

Sauganash School PTA Meeting Minutes
19 September 2017

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

- A. President Shapiro called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. 30 members were present.
- B. Motion to approve the agenda by Sarah Creviston. Seconded by Sarah Datz.

II. Introductions

- A. President Shapiro welcomed all the old and new faces and invited everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves. Each member gave his/her name and the number/age(s) of their children attending Sauganash.

III. PTA Current Financial Status

- A. VP of Finance Deepak Babu presented a brief overview of the PTA's current financial status. He distributed a summary and walked the group through it section by section:
 - a. Auxiliary School Support: Represents the bulk of our expenditures in the form of salaries for teacher aides. We are providing six aides this year which is an increase over last year. Mrs. Shapiro added that in total, the PTA currently has approximately \$140,000.
 - b. Student Activities: Supported by our annual fund drive and spring benefit. Mr. Babu read through the list of activities we support and mentioned that we are not doing green team or budgeted to purchase any new clothing to sell this year.
 - c. Fundraising Activities: Mr. Babu summarized that our main sources of revenue are once again expected to come from the annual fund drive and spring benefit, with lesser amounts coming from the Grand Family Fling and miscellaneous other activities.
 - d. Administrative Activities: Includes merchandise processing fees, Illinois PTA fees, etc.
 - e. Pass Through: Represent placeholders for organizations that have nowhere else to deposit money, such as the D.C. trip.
- B. The floor was opened for questions. One parent asked what the line item "8th grade support" was for and Mrs. Shapiro explained that the PTA wants to provide support to this group in recognition for all the families have done to support our group over the years. For example, the PTA might pay for a BBQ at year end for eighth graders. There were a few other clarifying questions and Mr. Babu reiterated that we have approximately \$140,000 cash currently.

Parent Jenny Tianis thanked the PTA for giving something in the form of aides to the upper grades. She stated this hasn't often been done and was appreciated. Assistant Principal Kennedy reiterated this thanks on behalf of the fifth and sixth grade teachers not present.

IV. Budget Review and Approval

- A. Laura Honda motioned to approve the 2017-18 budget. Tracy Mayer seconded. The budget passed with all present voting in favor.

V. and VI. Membership Drive and PTO Update

(Items V and VI were covered prior to IV and V, while copies were being made for Mr. Babu's financial summary.)

Mrs. Shapiro reminded parents that our membership drive is going on now. Parents should have received notice and forms in last week's Friday folders. She explained that we have established PTO that is currently operating and we would like to dissolve our Sauganash PTA because there are fewer restrictions on how we fundraise and what we do with the money we receive (such as paying teacher aide salaries). She, along with LSC Chairman Elaine Fitzgerald underscored that there is no downside to dissolving the PTA. Mrs. Shapiro mentioned that as a PTO we will no longer have to submit an approximately \$5 per member fee to the Illinois PTA. To dissolve, we must provide one month's notice to the Illinois PTA.

and give them an opportunity to present their case for continuing the PTA to its membership. At the end of this period, 25% of our membership must be present and vote in favor of dissolution. The date set for this vote is November 8th.

A question was asked regarding whether the Illinois PTA provides training to school board members. Mrs. Shapiro responded yes that they do and Vice President of Fundraising Sarah Creviston added that the PTO provides substantially the same resources at no cost.

There was a discussion regarding our membership drive and the need to have a drive. We are required to have an open drive and allow all members to come to the meeting and vote to dissolve.

VII. Other Business

President Shapiro asked those present to please take and review the tentative calendar of events for this year. LSC Chair Elaine Fitzgerald asked attendees to note that the spring scholastic book fair has been scheduled for May 7th, 8th, and 9th. She asked for volunteers, and shared how much fun the students have visiting the fair during school, making their wish lists, and participating. The proceeds benefit the school in the form of scholastic magazines and other supplies.

Sarah Creviston gave a brief update on fundraising. The annual fund drive will be two months long again this year, commencing October 1st and running through the end of November. Having a finite goal helps to encourage people to participate without the message getting lost or diluted as the year goes on. Sarah will again be asking for support from local businesses and community members and reiterated that the money raised helps pay for much needed support such as the kiss and go, which has helped tremendously with traffic flow this year. Mrs. Creviston explained the purpose behind last year's pick up socials, and the importance of encouraging participation and raising awareness. She plans to do them again on Thursdays and will be asking for help. She is also looking for help with local outreach to businesses, and mentioned that Physicians Immediate Care, Lifeway Foods, and Orange Therapy are among those already working with us. Sarah, along with President Shapiro, plugged matching donations from the employers of school parents and families.

Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Barrie asked what other fundraising activities are spread throughout the year. Mrs. Creviston mentioned several smaller fundraisers such as restaurant fundraisers, Barnes and Noble day, the Holiday Fair, box tops, amazon smile, even setting up an app that donates a portion of your scanned grocery store receipts. Mrs. Barrie responded in favor of spreading these events throughout the year (including basket preparation for the spring benefit) as it is easier for teachers to provide their support in this way.

President Shapiro reminded the group that Family Fun Night is this Friday and that the fun will be provided by i9 Sports this year. Thanks to Izzy from i9 sports! The 7th graders will be selling treats too. There will also be a membership table for the PTA, Cub Scouts and Orange Theory. Carrie Frieswyk called for additional volunteers and directed attendees to the sign up genius for additional information. Shifts are one hour so that volunteers can also enjoy the event with their families.

President Shapiro mentioned that she and Principal Munns will be encouraging every parent to volunteer at least once this year for a classroom or PTA event. It makes a big difference in our ability to do things for our school.

She announced that the next meeting will take place on October 11th, and encouraged everyone to attend.

VIII. Adjournment

Laura Honda provided a motion to adjourn. Laura Jops seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.