



SEDGEFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

PTO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2023 | 12:00-2:00 | In-person Meeting

Meeting Invitees

Molly Bilderback, Chrissy Brown, Susan Holloway, Ann-Miller Mattocks, Teresa McCreary, Meredith Murchison, Laura Murdock, Cara Pearsall, Evonne Peterson, Ginny Sloan, Dr. Eric Tornfelt, Margaret Jane Willoughby

Meeting Facilitators

Molly Bilderback and Meredith Murchison, Co-Presidents

Welcome and Call to Order

Molly Bilderback, Co-President

Molly recognized the PTO volunteers for all their work helping the school receive the Charlotte Middle School of the Year award. She shared the video clip of Lisa Cline (CMS Board of Education representative) recognizing SMS at the CMS Board of Education meeting.

Approval of October 12th Meeting Minutes

Susan Holloway, Secretary

October PTO Board meeting minutes were approved.

October General PTO meeting minutes were approved with one edit from Teresa McCreary regarding the QuickBooks annual detailed transaction report. That edit will be made before posting the minutes to the PTO website.

Administrative Update

Ms. Miracle was at an off-campus meeting reviewing the latest school data.

Dr. Eric Tornfelt gave the administrative update.

- Current enrollment is 485. Attendance is approximately 95%.
- Staffing: Ms. Charles moved to CA to be closer to her family. Ms. Frasier, who has been the substitute in her class, will be taking her place. Still waiting on childcare details for those teachers currently out on maternity leave
- Academic incentive scheduled for Friday Nov. 17. Students on the A/B honor roll will receive a doughnut.
- Winter athletics: Tryouts are happening for basketball and cheerleading
- Arts night was a big success for the school. Overall, the administration was pleased with the attendance and performances by the students and teachers.
- Dec 15 will be the next behavior recognition.
- Dec 7th will be the first Donuts with Dads, scheduled for 7:45am that day. Dr. Tornfelt confirmed that he does not need help from the PTO for the event.
- Data
 - EVOS provides data regarding student growth. In ELA, all teachers showed growth (either met or exceeded growth). In Math, only one teacher did not meet growth. Science and Math 1 data to follow. EVOS data is also used to determine the school letter grade. SMS is very close to a B school but needed to show a little more growth.

- iReady subscriptions for math (not Math 1 or 2) are being used during Spartan Time for remediation and enrichment. TBD Math 1 and Math 2 support via iReady.
- 8th grade science has an EOG. In preparation 8th grade students are receiving extra science support throughout the year.
- Dr. Tornfelt will follow up with Ms. Miracle on the idea of a “drive by” MAP score distribution.
- The question was raised regarding how/why Piedmont Middle School offers science and social studies every day. Dr. Tornfelt explained that SMS has longer blocks to allow for fewer transitions, and more focus on English and Math with longer classes.
- Spanish speaking tour for a prospective family with Ms. Marrero was a big success.
- A question was raised regarding picture make up day. Traditionally these photos go in the yearbook, and you can order copies of the photos. Dr. Tornfelt will confirm if there is another winter/spring picture day and if those pictures can also go in the yearbook.
- A question was raised regarding the CMS Perform test policy. Dr. Tornfelt explained that extra credit is not considered a test re-take. A test re-take cannot receive a score above 80. Students should be advocating for themselves for opportunities for test re-takes. If there are concerns, parents should reach out to the teacher first regarding test re-takes.
- The winter band concert is scheduled for Dec 12. Chorus and Dance recital will likely be combined, and that date has not yet been determined.
- SMS received the CMS Foundation innovation grant for the 2023-24 school year. Dr. Tornfelt and Sharon Jones from Dottie Rose are focused on continuing the same support outside of the grant after this school year. The overall purpose of the grant is to help our students have meaningful lives, not focused specifically on academics. Financial resources and coaching are a part of the CMS grant. Dr. Tornfelt has been receiving coaching on innovation. The grant has also allowed for field trips, like the visit to McGee Brothers masonry, and Men of Sedgefield speakers on Friday mornings. Sharon Jones from Dottie Rose is working with a group of students on the courtyard re-design project. Designs will be used as part of the application for the Lowe’s grant. Sharon Jones is helping the Lowe’s grant. As part of the CMS Foundation Grant, some SMS students have been interviewed by Sonja Gantt for use in CMS Foundation videos.
- HAC – Safety and order with peers and teachers and cleaning up after yourselves continue to be a focus for all students. The administration had to break up 8th grade HAC times to encourage more safety and order. There continues to be shifting in schedules for some 7th graders. Currently there is no snack bar opportunity for 6th lunch.

