

PTO Monthly Meeting

Tuesday September 12th, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2839065779?pwd=WTVDV3pHRzlhelNZRnJJaUF4U2ptdz09>

I. Welcome & Introductions

In attendance

Liz C. Laura E, Laura V, Daniel M, Krisjon O. Lucy M. Lucy. R, Gabriela M, Jenny H., Anne G., Laura C, Sierra, Libby, Mick, Paulina E., Renuka T.

II. Principal Update

(Anne Gillespie)

A. Instructional improvement and Professional Development (School Improvement Plan)

MMSD is using a different format, Anne feels they are good changes in terms of ease to work with. District wrote Elementary School Improvement Plan (SIP) goals for all students. They are to improve scores in math, reading and attendance. Schools can differentiate strategies. SIP will be finalized tomorrow at district meeting

B. Last year Shorewood Hills Elementary School (SHES) was one of eight schools chosen for a pilot called the Collab Lab. This was a project that came out of data from a staff morale survey. Some items on the surveys that were bothering staff were things out of their control, one issue they could control was more staff planning time. Collab Lab, at SHES is known as Shark Dive, is 2-3 hours of continuous planning time and includes support staff. Staff will be starting them this Thursday. Students will be in specials (normal prep time) then the other hour classrooms will partner with another grade. Last year the classrooms that piloted it loved the buddy time. So much positive feedback. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons will also be taught to kids during this time. Research shows the more time teachers can spend together, the more they can grow in their career.

C. MMSD partnership with ICS-work around how school districts are shaping systems to get at the root of public school inequities. Principals were trained last year and now this year, the School Based Leadership Team (SBLT) from Shorewood is being trained. They will then train staff on early release Mondays and other PD days. Anne is really excited about it and the overall shift in the District's thinking about equity.

D. Continued push for literacy curriculum (EL Open Up), science of reading that was being implemented last year. This is year two of curriculum and year three of professional development of the science of reading training.

District is going to be updating Social Studies curriculum

E. Family Engagement

- i. Anne is looking to have Coffees with Families again. Two per month taking place at 8:45 on Fridays and 6pm Thursday evenings. Some will be open to all families, others for more specific family groups. Space is limited which is intentional so it is a more intimate conversation. But if there is a demand for more sessions, she will try to accommodate.
- ii. Calendar of Family events-Anne prepared a list of school based events that will go home to families so they have a reference of what will be coming in the school year. Laura will do her best to add it to the website.
- iii. Volunteer opportunities: Anne is hoping to send a school messenger email sharing concise and comprehensive FAQ for volunteering opportunities and how to do the training. Anne wants to create a spreadsheet with events that might need parents in the school day giving details on time commitment and a description of what they are signing up for, and what level of volunteer status is needed.

F. Operations and Staffing

- i. 4K/5K playground was installed. Still working on getting swing replacements and tire swing. District gave elementary schools new playgrounds using district funds, but SHES was passed up and we had to use fundraising money. Jessica Fields continues to work on getting what our school deserves. More updates to come
- ii. Bathroom upgrades using COVID money. New mirrors, coating on tiles, etc.
- iii. School is fully staffed. Trixie long term sub for Paige Joncich (who will be out the full year on maternity leave), she was a former student teacher
Part time REACH teacher Amanda Argue
Keely Brown .1 gym teacher
Oscar Rios Special Education Assistant
Maisy Bailey Art teacher
- iv. Superintendent Search-School board hired a search firm, more information as it unfolds. Anu Ebbe former SHES principal is now Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools so she will be visiting SHES more often supporting our school.

III. Teacher/Staff Updates

Albi Schroeder not in attendance

Rachael Nachtwey, school social worker, reached out to PTO about funds for a new calming space at the school.

IV. Shorewood Hills PTO Board 2023-2024

A. New board

Gabriela read the names/positions of the 2023-2024 Shorewood Hills Elementary PTO Board Members. They are the following:

President	Gabriela Martínez	gabrieluya@gmail.com
	Elizabeth Cassarino	cassarinoliz@gmail.com
Vice President	Daniel Momont	danielmomont@gmail.com
	Emily Litznerski	emily.litznerski@gmail.com
Treasurer	Gabriela Martínez	gabrieluya@gmail.com
	Daniel Momont	danielmomont@gmail.com
Secretary	Laura Eastman	Inkeastman@gmail.com
Shorewood Hills Representatives	Laura Valderrama	valderramalc@gmail.com
University Houses Representative	Veronica Godoy	verogf@gmail.com
Greater Madison Representative	Xiuhua Lin	xiuhua.lin84@gmail.com
At Large Representatives	Laura Chidylo	laura.chidylo@gmail.com
	Niki Leonard	nikir729@gmail.com
Teacher Representatives	Albi Schroeder	albidespins@gmail.com
	Cara Masuga	
Staff Representative	Nadine Reinacher	nreinacher@madison.k12.wi.us

B. UW Credit Union Requirements

Gabriela shared that we are actually still in need of Treasurer, the position has not been filled. The best solution at the moment is that she is willing to fill the position and Daniel Momont will be shadowing her to potentially be the Treasurer next school year.

