



May 15, 2024 Meeting

Call to Order at 7:01pm

VDV & SMS Grant Updates:

Patti Clark and Kelly D'Ruso spoke about the materials they bought for the calming corners in each classroom. They also were able to purchase bean bags for many classrooms.

Joelle Kessler spoke about the flexible seating she purchased and showed a slide show of her students thanking the PTO

Espinoza shared information about the independent reading material that she was able to purchase for her classroom.

Accept Minutes: Amanda Hoy accepted minutes from the April meeting, Ashley Finlayson seconded the motion

Membership Report:

total for the 2023-2024 school year is 239 with 95 families and 44 staff members

Treasurer Report

- Fiscal Report
 - Opening Balance as of 4/17/24 \$41,973.83
 - Disbursements \$15,240.15
 - Deposits \$2,909.82
 - Closing Balance as of 5/14/24 \$29,643.50
- Fund Requests
 - Balloons for preschool concert was already approved and budgeted
 - \$100 for the 3rd grade beach day
 - all in favor 14 yes in person, 4 yes online
- Fundraisers
 - Dine to Donate fundraiser raised \$278.50
 - as of now there will be no more dine to donates for the rest of the year

Ongoing Business & Committee Updates

- Teacher Appreciation Week Recap
 - The week was a success with lots of teachers and staff sending many thanks to PTO
- Nurses Closet
 - The sign up genius was refreshed to add clothing for SMS
- Field Day
 - Thursday, May 23
 - so far there are 72 volunteers
 - all volunteers should arrive by 8:00am to help set up stations
 - asking all volunteers to wear a tie dye shirt

- rain date will be Friday, May 24
- Executive Board Elections took place with all in person voting and 2 online votes
 - 2024-2025 Board Members will be as follows:
 - President: Amanda Hoy
 - Vice President: Melinda Julian
 - Treasurer: Randa Rydzy
 - Secretary: Janet Moody
 - Fundraising (Co-Chairs): Ashley Finlayson & Alyssa Short
 - Communications: Megan Britton
 - Membership: Sam Marx
 - Spirit Wear: Korine Szot

2024/2025 Budget

- Only thing that needs to be changed to the budget is the VDV Book Fair-Scholastic Purchase to match the income of \$13,000
- Annual budget for next year was approved with 14 votes all in favor in person and 3 online
- the budget will be looked at again in September
- Amanda Hoy accepted the budget and Melinda seconded the motion
- Summer Planning events will be the following
 - PK Popsicles on the Playground
 - Ice Cream Social
 - Trunk or Treat
 - Playground
 - Fundraising

Updates from the Schools

- VDV:

NJSLS testing went really well. The students worked really hard and we only have a couple students left for testing. In two weeks, there were over 400 students tested. Friendship Day was such a success- Thank you for helping to support a great day for all!

We had our last coffee and conversation with the principals for the year.

Thank you to the PTO to help support in our field trips-

Preschool Students went to Turtleback Zoo

Kindergarten students went to Imagine That

1st grade students have also been visiting Trailside Nature and Science Center

2nd grade students have been visiting Build a Bear and have been loving it

3rd grade students attended a Patriots Game today

4th Grade will be heading to Bowlero

Self contained students - visiting Branchburg Sports Complex all self contained classes in VDV and some across the district

5th Grade events coming up:

Friday, June 7 - Woodbridge Community Center Trip
Tuesday June 18 - 5th grade Social during the school day
Wednesday June 19- 5th grade moving up 9:15 (no tickets needed for this)

May 21 Spring Concert 7pm @ Somerville High School
Thursday June 6 - Preschool Concert @ 9:15 am Families are invited
Friday June 7 - Kindergarten VIP Tea @ 9:15 am Families are invited
Sunday June 9 - Patriots Game @ 1:00 (band and chorus will be performing)
Strawberry Festival - June 13 starting at 5:30
Vocabulary Parade- June 17 @ 9:15 Families are invited

Butterflies have been distributed to all classrooms- Thank you for your support with this!

Field Day, May 23- Thank you in advance for your support and to our volunteers. Each class has a color they are encouraged to wear.

- **SMS:**

Week of 4/15-19th

1. On Friday, April 19th the 8th grade class visited Exchange Field for an Earth Day Trash Free Picnic. Students competed to see which homeroom class could bring the least garbage to the picnic. Once the picnic concluded, classes returned to SMS with all of their garbage to weigh the amount of garbage that each class collected to identify the class with the least and thus the winner.

Week of 4/22-25th

1. On April 24th, 82 8th graders and 21 adults bravely attended Challenge Day in the middle school gymnasium. Students (and adults) were asked to be open-minded and accepting as they engaged in activities that brought them through a range of emotions, from dancing and cheering each other on to sharing their feelings and experiences in small family groups to silently 'crossing the line' when prompted. Throughout their time together, students were encouraged to support each other, apologize to each other, manage their own feelings and behaviors, and thank anyone that has had a positive influence on them. Based on what was shared, just about everyone who attended gained something from the day and truly challenged themselves to make a positive change in their lives and in the lives of others.

-Thank you to the PTO for an awesome Teacher Appreciation Week!

-8th Grade went to Sterling Mines for a scientific field trip on Mon., 5/6.

- SMS completed NJSLA testing during the same week.

Upcoming Events:

May 20-21 - 8th Grade Science Testing

May 23 - Field Day - One session day
May 24 - One session day
May 28 - 29 - IReady ELA
May 29 - Spring Concert
May 31 - 8th Grade Mixer - @ SHS
June 3-5 - IReady Math
June 4 - NJHS Induction Ceremony
June 7 - Music in Parks - Grades 6-8
June 14 - 8th Grade Dinner - ½ Day students/Full Day Staff
June 17 - High Honor Roll Dinner
June 19 - 8th Grade Graduation - ½ Day Students/Full Day Staff
June 20 - Last Day of School - ½ Day Students/Full Day Staff

SEPAG:

Friendship Day was a success
on 5/28 there will be a meeting with the schools
There will also be a SEPAG table at the Summer Slide event

Close of Meeting at 8:00pm

PTO Executive Board

Amanda Hoy, President
Melinda Julian, Vice President
Janet Moody, Secretary
Randa Rydzy, Treasurer (Financial)
Ashley Finlayson, Treasurer (Fundraising)

Alyssa Short, Co-Membership
Sam Marx, Co-Membership
Megan Britton, Co-Communications
Korine Szot, Co-Communications