

SOMS PTA MINUTES

January 12, 2010

DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING ON 02/09/10

Meeting came to order at 7:35pm.

Minutes of Meeting on November 17, 2009 were accepted with one edit.

President's Report – Evan Karzhevsky

- Thank you to Lenora Mezibov for her work on the Reflections Program which was a great success in all the schools.
- On March 10th Rachel Simmons, best-selling author (Odd Girl Out; Curse of the Good Girl) and authority on issues related to self esteem and girl on girl bullying in the middle school years, will be at SOMS for the full day. Preliminary plan is for day to include:
 - Assembly for girls only
 - Smaller group meetings with girls
 - Evening event for parents

Boys will have a normal schedule that day, but a similar day focusing on the boys is being considered.

- NYS PTA Legislation/Education Conference will take place the weekend of February 27th in Albany. SOMS attendees to be determined.
- There will be a NYS PTA Summer Leadership Conference at Utica College July 30 and 31. Anyone interested in attending as a representative of SOMS should contact Evan Karzhevsky at - evankarr@hotmail.com.
- Looking ahead to next year:
 - School Store –need someone to take over running the school store and it would be great if they could get involved during the current school year in order to ensure a smooth transition. Anyone interested should contact Linda Reiner at - lindalou619@verizon.net .
 - Clothing Sales – need someone to take over running the clothing sales fundraiser and it would be great if they could get involved during the current school year in order to ensure a smooth transition. Anyone interested should contact Anne Swann at - amswann@verizon.net .
 - Anyone interested in becoming an officer of SOMS PTA next year should review the list of positions on the website to see what is involved with each and contact Evan Karzhevsky at - evankarr@hotmail.com. - if you are interested.

Principal's Report – Karen Tesik

- As of 2/1/10 a Student Assistance Counselor, Annie Scott, will join the faculty part time. SOMS and TZHS will be sharing her time. Her focus will be substance abuse prevention. Funding came from a grant obtained by SOCASA. Introduction letter will be mailed home. Also included in that mailing will be an “opt out” form for parents who do not wish their child to participate in the PRIDE survey (anonymous survey on substance abuse).

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- Basketball hoop purchased by PTA update – pole has been installed and hoop will be installed shortly.
- Winter concerts were a big success. A number of our students also participated in the All County Chorale and Band presentations.
- Spring Musical is off to a great start with auditions and sign ups in full swing. Director is in place.
- Mid Terms for 8th graders only will be the week of January 26th. 6th and 7th grades do not have mid-terms but will have evaluation tests to identify areas where more review is necessary before State Assessments.
- Will get more detailed update on Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP). Currently know that:
 - Members of the foreign language faculty in both SOMS and TZHS are evaluating Rosetta Stone to determine if it will be a valuable, and easily accessible, tool for the community.
 - A class in Mandarin began this semester.
 - Russian will be offered via a “virtual classroom” set up in the next semester.
- There will be a High School orientation program for parents of 8th grade students presented by the high school Guidance Counselors. Just the first of many outreach efforts for 8th grade students and their parents planned for this year.
- Modified Sports – a parent requested that general information about the various sports, - when are the seasons, when are tryouts, how often and how long are practices, etc. - be made available on the website prior to the start of the various seasons so parents and students can make an informed decision about participating. Mrs. Tesik said she would look into it.

Treasurer’s Report

- Box Top Check received.

PTA Council Report – Mary Ryker

- Discussion of developing a “welcome package” for families just entering the district.
- Suggestion that High School Guidance Counselors should begin discussion of college admission process/requirements/options during their meetings with students earlier than junior year.

Committees

Special Events – Joy Ruggiero

- Dance for 6th, 7th and 8th grades on January 22nd
 - Permission slips on website.
 - Tickets on sale week of the dance. One slice of pizza and a drink will be included in the cost of the ticket.

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- Parent Volunteers will handle refreshment sales and “keep an eye out”. If there is something that needs to be addressed, they will find a Faculty Chaperone to handle it.
- Faculty Chaperones will have sole responsibility for overseeing activity in the gym.
- Slam Dunk event will be cancelled due to limited attendance/participation last year.

Clothing Sales

- Holiday sale brought in 148 orders which generated approximately \$2,000 in profit.
- Spring sale starts in March
- New items will include girls Soffee shorts, Capri pants and, possibly, a short sleeved, tie-dye t-shirt.

Founder’s Day

- Dinner will be held on Wednesday, February 24th at the Casa Mia Manor House.
- Glen Spiegelman will be recognized by SOMS

Nominating Committee

- Must have 5 members, 3 from Executive Board and 2 from general PTA membership.
 - Members nominated:
 - Executive Board
 - Bonnie Bello
 - Lenora Mesibov
 - Lisa Connolly
 - General Membership
 - Michelle Clements
 - Elizabeth Howell
 - Nominations seconded by Mrs. Tesik and approved by unanimous consent of all meeting attendees.

Next meeting will be held at 7:30, February 2nd in the SOMS Library.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.