



SEVENTH AVENUE SCHOOL PTO MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Seventh Avenue School, Library

- I. Call to Order & Introductions** – Candice called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Introduction of attendees.
- II. Welcome and President's Report**
 - Annual overview – Hoping to offer new family/community involvement events, including a Movie Night, Bingo Night, St. Patrick's
 - Volunteer status – Recap chair and committee lead roles filled, still vacant
 - Michelle Villar is Volunteer Coordinator and has maintained an online Sign-Up for the different roles. Of particular needs:
 - Fun Lunch Coordinator; Jen Burrows is available to co-lead if someone else is available.
 - Holiday Lunch Coordinator (a teacher appreciation event)
- III. Principal's Report**
 - Erin provided information regarding the 7th Avenue School test scores, which have been very strong compared to state averages and other area schools.
 - Overview of One Book One School this year – Wonder. Will be exploring differences and acceptance of differences.
 - Safety drills took place this week. Erin discussed how those are executed, as well as the school's major security features.
- IV. Teacher's Report**
 - Mrs. Walsh and Ms. Geballe attended. Mrs. Walsh thanked PTO for back to school gift. She also provided information on, and appreciation for, the new library furniture that PTO purchased last year.
 - Mrs. Walsh asked about availability of teacher stipends, and Patricia confirmed that program was continuing and reminded on how teachers can submit their reimbursement grant.
- V. Other Officer Reports**
 - A. Secretary**
 - *Action Item* – On a motion properly made and seconded, the minutes from the 5.09.2024 meeting were approved as presented.
 - B. Treasurer**
 - 2024-25 Agenda. A discussion was held re: current financials, annual objectives, and proposed changes from 2023-24 Budget.
 - Last year, we ended about 10k under Budget.
 - Patricia noted that proposed budget is pretty conservative in fundraising/revenue estimates since they have historically varied.



- *Action Item – On a motion properly made and seconded, 2024-25 Budget was approved as presented.*

C. Ways & Means

- Seventh Avenue Shuffle – Limited need for volunteers; all seems ready to go for event. Candice received quote for work to spruce up kickball field (\$7900).
- Book Fair updates – We are unable to overlap with first set of conferences, as in years past, due to Anderson's availability. It is ideal to do this on times when parents are already in the building. Discussion regarding potential for doing in February. Candice will follow up.

D. School Support

- Bingo Night – Next Tuesday. We are planning for >100.
- Jen reported that the back-to-school coffee was a success.

VI. Discussion Items / New Business, if not covered above

- Past: Picture Day – All went well. There is a re-take date in November.
- Upcoming: Trivia Night – Will be on October 25.

VII. Open Floor

- Crosswalk at La Grange & 52nd Street
 - Tavares Williams, parent of 5th grader and 6th grader. – Spoke regarding his effort to help kids get more aware of the neighborhood and surrounding areas; in particular concerned about La Grange road as an intimidating barrier between East and West La Grange.
 - Tavares is reaching out to the Village, County, and State to try and get support in a creating a safe crossing between the areas, especially because aging kids have an increasing need to travel from East to West.
 - Tavares mostly wanted to provide info, but may have specific asks in the future, such as petitions or collaboration in presenting to the Village. Various attendees provided support for the initiative and voiced willingness to assist.
- Question raised regarding having an electronic version of the Directory. Candice provided overview of past challenges with doing electronic version of Parent Directory. Becky Mahr recommended a particular product she's familiar with (DirectorySpot), which might be a decent option for next year. For this year, PTO will at least create an electronic copy/PDF.
 - Additional consideration – Families who start with the school mid-year, after the Directory is published. Note that Room Parents should attempt to push out any mid-year updates to the other parents in the room, so that no one is left out.

VIII. Adjourn