

Severn River Middle School Parent Teacher Student Organization
Meeting Minutes
(Meeting Held via Google Meet on September 30, 2020)

ATTENDEES:

Secretary Jeff Burritt, President Kathi Burroughs, Marquette Campbell, Theresa Coffey, Dawn DeCicco, Maryann Giddons, Michelle Houston, Amanda Kelly, Assistant Vice Principal Tripp Murphy, Nicole Nash, Treasurer Lisa Saunders, Samuel Sheppard, Megan Sar, Principal Richard Tubman, Vice-President Denise White Miller.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President Kathi Burroughs at 6:38 pm.

WELCOME & INTRODCUTIONS:

Kathi offered an introduction to the new school year.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Secretary Jeff Burritt displayed and reviewed the minutes from the June 1, 2020 PTSO meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Tubman introduced himself. He explained that the year is going well and is improved compared to the spring. He reviewed the appropriate communications chain for parents to ensure that the school can effectively answer all questions.

Parents should first communicate with their child's teachers. The best way to reach teachers is generally by email. If a teacher does not respond in a timely manner, the parent should contact their child's counselor. The school's new Communications page makes it very easy to find a student's teachers and counselor: <https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/srmsinfo/home>. Parents can then reach out to either Assistant Principal Fullwood (7th Grade M-Z and 8th Grade) or Assistant Principal Murphy (6th Grade and 7th Grade A-L). Ultimately, parents can reach out to Principal Tubman (rtubman@aacps.org).

Mr. Murphy introduced himself. He worked at Annapolis HS for 10 years before joining the staff at Glen Burnie HS. He came to SRMS in April 2020. He will be the liaison to the PTSO. We can email him PTSO-related questions at aemurphy2@aacps.org.

Mr. Murphy noted that Media specialist Deb Vukmanik is available to students with issues pertaining to technology or sync issues that are not password related (e.g., assignment disappears from google drive). She is available M/W/F during afternoon office hours. She can be reached through google classrooms.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Not much to report. Everything is up in the air right now, making planning difficult. We must all remain flexible.

Vice President Denise White-Miller introduced herself.

Secretary Jeff Burritt introduced himself.

Treasurer Lisa Saunders introduced herself. She explained that the budget is in the works. Our carryover funds from last amounted to \$12,356.84. Our expenses at the end of last year included expenditures for teacher appreciation and 8th grade graduation.

We have expended some funds this fiscal year to install the water dispenser from last year, bringing our account balance to \$10,749.

Kathi shared her screen to display a spreadsheet of the proposed budget. She explained that we can reduce certain line items, such as the Shark Shop. There was discussion over whether we should approve the budget or table it until the next meeting. Kathi expressed hesitation and explained that we generally engage in a budget realignment in January.

Principal Tubman pointed out that there is one item that is not in budget. He explained that teachers have always bought their own spirit wear. His biggest worry outside the students is the teachers. They are struggling at a level he has never seen. This year has been so hard. He doesn't need anything for supplies, technology, etc. What he needs is the PTSO to brainstorm on how to lift up the teachers.

Lisa proposed reducing amounts set aside for shark shop and honor roll treats. We're probably not going to have a shark shop or honor roll treats. We can then increase amounts designated to support teachers. He encouraged the PTSO to get creative.

General discussion of how we can support our teachers. Kathi reminded us that teachers can join for free. We discussed providing spirit wear, send kind emails, etc.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT:

- I. Spirit Wear (<https://www.prepsportswear.com/school/us/maryland/arnold/severn-river-middle-school-sharks?schoolid=151200>): the PTSO receives 15% from every purchase. We are working on a teachers' only site.
- II. Honor Roll Treats: this is up in the air. Lorene, the chairperson, is considering available options. But we can't send cards to students or have students arrange to pick something up due to logistical difficulties. Principal Tubman explained that the school will be sending postcards to students. If we want to do something for the honor roll, the school can send a certificate or something along those lines if the PTSO will pay postage.
- III. Membership: Web Master Lane Burritt is working with Membership Chair Megan Sar on creating a new membership form. Web Page - <http://www.severnrivermiddleptso.com/home.html>.
Kathi explained that if there are any families who cannot afford membership dues, they can reach out to Kathi. We do not want dues to prevent families from participating in the PTSO.
- IV. Need a green team chair – we can do work cleaning up the grounds.
- V. Need a hospitality chair
- VI. Need a shark shop chair

OLD BUSINESS

None

MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Members/Attendees introduced themselves.

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Kathi explained that to amend the by-laws, the proposed amendment needs to be presented at one meeting then voted on at the following meeting. We are proposing to change the by-laws to change our fiscal year from July 1 – June 30 to August 1 – July 31, which will change it back to what it was prior to by-law revisions made several years ago. Theresa Coffey offered a motion to approve the change; seconded by Lisa Saunders. Kathi explained that the amendment is only being offered at this meeting so no vote will happen at this time.
- II. Budget: we returned to the discussion of the budget. Principal Tubman suggested that we leave funds in the Shark Shop, which can be used to send post cards, etc. A motion was then made to pass the budget as revised, which was seconded and passed unanimously.
- III. A member asked whether we can post vacant chairperson positions. Kathi will post them on the Facebook PTSO Group page.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kathi expressed gratitude at how the school year is progressing. She loves that we can provide resources when they are needed. She appreciates that school has provided students with extra study time.
- Lisa: there was a lot of talk about clubs. The fact that they are strongly encouraged is a great thing.
- Principal Tubman discussed communications he has sent out through the ConnectEd system. His philosophy is that he tries to minimize communications so that when he actually sends something out, people will listen. He asked whether level of communication is appropriate. People agreed that it is.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made to adjourn, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm