

Minutes of the Meeting

Type of Meeting: SALT BROOK PTA Meeting
Date: February 9th, 2022 (Zoom/ In-person)
Time: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
In Attendance: Mrs. Drexinger, Mr. Firetto, Officer Dan, Sargent Diamond PTA board members and parents of Salt Brook School.

1. **Call to order and flag salute**
2. **Approval of Minutes- January 2022 Meeting:** Approved without any objections or corrections.
3. **Principals Report:** Principal report is attached below.
4. **Teachers Representative:** No Teachers Representative
5. **Presidents message / Announcements**
 - a. **Presidents Message:** *(Diana Ettinger)*
 - a. *Again a mention of the Superintendents forum.* There is a link on the salt brook home page, it's a good read with information about all grades.
 - b. *Link to the Covid form in on the homepage.*
 - b. **Treasurer Report:** *(Ana Roth) Report for January 2022.* Available on the website
 - c. **Correspondence Report:** *(Urmi Mukerjee)* No Correspondence
 - d. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **STEM Fair:**
 - a. *Registration is open until Feb 18th.*
 - b. *Open for 3rd – 6th graders*
 - c. *Event will be in person this year.*
 - b. **Soup-er Bowl:**
 - a. *Second year of this event has been successful*
 - b. *The event will close on Thursday and counting will be done on Friday to announce the winners.*
 - c. *All items will be donated to the OLP food pantry*
 - c. **Spelling Bee (Urmi Mukerjee):**
 - a. *Classroom Bee is going on at the moment*
 - b. *Spelling Bee competition is on March 1st. Snow date is March 7th.*
 - c. *Event will be in person and parents are invited to watch the event.*
 - d. *More information will be on the website.*
 - d. **Author Day (Elizabeth Lee):**
 - a. *Author day is on March 3rd*
 - b. *It will be virtual like last year*
 - c. *Author this year is David Adler, author of Cam Jenson series and young Cam Jenson series among many*

other books.

- d. There will be three Zoom sessions, teachers will figure out the schedule.
- e. Book sales ended last week, ordered books will be personalized and signed by David Adler and students will receive it in their classroom.
- e. **Talent Show:**
 - a. New dates are March 25th. It will be in the evening and we hope to have in person.
 - b. Open to kids 1-6th grade and will be in two sessions.
- f. **Spring Fundraiser (Stacy Gunderman):**
 - a. Dates for the event are Friday May 6th, 2022 at the Grove at Sterling Hotel.
 - b. More information to follow.
- g. **Sweetheart Dance:**
 - a. Dance got moved to June 3rd, we may do it outside this year.

6. Discussion on Traffic Reports: Officer Dano/Sargent Diamond
Questions/Opinions:

Status of the flashing signs not working:

Sargent Diamond: There are 4 Flashing signs one turning on Springfield Ave and 3 on Maple street. (One when you turn from Springfield and one soon as you turn on School property and one further down.) These were installed about 35 years back; there was no solar power when they were installed. They are not fixable anymore; they have to be replaced to the tune of \$140,000. They will be replaced by new ones which are solar/AC powered – computerized versions with cell connectivity, so that they can communicate and have the school calendar in them and can be changed to flash when the school gets off early or on delayed openings. Replacement for these signs is in our budget this year. The North bound Maple street sign needs to be replaced and we are aware and working on it. Its top of the list and would be done when funding comes through.

Observations/Complains by parents sent before the PTA meeting:

Maple Street:

- *During drop-off lot of adults exit their vehicles to get their kids out of the cars and people don't move forward.*
- *A lot of people stop to watch their kids walk in. These sometimes cause long lines and delays.*
- *People are parking illegally on the street on Maple and having kids cross the street at pick up, especially when its congested during that time.*
- *People are illegally parking on striped zone on Maple.*
- *People are parking at the entrance to the circle making it very hard for*

drivers to see when they are exiting the circle.

- *A lot of drivers make U turns in the exit to the circle at pick up.*
- *Students exiting at driver's side during drop off.*
- *Kids dropped off on Maple, pass the entrance to the circle and have to cross traffic in order to get to school and they are not supposed to.*
- *Cars idling on Maple even though there are signs, which says not to idle. People/kids who are walking, breathing in the fumes, which are gross and illegal.*

Willow Street:

- *Parents exit their cars to help their kids out.*
- *Parents straight up parking on the street and walking their kids to the drop off lines.*
- *Playground people making left on Springfield, even though that is not allowed.*
- *There is no safe way for kids to bike to school. There are no bike lanes, and they cant go on the side walks as everyone is walking and there are cars parked along the street so no one can bike on the streets, and that's a dangerous situation.*

Officer Dan/Sargent Diamond:

Great observations. This works when parents voluntarily do the right thing. There is a handicap sign in the circle along the side walk, that is not an indication for a handicapped spot, its just an arrow to find the handicapped spots along the upper playground. If everyone regardless of time of day does their best to move to the front of the line, we are fitting another few cars and people will be getting to school several minutes closer to time.

If you have special circumstances and need to walk your child to school. Still move to the front of the line and help them instead of being in the middle of the stack and turn on the hazards. The ones behind you will move past and not block the lines. Also you might want to push drop off closer to 8:40AM when the traffic is less.

