



# SEDGEFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

## GENERAL PTO MEETING AGENDA

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October 25, 2022 | 6:00 PM | Zoom

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### Meeting Participants

Cheri Barden, Molly Bilderback, Owen Bugge, Pam Blake, Dana Christmas, Catherine Eldridge, Allison Hackney, Susan Holloway, Lindsay Jones, Mercer Langley, Ann Lambiotte, Ann-Miller Mattocks, Latoya McCants, Teresa McCreary, Sheena Miracle, Meredith Murchison, Laura Murdock, Cara Pearsall, Evonne Peterson, Arthur Price, Jaime Rentch, Liz Waller, Margaret Jane Willoughby

### Meeting Facilitators

Sheena Miracle, Meredith Murchison, Laura Murdock, and Cara Pearsall

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### Welcome

Laura Murdock, Co-President

### Roll Call – Zoom Picture

### Principal Update

Sheena Miracle, Principal

- Current enrollment is holding steady at a little over 500 students.
- SMS teaching positions are 100% staffed.
- It's been a wonderful and amazing start to the school year! The culture is beautiful.
  - There has been an increase in attendance and in student engagement and a decrease in behavior incidents.
  - Behavior recognition incentive was on 10/14/22 during HAC. Had significantly more students able to attend than in previous years.
- MAP data projects proficiency higher for this year than last year.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade science was identified as a weak area last year. There is a strong plan in place to grow 8<sup>th</sup> science students this year. Collaborative planning with Dr. Matt Hayes, CMS Deputy Superintendent, Academic Services, to create a plan to grow students.
- Partnership with Dottie Rose Foundation – the Foundation will provide the opportunity for SMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade females to do academic exploration (partnering with Lowes and Lending Tree).
- Prospective Parent tours have started and the feedback is that SMS is magical.
- Dr. Matt Hayes, CMS Deputy Superintendent, Academic Services, was observing a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class today and had very positive feedback. He was impressed to see compacting and extension units happening to connect concepts at a level students need to be taught at.

### Financial Reviews

Laura Murdock, Co-President

- 2021-2022 Financial Review Report
  - Financial Review Committee meets and goes through a detailed checklist which includes year end income, expenses, bank statements, voided checks, transaction logs, tax returns, check requests, cash statements, etc.
  - The Committee can make recommendations for future years. The 2021-2022 committee recommended to amend cash procedure to include “signature of at least one board member” (instead of two). Also, recommended having the PTO Treasurer present at all financial reviews so the process can run efficiently.

- PTO participants, listed above, voted and a majority approved the 2021-2022 Financial Review Report.
- Vote on 2022-2023 Financial Review Committee
  - 2022-2023 Financial Review Committee (Jenny Morton, Lynne McDonald, Chris Williams, and Molly Bilderback) was presented to the general PTO and was voted on.
  - PTO participants, listed above, voted and a majority approved the 2022-2023 Financial Review Committee.

## **Empowering Extraordinary Update**

Meredith Murchison, Co-President

- Thank you to the Empowering Extraordinary committee chairs – Lori Culicerto, Rose Herring, Jenny Jordan and April Whitlock!
- Empowering Extraordinary raised approximately \$123,000.
  - \$50,200 in personal/family donations.
  - \$56,750 in corporate sponsorships.
  - \$10,000 grant from Darren and Kathryn Ash for hitting our family goal of \$50,000.
  - \$6,000 in expected corporate matches.
  - Approximately \$26,000 remaining (above operating and Hoplite contributions) and available for capital investments.
    - Ideas are a sunshade for the athletic field bleachers, curtain for cafeteria, new sound system for cafeteria/auditorium, mats for the gym walls.
  - An amazing 150 community members donated (including corporate, staff, parents, family members, and neighbors)!

## **2022-2023 Budget Review**

Cara Pearsall, Treasurer

- The budgeted amount is what we need to function as a PTO with important line items listed.
  - Budget was created with input from previous VPs and committee chairs. Each VP has a line item within the budget to manage. PTO will provide an update each month with how much is spent so each VP knows the status of their budget.
- Family Engagement - includes Spartan Fund, Fall Fun Day, Spring Event, Student Council, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committees/Events
  - Spartan Fund - Student Grant, InReach, Student Scholarship, Student Family Crisis
- Student Support - Behavior Incentives, Academic Incentives, Spartan of Month, Hoplite Sports Banquet, School Clubs, Interactive Learning, In Class Enrichment, Field Trips/Transportation
  - Student of the Month - Lunch with Administration has been successful.
  - Hoplite/Sports Banquet - Hoplite will fund 50%.
  - In Class Enrichment - Ms. Miracle will manage this.
- Staff Support - Staff Gifts, Staff Meals
  - Staff Gifts - Beginning of year gift cards were given to teachers with a handwritten note. Teachers really appreciated this! There will be a holiday gift card as well. Principal and AP appreciation will also occur.
  - Staff Meals - There was a back to school luncheon with Jimmy John's (very appreciated). Other staff meals include: Holiday Luncheon, Valentine's Lunch, Staff Appreciation (lunch and breakfast), Woo-Hoo Cart 6 times this year (includes all staff - feeding 72 each time) and occurs on the third Thursday of each month.
- Department Funds - Math, Science, ELA, Social Studies, Art, Band, Dance, Drama
- Campus and Staff Support - Technology and Digital Learning, Professional Development, Grounds, Health and Safety
  - Technology and Digital Learning - Title 1 funding is also supporting this line item.
- Miscellaneous - Principal's Fund, President's Fund, Hospitality, Summer Funds, Incidentals
  - Principal's Fund - includes items for staff appreciation days. Administration will manage this.
  - Summer Funds - place holder for when the books close. Balance is kept at \$5,000.
- Administrative/Overhead - PayPal/Admin Fees, Charitable Solicitation License, Amazon Account, Cheddar Up, Treasurer and Secretary Supplies, Insurance, Tax Prep and Quick Books

- Marketing/Communications/Fundraising - PTO Website, Constant Contact, Marketing Support, EE Family Support, EE Corporate Support, EE Field Signs, EE T-shirts, Prospective Parents
- Capital Investments of approx. \$26,000.
- 2022-2023 PTO Expenses total \$98,551. This includes \$78,870 in operating expenses, \$15,500 for Hoptite, and \$4181 as carry over from last year for capital investments.

### **Vote on 2022-2023 PTO Budget**

Meredith Murchison, Co-President

- PTO participants, listed above, voted and a majority approved the 2022-2023 PTO Budget.

### **Upcoming Calendar of Events**

Laura Murdock, Co-President

- October 26 - Early Release Day
- October 28 - First Quarter Ends
- October 31 - No School - Teacher Workday
- November 4 - A/B Honor Roll Recognition (In-school event)
- November 5 - Fall Grounds Day (9:00 AM -12:00 PM)
- November 8 - No School - Teacher Workday
- November 11 - No school - Veterans Day
- November 16 - Prospective Families Open House 6:00 PM
- November 23 - 25 No school – Thanksgiving
- December 8 - Prospective Parent Principal Coffee (8:30 AM)
- December 8 - PTO Board Meeting (12:00-2:00 PM)
- December 9 - Holiday Luncheon for staff
- December 15 - Dance Recital (6:00 PM)
- December 16 - Nov/Dec Behavior and Academic Incentive
- December 20-21 - No School - Teacher Workdays
- December 22-30 - No School - Winter Break