Budget and Capital Expense Update

Meredith Murchison, Co-President

Cara Pearsall, Treasurer

- Monthly Budget Review
 - Total income: \$97k. Cara is following up on pledged amounts received in Cheddar Up.
 - Majority of the income in Event Sales came from the parent party
 - Cara is receiving some department expenses and overall, there seems to be very thoughtful use of funds.
 - Expense for field signs went over budget slightly but they can be used year over year.
 - Carryover capital stands at \$28k
 - Total PTO Capital investment stands at \$45k.
 - *The goal is to have a plan for how to spend by the end of December with no carryover this year school year. Below are ideas for how to spend the capital. Open to all additional ideas.*
 - Chrome book chargers
 - Professional development – iReady for all students
 - Drama company for a Spring performance
 - New bleachers – *Asked Hoplite to pay for the bleachers out of their funds.*
 - Front office refresh
 - Recover media center benches
 - Branded doormats
 - Incremental field trips
 - Speaker for Two Roads discussion – *Ms. Miracle has asked for native American speaker*
 - HAC equipment – *The Student Council wants students to vote on the HAC equipment they want to have and then work with Coach Tatom on finding the right equipment.*

- Marketing – Charlotte Observer award
- Band instrument repair
- Sports banners

PTO General Business

Molly Bilderback, Co-President

- Sedgefield Neighborhood Association
 - 4-way stop at Poindexter and Dorchester
 - Molly attended the Sedgefield Neighborhood Association meeting and gave a report on how well the school is doing and asked for help in getting a 4-way stop.
 - We currently have 2 parent volunteers working with the neighborhood association on getting a 4-way stop.
- Spirit Wear
 - Last day to order spirit wear is Nov. 22. These orders will be delivered to school prior to winter break.
 - Will follow up with Stacy to see if orders can be given to parents vs. to students if parents are using Spirit Wear as part of their holiday gifts.

Round Table Updates

- Prospective Parents – Molly Bilderback, Co-President
 - Open House is tonight at 6pm
 - FYI – basketball tryouts are also tonight and there could be parking issues
 - Ms. Diaz is our new ELL teacher, and she will be giving Spanish speaking tours on Thursdays when needed. Added Thursdays to SUG for tours.
- Family Engagement – Chrissy Brown, VP Family Engagement
 - Fall Festival was a big success! Good turnout given the weather.
 - Spring event in the planning phase – considering a tailgate for soccer and/or baseball game with a “Blue Out” and possibly food trucks
 - TBD: Kona Ice at spring sports
 - Chrissy will attend the Student Council meeting tomorrow to discuss sports equipment voting
 - It was requested to add a blurb about Student Council events to Spartan Express
- Staff Support – Margaret Jane Willoughby, VP Staff Support
 - Academic recognition scheduled for Friday
 - Holiday luncheon – Dec 14 with Boxed lunches from Mama Ricottas.
 - TBD: Holiday gift from PTO (gift card amount TBD)
- Staff Report – Evonne Peterson, Staff Representative
 - Elective team is sharing a budget line item. Ms. Peterson asked clarifying questions for how to manage expense reimbursement for this shared line item.
 - The WooHoo cart is a wonderful way to support staff.
 - Thank you to PTO for providing snacks for Arts Night. Turnout was good for Arts Night.
 - Thank you to PTO for support for Art field trip to Uptown Mint Museum.
- PTO Communications – Lauren Gomez, VP Communications
 - Lauren was not able to attend the meeting.
- CMS Communications – Ann-Miller Mattocks, VP CMS Communications
 - There was a CMS Board meeting this week. The top 8 projects that will be funded by the bond have been identified. Marie G. Davis is scheduled to be renovated. There could be impacts to SMS enrollment once all the transitions from the bond projects have been completed. Ann-Miller will continue to keep the Board updated on decisions.
- Volunteers/Athletics – Laura Murdock, Past President
 - We can remove Spanish speaker volunteer ask from SE.
 - The “to do” task force needs another volunteer
 - Team parents’ program was very helpful for Coach Tatom
- SIT/Community Partners – Ginny Sloan, At Large Community Partners/SIT Liaison
 - Catherine Eldridge and Jennifer Parker are helping with the Lowe’s grant
 - There will not Christmas a “shopping” experience with Sedgefield Methodist the season. The church is focusing on providing needed school supplies instead.

Calendar Review

Meredith Murchison, Co-President

- November 16 - Prospective Parents Open House (6-7:30pm)
- November 17 - A/B Honor Roll Recognition Event
- November 22-24 - No School – Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 5 - Chorus Concert (6:00pm)
- December 6 - Dance Recital (6:00pm)
- December 8 - Feeder School Principal Lunch (11:00am)
 - Park Rd Montessori, Myers Park Traditional coming too
- December 12 - Holiday Band Concert (6:00pm)

Miscellaneous/Action Items/Next Steps

Meredith Murchison, Co-President

- Meredith reminded the board that a President-elect is needed for 2024-25 school year.

Adjournment

Meredith Murchison, Co-President

- Next Meeting December 14, 2023 – Location change to Novel Room