The UW Credit Union requires the former Treasurer and former PTO president names to be taken off the account and current officer names and info be added to the account.

Gabriela explains that we are taking out Paulina Erdman and former PTO president Madhavi Krishnan from the UW Credit Union account and will be adding Gabriela Martínez and Daniel Momont to the UW Credit Union account.

Laura E makes a motion to accept the change of names on the UW Credit Union Bank Account which means Paulina Erdman and Madhavi Krishnan will be removed and Gabriela Martínez and Daniel Momont will be added to the account.

Lucy R. seconds the motion.

Vote: 13 yays, 0 nays

Motion is approved.

C. 2023-2024 Budget Recap

Paulina drafted a budget during the summer. It was emailed to the Executive Committee for review.

V. Upcoming Events

A. Calendar

Last Spring Gabriela collaborated with Anne to get PTO events on a calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. The PTO dates are on the PTO calendar which is on the PTO Website.

B. Popcorn sale-Gabriela sent out a sign up to teachers and staff who are sponsoring the sale. Staff are signing up. Staff are in charge of finding volunteers, but PTO helps with nurse or other specials we help find volunteers

C. October 9th - Picture Day (Laura E. coordinator)

Libby, Laura V., Geoff P. Sierra offered to volunteer. Laura will send out an email/spreadsheet for volunteer signup/tracking when Nadine makes the schedule

D. October 14th - Fall clean up (Coordinator and volunteers) 9am-1 8-1 volunteers, Liz is going to ask Jon Garland to see if he'll coordinate. Need to start looking for DJ use same one from

E. October 28th - Fall festival (Daniel is willing to coordinate, still need volunteers, sign up genius worked well last year)

F. Costume collection starts 10/16, exchange will take place on 10/19

G. Winter Clothing Drive: collection begins 10/30, exchange will take place during conference on 11/2 and 11/3

H. Lucy M. shares her wish that the Scholastic Book Fair should return to SHES. It hasn't happened since 2019 due to COVID protocols and more recently lack of volunteer support. It was fun for kids, a wonderful fundraiser for LMC and a way to fulfill teacher wishlists. She is wondering if we could time the book fair with a family event like conferences November 2nd and 3rd. Let the kids see offerings during the school day and then have it available during evening conferences? The reality is we need volunteers to set up, run it and take it down. This can be challenging to gather enough volunteers.

Anne suggests having a book fair at the Literacy Showcase instead because it is more of a flow rather than a trickle of families, but others disagree and think that conferences would be better.

This item still needs a decision made on how we will proceed

VII. After School Classes check-in

A. Chess Club and Chess tournament-January possibly? Sell food, kids had a blast Brock was incredible at organizing it

B. Future Problem Solving Club (4 and 5 graders, Wednesdays afternoon) A senior at West runs with Erica Richmond (staff and parent). SHES did well at the state tournament.

C. Unicycle club (Paulina will be parent representative) charge participation fee to pay for snacks

D. Korean language class after school run by Junja Lee a staff member

Lucy R mentions SHES used to have a robust after school language club opportunities
Scholarships need to be available for participants

E. Lucy M also has hopes for the Junior Great Books program to be started again at SHES. It was popular pre COVID and took place during recess. It is supplemental literacy work for 1st-5th grade, led by a parent volunteer.

She is proposing that it would now be a weekly, after school club rather than school based.

Once again, we'd need to recruit volunteers from parents of the grade levels they'd be volunteering with. There should be two volunteers per grade level.

It is a 10-12 week program and historically started in January after winter break, but she's wondering if it could start it earlier

Previous costs were \$22-\$36 per book series and they charged a fee to participate and usually broke even without asking PTO for money

Lucy and Renuka should follow up with an email with proposed dates, club description and volunteer expectations.

IX. Adjourn

Next meeting 10/10/23 10am in the Family Resource Center at SHES