### **Update on Bond Package**

Meredith Murchison, Co-President

- Co-Presidents and SMS administration met with Dennis LaCaria, CMS facilities consultant, and Walter Hall, Director of Magnet Programs, in response to questions about the CMS Comprehensive Review 2023 plan and the impact it would have on Sedgefield Middle School.
  - Park Road Montessori (PRM) needs a new school due to the current state of its facility.
  - The CMS board policy prioritizes neighborhood schools over magnets, which means that any new school construction must house a neighborhood school and not a magnet. Therefore, it is not an option to build PRM a new facility on their current site.
  - The plan suggests the following as the priority option for PRM relocation: Move PRM to the SMS Campus.
    - A new neighborhood elementary school with new attendance boundaries would be built on the current PRM Site to alleviate overcrowding at other feeder schools in our area.
    - Dilworth Elementary would collapse into a single location at Latta Campus.
    - Sedgefield Middle School would move into a middle school facility based at Sedgefield Campus of Dilworth Elementary School (located at 715 Hartford Avenue, with additional access from Marsh Road), with renovations and additions to the current building to meet existing standards for a baseline middle school, including 54 classrooms, middle school sized gym, etc. The new SMS school facility would also have all the fields associated with baseline requirements for newly built middle schools- Softball, Baseball, Football/Soccer, Track, etc. - which would be an upgrade from our existing campus.
    - No school (SMS, DES, PRM) would be displaced during the execution of the plan. Construction/Renovation would take place on-site at the PRM and Sedgefield Campus Sites during the school year with the summer being used to complete

construction/renovations at all three locations. This eliminates temporary locations for each school impacted. He confirmed multiple times SMS would not be displaced to allow PRM early access.

- Second option: New Middle School on Park Road Site. Dennis says it is not an optimal site for the middle school due to challenges in providing a baseline facility, so not the desired outcome.
- Third option: Find existing land with a potential additional purchase for space w/in the current SMS zone. No specific sites were identified as a possibility.
- Timing - There are multiple steps that must first happen before this plan is approved. The plan will first be presented to the new school board in February 2023 for approval. If approved, it then would be part of the bond package in the November 2023 local election for the Charlotte community to approve. Assuming the bond package is approved, the county then has discretion on which projects are prioritized. Therefore, construction most likely would not happen for 2-3 years at the earliest, but also could take longer depending on that prioritization.
- Boundaries - the existing boundaries of the SMS Zone would not change due to this plan; however, our current feeder school pattern will most likely increase to include the new elementary school (at the PRM site) which will add students from new neighborhoods to our student body. It is still to be determined which students will be routed to the new elementary school, but he mentioned portions of Selwyn and Huntingtowne Farms Elementary as possibilities.
- SMS currently does not have a funding line item listed in the Comprehensive Review Deck. We were told there will definitely be funding for a new middle school. This plan doesn't "cancel" Sedgefield Middle School.
- Dennis and Walter are willing to host a community meeting at Sedgefield Middle School that specifically discusses the plan for our school. Principal Miracle has provided them with possible dates, and we expect to hear back late this week. We will communicate a date as soon as we have one.
- **We strongly request that our community engage in this process.** The comprehensive review process not only includes bond issues but a complete overhaul of magnet schools and more importantly is part of the 7-year reassignment that could potentially impact our feeder pattern all the way to high school. This can impact our families at every stage of their child's education.
- Please click [here](#) to see the full list of meetings that CMS is having for community engagement. Coming up immediately is a meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 6 PM at Harding University High. This is a general meeting covering all topics of the plan, not just the portion concerning Sedgefield Middle. There will also be a virtual meeting on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 12 PM, to discuss the Boundary Development Process.
- SMS has a strong and active alumni group that needs to be engaged.
- SMS doesn't have state regulated items like kindergarten and preschool toilets and playgrounds for a pre-K 8 Montessori school.
- SMS administration would like to keep our current building with renovations like a new gym. SMS is located in the heart of a majority of our students and allows for easy walkability for fieldtrip and learning extensions with local business.
- PTO member suggestion to send out an Informal survey to parents and SMS alumni to gauge support (or lack of support).

## Next Steps and Adjournment

Meredith Murchison, Co-President

- Reminder to sign up for the Spartan Express and for volunteer opportunities.
- Next general PTO meeting – late January (info. to follow).