Mrs. Drexinger: We don't mark students late if there are long lines. We call and let the teachers know to mark the attendance late/tardy, unless its really late.

Officer Dan/Sargent Diamond:

Some families have their kid's ready, backpacks ready, masked and the kids know how to open their seat belts. As soon as the cars stops the kids exit the vehicles. That surely helps out the traffic.

The water bottle is another situation where you can hold the bottle in the bags, because sometime the kids exit the vehicles and water bottles fall on the curb and the parents drive and we had some near misses where we have to rescue the kids from getting underneath the car.

Parents put your self on "Time Out" when you enter the circle to when you exit, just think about your next few steps, slow down and don't be distracted.

Parking Lots:

No one is allowed to come into the parking lots, there are signs posted everywhere. Don't take teachers spot, parking behind buses.

At dismissal, if a child's parent breaks a parking rule, my duty is still to protect the child and not let kids get hit by a car while crossing the street. We invest lot of resources to let the parents know the right thing to do, we could write tickets but that's not what we are here for. We also have regular offenders, who look for the easy way out, but parents are requested to do the right thing because sometimes the situation is just very dangerous.

Mrs. Drexinger: We need to be positive role models for our children and its unacceptable when parents in front of their children curse on other parents, crossing guards, custodians or even police. We need to be respectful, we don't have enough parking spots and that is a problem. The school works around all situations be it late to school or even parents coming in late for pickup. Safety of the kids is top priority.

Students sometimes run thru teacher parking lot and that's a recipe for disaster and parents need to inform their kids not to it.

Willow Street:

We have received grant for side walks on Willow street. They also go out to a section of Laurel. Kids walking along the street should walk in single file on the side of the road rather than on the road.

Some property along Willow has shrubs and bushes and has not been maintained properly. It's a concern for buses pulling out or kids walking on the street. Next week we serve the residents and they have 30 days to comply.

Two concern with regards to walking:

- 1. A house on Maple never shovels their sidewalk and they have an over grown trunk. It's very hard for parents with strollers or kids with the pulling backpacks to navigate.*
- 2. Drainage near the baseball field is a problem*

Sargent Diamond: If you find a sidewalk that's not been cleared, we serve residents with notices and they have a certain amount of time to clear the sidewalk. If they don't we send Dept. of Public works and the resident gets a bill for the clearing up. If you have issues call police desk and explain the situation. Shrubs, bushes along the curb line to 10 feet back has to be under 2 and half feet. They can't cover sidewalk and we can address that. If we know we will take actions on it!

Mrs. Drexinger: It's on our budget for next year to fix the drainage so its not draining into the sidewalk. Custodian is very aware of this and tries to salt it a lot but it's more of a drainage issue.

Sargent Diamond: We need crossing guards. If you have anyone in your family who would like to or are interested we are looking for people. If you are interested call the police department directly and ask to speak to the traffic bureau. They will do a simple background check and then there will be an in-depth but short training. You will also go to every post and train at the crossing post with every crossing guard in town. You will be compensated for your training and given all equipment. It's a part time job but you get sick time off. Its especially a good opportunity for someone who has retired.

PTA MEETING
February 8, 2022

- **EXCITING CLASSROOM DESIGN PROJECTS**
 - Class 4MM - New Design, Model Classroom
 - Media Center “Learning Commons” Area

- **KINDERGARTEN / INCOMING FIRST GRADE REGISTRATION -**
 - Registration Portal is open now until 2/25/22
 - Incoming students must be registered online. Information for registration is posted on the website.

- **STANDARDIZED DATES**
 - In View - Completed, Make-ups in progress
 - NJSLA and NJSL Science - 5/9 - 5/25/22. (Specific grade-level dates will be posted shortly on the school calendar)
 - We will communicate further information on testing procedures as the dates get Closer.

- **READ ACROSS AMERICA - Feb 28, 2022 - March 4, 2022**
 - SEL-themed Read Across America week. Theme is "Rise Up and Read Across America,"
 - Activities include:
 - Theme Dress Up Days
 - Customized morning announcements
 - High school Seussical performer classroom visits

- **K - 12 CURRICULUM REPORT PRESENTATION - Board of Education Meeting, Thursday February 24th**

- **MASK MANDATE**
 - Per Governor Murphy’s announcement, New Providence School District will be lifting its mask mandate effective March 7, 2022.
 - Any student, staff member or visitor who would like to wear a mask may and should continue to do so.
 - We have been informed that the NJ Department of Health will be reviewing the school guidelines concerning isolation and quarantine. If updates to the current guidelines are issued by the Department of Health, the District will assess and communicate any changes.

OTHER

- Thank Mrs. Niederhoffer and Mrs. Gunderman for organizing Souperbowl
- Beginner Band Concert, Tuesday, February 15th at 7:00 p.m., SB gymnasium

- Thank PTA and all volunteers for efforts with the upcoming Spelling Bee, Author Day, Talent Show, Author Day, and STEM Fair.
- Thank Mrs. Demich and teacher volunteers for beginning to organize the Media Bonanza event scheduled for March 31st.
- ***Save the Date!* NPHS Musical**
 - Seussical: The Musical
 - Fri/Sat, March 11, 12, 18, 19 - 7:00 pm
 - Sun, March 13 and Sat, March 19 - 2:00 pm
 - NPHS Auditorium
 - Ticket information to be released soon