

September PTA Meeting Minutes

Date: September 28, 2022

Location: Salt Brook Cafeteria

Time: 2:00 pm

1. Call to Order and Flag Salute
2. PTA President, Anne Looney introduced special guests Dr. Miceli, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Testa, School Business Administrator / Board Secretary & other members of the Board to present on the Bond Referendum
 - a. Dr. Miceli shared a brief introduction video about the 2022 Bond Referendum which is available on the Board of Ed website.
 - i. Dr. Miceli began with an explanation of the referendum and how we accomplish these types of projects.
 - ii. Dr. Miceli introduced Stacey Gunderman, Board of Education member, to explain the breakdown of the referendum.
 1. Enhanced HVAC upgrades makes up much of the referendum at \$17M
 - a. Replacing all current heating and ventilation systems, which are original systems from when the schools were built in the 1950's & 60's.
 - b. Adding air conditioning to all classrooms.
 - c. Will increase air flow rate and fresh air available.
 2. Capital Improvement Projects- \$3.1M
 - a. Partial roof replacement at the HS/MS- was not completed with last bond in 2015
 - b. New bleachers at SB
 - c. Corridor floor replacement
 - d. Track resurfacing
 - e. Staff restroom renovations in the HS
 3. New Flexible Furniture- \$2.1M
 - a. Mobile and flexible furniture for students and teachers
 - b. Students can rearrange furniture based on upon work they are doing
 - c. Will promote better SEL learning in the classrooms
 - d. VS is the manufacturer – they have ergonomic and ecological sound products
 - i. Material is load tested in their own lab
 - ii. All furniture is assembled in their warehouse and then delivered to the school
 1. No third-party involvement
 - e. Examples were shown of different classroom setups.
 - f. Mrs. Drexinger gave a summary of the furniture that was tested at Salt Brook.

- iii. Dr. Miceli spoke about prior referendums and how projects are connected over time.
 - 1. 2006- AWR roof complete
 - 2. 2015- SB roof complete
 - a. During both of those referendums portions of the HS/MS roof were replaced.
 - b. Remaining sections will be completed during this referendum
 - 3. Long range plans with respect to facilities – many projects have relationships to prior projects
- iv. Mr. Testa gave an overview of financing
 - 1. Throughout the years as portions of the HVAC components were replaced, air conditioning was added.
 - 2. Cost: \$22.2M
 - a. Applied and received notification that we will receive debt service aide from the state of NJ in the amount of \$6.8M
 - i. Received Yearly
 - b. 20-year bond at 3.5% interest rate based on current market conditions
- v. Dr. Miceli opened the floor for questions
 - 1. Where do the kids put their stuff if the desks don't have storage space?
 - a. Stacey Gunderman responded that there will be mobile units for storage options.
 - i. Additional question: Are these storage options already built into the budget?
 - 1. Dr. Miceli responded that part of the budget that has been established will incorporate the storage. Given the size of this district wide project the furniture consultants and vendor are looking at the project in the aggregate. Once the bond passes, we'll be able to identify exactly which pieces will be used in all the classes.
 - 2. What is the life of the HVAC since we are looking at a 20-year bond?
 - a. Mr. Testa responded that the projection is 30 years, but as you can see in our buildings right now, we still have original units. We have a good maintenance program within the district on all our units. Dr. Miceli added that all our maintenance and custodian staff are in-house employees. They are here daily monitoring all the systems.
- vi. Board President Mrs. Mary Misiukiewicz thanked Mrs. Looney and Mrs. Drexinger for having the Board present at the PTA meeting and reiterated that these enhancements are creating the best learning environment for all our students. She also commented that any questions can be directed to the Board.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 2022

- a. Minutes approved and are on the website
- 4. Principal's Report
 - a. Mrs. Drexinger opened by thanking everyone who attended
 - b. Great and smooth opening to school for students and teachers.
 - c. All teachers are using Google classroom platform this year. Daily plans and assignments are posted every day. No zoom instruction this year.
 - d. Back to School Night: We had a great turnout. Teachers went through their curriculum overview. If you would like more information or details, program of studies is posted on the district website. If you have any questions specifically you would have to contact Mr. Kean, Director of Curriculum at the Board Office.
 - e. Many initial assessments have been completed. (Math / I-Ready)
 - i. Grade 4,5,6 – Start Strong assessments completed. These are state mandated for the school.
 - ii. NJSLA- results just received from last year. Parent letters are being mailed out. (Grades 3,4,5,6)
 - f. Teachers, Department Heads and Administrators will continue reviewing data to ensure all students are meeting grade level requirements. The school will continue to offer additional assistance and programs for those students that may need it.
 - g. The PTA was able to raise enough money for the Salt Brook Media Library. Part of the area will include a green screen. A grant was received from the Ed Foundation for an elementary media broadcasting studio, which came in right before COVID. It will now be stationed in the library. Furniture has been delayed but scheduled for delivery in October with the last piece received in January. By this winter it should be fully operational, and we thank our parents for their support with this project.
 - h. After school clubs – will start in mid-October
 - i. STEM Club – Grades 1-6
 - ii. Art Club
 - iii. World Language Club
 - iv. Broadcaster Club
 - v. SWAG Club (6th Graders – Character Ed, which includes a pen pal program with Morris-Union)
 - vi. SWAT Team (6th Graders – Technology helpers)
 - i. Character ED Kick off will begin next week / Anti-Violence Week / Band and Orchestra beginners' night will be October 18th / Family Fun Movie Night October 21st / Book Fair / Grandparents Day for Grades 1&2
 - j. Traditional Halloween celebrations will be held on October 31st
 - k. Substitutes are needed if anyone is interested.
- 5. President's message/ Announcements
 - a. No longer holding Committee Chair Meeting
 - b. Will pass out handbooks via email, Nicole Motorola will be sending shortly.
 - i. Advertising – PTA Blast emails go out on Friday, and this is a great way to advertise events to everyone in the school. You can email Christine Stramandinoli by Wednesday at 12:00 to include in the blast for the week.

- ii. Facebook posts – Can be posted by the Committee and will be approved by an Administrator or you can reach out to Diana Ettinger, and she will be able to help.
 - iii. Please fill our reimburse forms as soon as possible.
 - c. We need volunteers to plan Family Night in June. Please reach out to the PTA if you are interested.
 - d. Audit Report is complete and posted to the website.
- 6. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Carly Spary gave update on the Treasurer Report. Copy of report is attached.
- 7. Correspondence Report
 - a. None noted
- 8. Committee Reports
 - a. 6th Grade Committee
 - i. 75% of Class Dues have been paid
 - ii. T-shirts have come in and will be distributed
 - iii. Pasta Feast is this Friday and there are still tickets available.
 - iv. Halloween-Haunt will be held at Salt Brook on October 28th
 - b. Treat Sales
 - i. Two treat sales - Raised approximately \$1,000
 - ii. Next sale will be October 14th
 - c. Movie Night
 - i. Scheduled for Friday October 21st.
 - ii. Free popcorn for all the families
 - iii. Hoping to also do a fundraising bake sale
 - d. Book Fair
 - i. October 25th- 27th
 - ii. More information to follow
 - e. Grandparents Day
 - i. October 25th
 - ii. Details are being finalized and information will be sent soon.
- 9. Open Forum
 - a. We are looking for a NEW fundraiser this year. If you have any ideas, please share with us.
- 10. Questions
 - a. Will we be doing parent visitation this year?
 - i. Yes. This will be held during American Education week.