**Friends of Syracuse Latin General Board Meeting**

**January 23, 2018**

**Welcome and Introductions President’s Report - Brea Allers**

* We are trying something new tonight. Mrs. Manard and Mrs. Hunter will not be joining us. We are trying out the option of having no administrators so that parents might feel free to speak more openly and to see if attendance will improve. The information from the Principal Report will be shared on the SCSD Latin school page and in the Friday email. We will add the minutes gained to the open discussion at the end of the meeting. If we feel we need them here, we can always ask them back or if they feel they need to be here, they will be invited.
* Read-A-Thon has logged 33, 000 minutes and has raised $4, 000 thus far. We will reward the 3 teachers with the highest reading minutes averaged per student. They can use the money for their classroom to buy books.
* SU Women’s Basketball Game: 400 free tickets, all tickets were used and it was a great time!
* Latin School Information Sessions begin tomorrow, 1/24 at 7pm. There are also sessions on Thursday, 1/25 and Feb 6th starting at 7pm; Latin is admitting new students from grades K-5.
* Guest speaker next month Elizabeth Driffus- Girls on the Run. It’s purpose is to inspire young girls in grades 3-5 to be healthy and empower them through running. It will be two times a week after school. We are looking for volunteers to coach. We can fund up to 200 girls through the YMCA program, look for more information to come.
* Box Tops are being collected- please cut them out around the dotted lines, count and bag in plastic bags in groups of 25 with teachers name on it, turn in by Feb. 16th

**Principal’s Update- Principal Manard (not in attendance)**

Middle School Planning Committee

* Our first meeting is February 7th at 4pm. Parent representatives are Ben Lockwood (1st and 3rd); Sheriah Dixon (3rd); Sapna Kollali (1st)
* Interested parents may also participate in a middle school forum prior to PTO meetings beginning in Feb (5:30-6:00)

School Leadership Team

* Parent Representatives are: Cheryl Lowery, 1st grade parent (calowery@syr.edu), Jalecia Benson, 2nd grade parent (jalicia.benson@gmail.com)
* Please feel free to e-mail questions/concerns to parent reps you would like more information on from SLT
* During SLT, we discuss School Climate Team, Current School Programming, Recent Academic Data, Family Engagement Opportunities, etc.
* Remaining meetings are 2/27; 3/27; 5/1; 5/22; 6/12

SCSD Climate Survey

* Parents are encouraged to participate in the SCSD climate survey. The link can be found on the front page of the SCSD website and was also included in the Friday e-mail.
* Staff will take the climate survey, Students in grades 3-5 will also take the climate survey

Information Sessions

* Information sessions for ’18-’19 are scheduled for 1/24, 1/25 and 2/6. Please continue to spread the word! We are accepting applications for students in grades K-5 (limited availability for students entering 1st, 2nd, 3rd grade)
* Thank you to the parent volunteers who will be supporting the sessions

Upcoming Family Engagement Opportunities

* Open House/Tour on March 22nd for Prospective Families- will be seeking volunteers to assist with tours throughout the day
* STEAM Night is March 27th- look for a Google form via e-mail if you would like to present, have a table, suggest ideas, etc.
* Week of February 26-March 2- “Read Across America” … families will be invited to read with their children, special mystery readers

**Community/Events Reports - Brea Allers**

* Book Fair- Ms. Maine needs volunteers, e-mail Brea and she will let Ms. Maine know you are coming; syracuselatinpto@gmail.com
* Quarterly Breakfast: Last call for volunteers. Need 4-6 people to help. We need someone to purchase breakfast items, Brea has a list and PTO will quickly reimburse you. We need the food by 8am on Feb. 9th. We need volunteers to serve and clean up from 8:30-10am as well.

**Communications - Katie Cramer and Meredith Austin**

* Present Your Park for February: Clinton Square Ice Skating Rink on Feb 14th  at 5pm, up to 4 family members will be paid for to skate, skate rental is NOT included

**Old Business – Brea Allers**

 **● Comment/Suggestion Box**

-Re-visit from December, we have a box for comments or suggestions

-We can put the questions and comments into the hands of people that can answer the questions appropriately

**New Business – Brea Allers**

 **● SLT**

**-**Parent Representatives are: Cheryl Lowery, 1st grade parent (calowery@syr.edu), Jalecia Benson, 2nd grade parent (jalicia.benson@gmail.com)

-SLT meeting minutes are posted on the Latin School webpage

-If you have questions or concerns, please contact our parents that sit on the SLT committee

**● SPAC (Superintendent’s Parent Committee)**

-Bryn Lovejoy is one of our parent representatives (alternate)

-Posted last meeting minutes and notes on the PTO Facebook page

-If there are items you would like brought to the meetings, please contact reps ahead of time

-Looking for parent volunteer to help with an Art Committee to make the arts in SCSD better

**● Middle School Representatives**

**-**Ben Lockwood (1st/3rd), Sheriah Dixon (3rd), Sapna Kollali (1st)

-Meetings are one week before PTO meetings from 4-5pm

-Some concern that there are not any parents from a 4th grade student to represent the parents, Brea can e-mail Mrs. Manard to find out how the lottery was completed and why there are not any parents represented from the 4th grade

-Interested parents may also participate in a middle school forum prior to PTO meetings beginning in February (5:30-6:00pm)

 **● Family Engagement School Liaison**

-Luberta Crouch: Family Engagement Coordinator for the Nottingham Quadrant

-She works with families and schools to have an open and positive relationship

- Services include but are not limited to- Special Ed. Information and assistance, saving money, healthy eating, academic workshops, encourage families actively engaged

-Luberta is at Latin on Wednesday’s and can help anyone who needs it at any time

-Please take the Climate survey by Feb. 28th, can be found on the SCSD website and on our Facebook page, will be available at the Ice Skating rink on Feb. 14th as well

-Also, Luberta asks us to please fill out the lunch application even if you don’t qualify, it helps keep our funding

**Open Roundtable Discussion**

* Concerned with poor attendance- how can we change so we can get more parents to attend the meetings?
* Parents would like to be part of their child’s education, during the school day, sometimes feel unwelcomed
* Maybe we should break into groups at PTO meetings so parents can have a voice in the activities being offered and have a place to connect as a parent group
* Should we do a PTO Curriculum night to share and explore information and present to the group so more voices are heard?
* Parents would like to be more “empowered” to make decisions in our child’s education, feels like we only have a “say” in particular areas of the school
* Enrichment Clusters are a big way parents can volunteer during the day
* Should we have an Extracurricular Activity committee? Maybe conference calls to silicate ideas from more parents?
* Maybe have a parent night, so parents can talk to one another and network with each other
* Use PTO meetings to talk as a group and just give handouts for information that needs to be distributed
* Present Your Park was a huge way for parents and families to get together and build community and they are recently poorly attended. PTO is planning the events as a group at the meetings so more people have input.
* Give shout out’s on Facebook page on what the PTO has donated or contributed, as well as parent volunteers that work behind the scenes
* Maybe have grade level family activity events to help parents and families connect
* Look for a survey to ask for input on PTO committee and topics to be shared

**Meeting Adjourn at 7:20pm**