obligation fatigue

4. President's Report – Lydia Mathas

Thank You for Recent Events - Book Fair, Halloween, Veteran's Day, First Tables of 8

Special Olympics Illinois Hero Award - The Joseph Sears School was awarded the 2023 Special Olympics Illinois Hero Award for our dedication to hosting the polar plunges the last two years.

- We were offered 9 tickets to their annual awards night, to be held Wednesday, November 29th. Joe and Marty will attend, and we have extended invitations to Kyra, Dr. Helfand, Joe Rodriguez, Mr. Beaven, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Quijada and Police Chief Carlson as well.

8th Grade Graduation Attire – Potential Change - We would like to propose a change to the **footwear** guidelines in each category. The rationale for this change is essentially

sustainability and practicality—the white shoes can be difficult to find, and often are worn only once before discarding. Furthermore, they create an added expense for families who may already have an alternative dress shoe in their closet at home.

Option 1:

- Tucked-in light blue button down shirt
- Navy blazer with tie (Tie will be provided by the graduation committee)
- White pants (cotton is preferred)
- White formal shoes such as white “bucks” **CHANGE TO:** Brown leather formal shoes (loafers, bucks, or similar); no sneakers

Option 2

- White / Ivory Tea-Length or Floor-Length Dress (2" above the ankle) **OR** formal white pant suit
- White flats or White heels **CHANGE TO:** White / Ivory / Nude flats or heels
- Guidelines provided by the Sears Administration: no strapless, no open sides, no open back, the dress or pant suit should be appropriate, 2" above the ankle or longer

Motion to relax guidelines – Amy O’Dell; seconded – approved.

Athletic Uniforms Request - As part of Boosters, we provide funding to support the purchase of new uniforms. **This year, we have budgeted \$5,000 for this purpose.** We received an update from Joe Rodriguez this week on purchases made so far this year.

- 4 teams (Boys Basketball V & JV and Boys Volleyball V & JV). This covers both winter and early spring sports. Track (the last spring sport) is on rotation next year for new uniforms. **Total was \$5,490**
- Joe is implementing new uniform refresh system that’s goal is to have a healthy rotation of new uniforms for a team on a schedule (i.e. each team gets a new uniform every so often based on the condition of the uniforms).
- Our volleyball net took a turn for the worse and is no longer functional, so I am currently looking at getting quotes for a new system.

Motion to approve full uniform purchase – 5k out of uniform budget, 500 out of Booster budget. Seconded – approved.

Storage Unit Update – next Wednesday morning we are going to do move from storage unit to Sears. Tuesday we may do a preliminary sort. Storage unit is in Northfield by the Starbucks on Willow – 10-2

Upcoming Dates/Events - Turkey Trot,

Next JSSPVA Meeting – *Friday, December 8*

5. Treasurer’s Report – Kyra Nelson

October Financial Report

- Spent 16% of our budget

Class Dues and Giving Tree Update – all grades are at 95% with the exception of 6th grade

- Appreciation to sears staff including all behind the scenes employees
- Currently \$14,800 = 70% of the way there.
- Goal is December 14, 2023

6. Booster Update – Christine Klewin/Tara Stafford

Turkey Trot on 11/17 - Anne Ryan has been helping Turkey Trot. Plan is to be outside and run through the PE teachers. There is a philanthropy component – drive for winter gear

- Sign up genius is out for parent support to track laps and track collection of gear. We will hand out Gatorades and stickers

7. Benefit Update – Megan Bradley/Jenelle Chalmers/Adrienne Eynon/Jen Price - Meeting with subcommittees and developing theme/logo, etc. The theme is Joseph Sears through the Years. Megan Bradley went to historical society for pictures to use at the event.

8. Communications Update – Renee Buck/Emily Wyner - We are trying to be thoughtful about communications and the amount of communications sent to families. Next newsletter 11/29/2023. Deadline for news 11/26/2023.

9. Nominating Update – Rachel Smith - Need to form a slate of volunteers from each grade. Motion to postpone approval of nominating committee to December – seconded – approved.

10. VP of Community Relations – Julia Peterson

New Trier Feeder PTO Round Table on 11/16

Scouting Updates:

Cubs Scouts:

- First pack tonight was this past weekend. The boys received their earned badges and the second graders were formally welcomed into the pack
- Boy Scouts are selling popcorn to support the pack and will be selling until Christmas break. Look out for that!

Girl Scouts: All 6 troops are well into an active year, with 3 troops currently working on food and holiday gift projects through our area Girl Scout service unit for ReVive charity in the city. 28 Harvest Bags will be delivered this month, and family gifts in December

- Badge work is active - geocaching, climbing, Spring camping planning.

