**Friends of Syracuse Latin General Board Meeting**

**February 13, 2018**

Girls on The Run Speaker - Elizabeth Dreyfuss

* It is a program we would like to implement in grades 4th and 5th at Hughes and Latin
* Sophia Burden, Brea Allers, are two of the coaches
* Dreyfuss:

- The program is 20 years old

* It’s an after school program that brings physical activity and a curriculum with lessons that build off each other
* 10 weeks, 2 times a week for an hour and half
* Lessons include topics like how to take care of yourself, getting along in a group/ being a good friend, your place in a greater community with a final community project
* The girls will participate in a 5k at the end (Butterfly Run)
* When they register they get a t-shirt and water bottle and medal after the 5K
* We train our coaches with 4 hours of training, background checks and an online training session
* 8-15 kids per group with a head and assistant coach
* Parents receive a grown-up guide so they can follow the lessons at home with the girls
* Can have more girls if you we have more coaches, 16-20 girls need 3 coaches
* The girls set short and long term goals during the running part of the program
* The program empowers the girls to take chances in their life and use the skills they learn to have more self-confidence
* We need adults for the 5K. The girls need a running buddy so any volunteers are welcome
* Allers

-The program is funded under the after school YMCA program

-Parents would register their child for the YMCA program from Mon-Thursday which will provided transportation and snack

-Dates of the program are Feb 26- May 14, Mon and Wed. from 3-5

- \*\*\*The YMCA program ends on May 10th so transportation will need to be provided until May 14th,

- The kids will be required to go to the YMCA after school program on Tuesday and Thursdays

-The program is usually $150 per child, however, coaches are volunteering so the funding can go back to the YMCA and the YMCA is providing the remaining funds

-We are going to try 4th and 5th grades this year and if there is big demand we can add 3rd next year, right now we have 5 girls signed up, need a minimum of 8

* Is there a parallel program for boys? Not right now. It has been tried but the boys didn’t respond as well to the games and it was harder to get coaches. There is a Building Men program for middle school spreading across the district that boys can be a part of that has similar lessons and goals with basketball. YMCA folks would be open to a boys running club or enrichment program if we asked.

President’s Report - Brea Allers

* Read-A-Thon was amazing!! Collect almost $8100. Margaret Martin will post the official stats this week when everything comes to a halt and final payment is collected. The school-wide classroom winners were Mrs. Burden ($100), Mrs. Wiegand ($50), and Mrs. Wishart ($25). Those classrooms had the most active readers.
* Email Brea directly, [breaallers@gmail.com](mailto:breaallers@gmail.com), if you have any thoughts/comments on topics you would like brought up at PTO meetings
* Need volunteers for a Spring Family Event, possibly an ice cream social, no official date yet
* Will begin to put sign-ups for upcoming events on the PTO website as well as the Principal email and on our Facebook page

Treasurer’s Mid-Year Report - Margaret Chajka

* All of our major fund raisers are over
* We hoped to raise $9000 and it looks like we are going to be around $12,000 total for the year
* We still have money for teacher supplies or enrichment programs
* We are still planning on funding field trips this year
* Would like to add a line to the budget for the Maker’s Space, Any objections? No objections.
* Questions on budget? No questions at this time.
* It looks like we will be making a profit this year, may want to consider bigger field trips in years to come

Principal Report - Mrs. Manard

* We have a new sound system. ☺
* STEAM night info has been sent out electronically, please volunteer if you would like to participate in the event
* First Middle School planning meeting was held for an hour. There is a 3 question survey for parents to give feedback. The meeting minutes are already posted on the Latin website, we will post contact info for the parent representatives soon.
* Comments and questions? We will have a mailbox, feel free to drop a note in the mailbox, Email or use the Let’s Talk on SCSD website.
* Discipline policy- we follow the SCSD code of Conduct to make decisions to provide interventions or provide discipline actions when necessary

Middle School Report - Sapna Kollali

* 1st grade parent and one of 4 parent reps
* 1st meeting yesterday, started with broad conversations about what a middle school with the Latin school model would look like, asked questions to the district level reps. (please see the meeting minutes on the Latin school website for all questions asked)
* We will look at the surveys before the next meeting so we can represent the parents well so please take the time to complete the survey
* Every month will be a meeting at 5:30 before the PTO meeting to discuss the Middle School meeting, all are welcome

Open Roundtable Discussion​ - *suggested topics*

* Allers- Not sure if we have a big enough group to do round table discussions at PTO meetings, need people to volunteer to be leaders of the groups ahead of time so lead the conversations

Read-A-Thon Feedback: (Discussion among the people in attendance)

- Did anyone submit a paper sheet? We would have to ask Margaret how many people submitted paper copies.

-Didn’t realize that you can’t go back after a certain amount of time to submit reading time.

-Some students did use the computers at school to log in their info if they didn’t have access to computers at home

-Possibly ask Ms. Maine to have time to log in their time after breakfast time next year

-Loved Read-A-Thon and was so happy not to sell things to friends and family

-Couldn’t figure out how to pledge per hour and not just lump sum, other people could and some had trouble

-System seemed touchy and would end up being slow at times

-Liked the rewards for teachers, encouraged the kids to read more at home

-What do the teachers do to encourage the reading at home?

-One of the comments from the kids was a form of bullying (You’re cheating!) and we need to teach about online adequate and cyber bullying. Parents need to monitor what the students are writing. Does Martin have access to delete negative comments?

-Ms. Hunter is always willing to do crazy incentives to meet a school goal for minutes read. Dunking booth, dyed hair, duct tape to the wall… etc.

-Need volunteers for next year to do something building wide. Bulletin boards, cheerleaders, organize pep rallies… etc.

Present Your Park :

-Tomorrow, Feb 14th at Clinton Square at 5pm, free event, skate rental is covered by PTO from 5:00-5:30

-Any ideas for the March Present your Park: MOST is open late on Thursdays, Downtown YMCA might be able to do something for us, Valley pool party, Zoo, and Public Library

Grade Specific Get Togethers:

-Kindergarten on March 1st  from 6-7pm, open gym, kids can play and parents can network

-1st and 2nd next time possibly depending on how the K event goes

-3rd and 4th will be after the K-2 events

-Other schools do a “Mom’s Night Out” at the school with shopping opportunities, possibly in May for a Mother’s Day type event

Meeting Adjourn at 7pm