



## January 17, 2024 Meeting

**Call to Order @ 7:00pm**

**Accept Minutes** by Sam Marx, all approved

### **Membership Report:**

195 families  
44 staff members  
239 total

### **Treasurer Report**

- Fiscal Report- Current balance is \$73,605.00
- Fund Requests- no fund requests
- Fundraisers:
  - Gertrude Hawk total was \$19,205. We made a profit of \$9,600
  - Dine To Donates:
    - Blaze Pizza profit was \$214
    - Chipotle is on 1/24
    - Turf Surf and Earth will be in March
    - Hershey Park tickets will go on sale in the Spring

### **Ongoing Business**

- Holiday Shop Recap
  - About 176 kids attended
  - made over \$300 from the bake sale
  - Overall everything went great!
  - The committee is always looking for any feedback
- Teacher Holiday Treat Bar Recap
  - Went Great
  - Teachers & staff really appreciated it
  - Thank you email from Mrs. Helwig
- Spirit Wear
  - Always on sale
  - will look into getting pajama pants for VDV
- Day of Service
  - Students are choosing to write letters and/or drawing pictures to members of our community to thank them for their service.
  - PreK: Somerville Police Officers or Crossing Guards
  - K: Somerville Firefighters or Rescue Squad
  - 1st: Post Office (USPS workers) or Public Library Staff
  - 2nd: Shoprite Employees or Local Somerville Businesses
  - 3rd: Local Hospital Staff or Senior Housing
  - 4th: Somerville Recreation Department or Borough Council (Mayor's office)
  - 5h: Department of Public Works or Waste Management Technicians
  - All letters will be delivered sometimes in the following week

- Valentine Grams
  - We will be ordering more pencils and smencils
  - Flyers will be going out towards the end of January
  - Orders will be due on February 8th and delivery of pencils will be on 2/14
  - volunteers needs for put the bags together
  - Janet will reach out of Katelyn Glennon to see if her students can help
  
- VDV Book Fair
  - March 4-8 during school hours with one late night probably on that Thursday
  - set up will be on 2/29
  - Next meeting is virtual on 1/23 at 7pm
  - Looking for volunteered to help run the fair

### **Committee Updates**

- Cultural Diversity- no updates

### **New Business/Open for Discussion**

- 2024 Teacher/Staff Grants
  - New way for staff to apply for funding but this do not replace regular fund requests
  - asking all staff to apply for funds for anything that may be classroom or grade level needed ie. end of year grade level party
  - applications must be made by 2/15, they will first be Admin approved and then open for discussion by the Grant Committee
  - VDV is allotted \$3,500 and SMS is allotted \$1,500
  - This will be added to the grade level meeting agendas for next week per Ms. Frevert
  - VDV vote with Melinda seconding the vote, all in favor 20 members
  - SMS vote with Melinda seconding the vote, all in favor 20 members

### **Updates from the Schools**

- VDV
  - Congratulations to VDV teacher of the year: Barbara Glinka and our Educational Support Person of the year: Michelle Turnbull
  - Thank you PTO for the hot chocolate bar. It is much appreciated
  - the winter concert was held at the high school on 12/17. Mrs Wojewods and Mrs Helwig did a fantastic job leading the band and choir.
  - We had our fourth and fifth school wide read alouds. December was about tackling challenges together and January connected themes to engaging the world around us.
  - The Holiday shop on 12/9 was a great success. Thank you PTO for organizing
  - The holiday hop was on 12/22. Mr. Bogart and Ms. Breeman taught the students dances to celebrate the last day of school before winter break.

- VDV food drive was held in November. Thank you to all who donated. All donations went to feed community families in need during the holiday season.
  - Parents/Teacher Conferences were held in December
  - There were various assemblies in the last month that the students attended. A local dance company and an upcoming one called The Brain Show which is a game show format answering educational quiz questions.
  - The VDV spelling bee is back! Spelling Bees are being held this Monday. Winners will go on to participate in the Schoolwide VDV Bee on 1/29. That winner will then proceed to the county spelling bee held sometime during March.
  - There have been various dress up themes with the 80th day of school being the most recent. The 90th and 100th days will be determined based on snow days.
  - Coffee with the Principals for December and January was well received. The next event will be Thursday, February 8th at 9:30am.
- SMS
    - Congratulation to our Teacher of the Year: Kohlhepp Strange and Education Support Professional: Jeannine Guerriero
    - Thank you PTO for the holiday treat bar!
    - The holiday concert was a success. Mr. Loreti and Mr. Gibbins did a fantastic job preparing their students and our chorus is growing in numbers which is wonderful
    - The second marking period closes on 1/26
    - The SMS National Day of Service is completed. The students wrote thank you notes to various business and community organizations in town.
    - In sports: the boys basketball team is having a great season and getting ready for the playoffs, the girls basketball team for the first win and is improving every game and the wrestling team is currently undefeated. Awesome job to all our athletes!
    - Our musical, Into the Woods, is beginning with light rehearsals and practices.
    - The Valentines Day dance will be held on 2/9 from 7-9pm and it is \$5.00 a ticket
    - Incoming Freshman Night is rescheduled to 1/31 at 6::30pm in the SHS auditorium.
    - Yearbooks are currently on sale and 8th grade pictures are requested
    - A Chipotle Fundraiser is being held on 1/24 from 4-8pm by the Robotics Club
    - Admissions exam will be on 1/24 for VoTech
    - SMSA SALA applications are due on 1/31
    - The SHS scheduling letters will be going out to 8th graders on 2/26

**Other Business:**

- SEPAG has a workshop on 1/25 at 7pm
- Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of every month
- On 1/29 there is school district meeting

**Close of Meeting @ 7:45pm**

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**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

Meetings are 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of each month @ 7pm: 2/21, 3/20, 4/17, 5/15

**Organización de Padres y Maestros PTO de Somerville  
NJ Kinder-8 Grado  
Agenda de la reunión del 17 de Enero de 2024**

<b>Llama para ordenar</b>	Amanda Hoy
<b>Aceptar Minutos</b>	Janet Moody
<b>Informe de Membresía</b>	Alyssa Short y Sam Marx
<b>Informe del Tesorero</b>	
● Informe Fiscal	Randa Rydzy
● Solicitudes de Fondos	Randa Rydzy
● Recaudadores de Fondos	Ashley Finlayson
<b>Negocios en Curso</b>	
● Tienda navideña	Melinda Julian
● Barra de dulces navideñas para maestros	Randa Rydzy
● Ropa escolar	Amanda Hoy
● Dia de servicio	Alyssa Short
● lápices de San Valentín	Janet Moody
● Feria del Libro de VDV	Amy Sumoski/Erica Stepper
<b>Informes de Comités</b>	
● Diversidad cultural	Randa Rydzy
<b>Nuevo negocio / Abierto para discusión</b>	
● 2024 Becas para Profesors	Amanda Hoy

### **Actualizaciones de las escuelas**

- VDV. Escuela elementaria Van Derveer
- SMS. Escuela Intermediaria de Somerville (Middle School)

### **Cierre de la reunion**

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#### **PTO Junta Ejecutiva**

Amanda Hoy, Presidenta

Melinda Julian, Vice Presidenta

Janet Moody, Secretary

Randa Rydzy, Tesorera (Financiera)

Ashley Finlayson, Tesorera (Recaudación  
de Fondos)

Alyssa Short, Co-Afiliación

Sam Marx, Co-Afiliación

Megan Britton, Co-Comunicaciones

Korine Szot, Co-Comunicaciones

Las reuniones son el tercer miércoles de cada mes @ 7pm:2/21, 3/20, 4/17, 5/15