- Bay Lien (8th grade) is working on her Silver Award for a pollinator garden at Townley Field, in partnership with the Park District. Please support her when you see her stand at events.
- Over 20 Scamper parent volunteers have been confirmed across grades again this year. Planning meetings starting. Troops are grateful for that support. Betsy Kilroy will be leading Scamper. Show date is Feb. 2nd.

New Trier Updates:

- New Trier has 8th Grade Placement Testing on November 11th from 7:30-12:45PM at the Northfield Campus. This is for Sears and Wilmette Junior High students. Doors open at 7:15 and testing begins around 7:45
- New Trier Board of Education has their regular meeting on November 13th in Room C234 at Northfield Campus. The business portion of meeting begins at 6:30PM. For more information you can visit the Board of Education Web page

School Board: October – reviewed academic outcomes – different support systems in place; curriculum review cycle – ELA is being reviewed this year. Looking forward to results of middle school survey. November 20th is the next meeting

Park District:

There are some upcoming Holiday festivities that you can mark your calendar for. It is also all listed in the most recent park district newsletter:

Village: The village will be holding a community meeting on November 30th at 7pm to provide an update on the lakefront project. We invite all residents to attend the meeting, or if you can't attend, watch a recording of the presentation and provide comments via an online form. The meeting will be held at Assembly Hall. We will distribute more information soon.

DEB:

No updates

Alliance for Early Childhood: The Alliance for Early Childhood is partnering up with Winnetka and Northfield Library Branches for a Family Reading Night on Thursday, November 16 from 5-6:30pm. Families can come build a fort and snuggle up and read together as a family. Recommended for ages 8 and under. There is no registration required.

11. **VP of Inclusion – Meredith Sullivan.** Tables of 8 was on 11/4

12. **VP of Green – Amy O'Dell** - Grounds beautification is ongoing. Recycling will be introduced next season.

13. **Vice President's Sub-Committees – Joe Guarino**

STAFF APPRECIATION - The teachers enjoyed a fantastic meal from Food Stuffs during parent teacher conferences! Note for next year to serve a little earlier. We served at 4:30. It might be better served by 3:45. Teachers were hungry and ready to eat when the food arrived. We've stocked their lounge and will be gearing up for a Thanksgiving

breakfast on Tuesday from Once Upon a Bagel on Nov 21. A special thank you to parent Anita Zyzynsky for providing some special European sweets as well.

GIVING TREE - We are 70% of our goal with a little more than a month to go. Our deadline to raise funds will be December 14th before distributing gifts to all staff members the following week.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATION CHAIR - Sign ups created for book fair, turkey trot and 8th grade social. Send any additional sign up genius requests my way! Kate Logan.

BENEFIT CHAIRS - Previously provided their report

BOOK FAIR CHAIRS - We had a wonderful book fair last week, and are working on finalizing the financials and wrapping up loose ends. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and shopped the Book fair! Soon we'll be able to announce the dates for the spring book fair.

ROOM PARENT CHAIRS - Halloween parties & other Comms have been successful; grade parent parties still taking place through Jan. And speaking of parent parties...we reached out to the Kenilworth Historical Society to see if they would be open to offering the museum as a gathering venue for future parent parties. The dilemma with the party space (if no one is willing to host in their home) is that the budget does not cover the cost to rent a venue. In short, the Historical Society is willing to offer their space for future parent parties. Please see the note below copied from an email from Will Taylor, the current Director and Curator.

Hi Renée,

I spoke with the Executive Board yesterday afternoon, and they agreed to having the Kenilworth Historical Society host future Sears School parent cocktail parties. The Board thought it was a great opportunity to have Sears School parents see the historical society. As with previous times we have hosted outside groups, no rent or fee will be required. A donation is welcome.

Best,

Will Taylor

Let's keep this great option in mind when planning for future parties!

SEARS CAFE CHAIR - Very few issues with Marla's sign ups and orders. Only issue has been getting info about field trips where lunch is not needed so Marla can deactivate that day for ordering.

DROP IN (FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL) CHAIRS - We have our next event on Friday December 1st from 7:00-8:30 at the Cafenasium. We are having an ugly holiday sweater theme. Looking for parent volunteers to bring holiday treats & to chaperone the event. Would like a good mix of 7th and 8th grade parents. A few changes from our last event:

- Working on making the gym darker and have a new DJ booked (Mr. Carpenter!)

- Requiring kids to stay the entire time - will make this clear in the invitation when requesting RSVPs; appreciate your help sharing this update, especially with 8th graders
- Opening up additional spaces in the school for kids to hang out (gym); and
- Having real prizes vs. gift cards

14. **Adjourn at 9:33am**



(Lydia Mathas – JSSPVA President)



(Camie Park – JSSPVA Secretary)