

Seth Boyden PTA General Meeting  
October 6, 2018  
Seth Boyden Cafeteria

## **1. Presentation from Amy Howlett, fundraising co-chair at Tuscan, about SOMA general Store**

SOMA General Store <https://somageneralstore.com/> is offering a donation initiative for local PTA's. Parents can shop from local, independently owned businesses online and write "Seth Boyden or SB" in notes section at check-out and .5% of their purchase will go to our school. Local coffee roaster Rabble and Lion will be donating \$3 plus .5% of purchase for all new subscriptions; they'd also like to reach out to our class parent coordinator in the near future to facilitate pre-ordering of class baskets for the Silent Auction.

## **2. Principal Glander's Update:**

### *Gym*

Upper gym is now functional. No date can be given for resolution of problems in lower gym as issues appear to be structural.

### *5<sup>th</sup> grade initiatives*

Dancing Classrooms and the Etiquette Dinner will be happening for fifth graders this year.

### *PARCC scores*

Zoned schools are still listed on the score reports of opt-in students; therefore, opt-in student's scores are not being included in PARCC outcome data for Seth Boyden. Olivia Yearns, PTA president, reached out to NJ Dept of Education which stated they can make no changes to the score reports because the data and school attribution information comes from our school district. Last year's scores from opt-in students are still incorrectly attributed to zoned schools, and Ms. Glander is waiting to hear from the state if this can be corrected.

Members wondered if this issue could be added to board agenda for the October 15<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting. Questions for the board can include: How are PARCC scores being used in integration planning? Does this misreporting impact real estate prices in the current Seth Boyden zone? What efforts are being made on an administrative and staffing level to correct this mistake now and in the future? What other community partners should be looped in so that the errors are rectified and solutions become a priority of the district?

Additional further action steps suggested by member regarding PARCC errors: This issue can be brought to PTA Presidents' Council and then presented to Superintendent Ficarra. PTA could also reach out to Assembly Woman Mila Jasey for assistance.

Motion made to form a committee of parents who are interested in organizing around above PARCC related issues. No chair volunteered, but several parents signed up to engage these issues in a coordinated fashion.

*HIB (Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying) policy*

Ms. Glanders is looking for parent member for the HIB committee. This past week was the Week of Respect, to promote a community of kindness.

*Morning supervision of students*

Member question about adult supervision in the AM. Teacher supervision has increased to 6 adults in the AM. Ms. Glanders reiterates that children are not allowed to be in the building before 8:45AM due to contractual issues around supervision. She is interested in trouble-shooting this with parents, and restates that students arriving before 8:30 can use the breakfast program. Member suggestions included having parent volunteers, but this isn't feasible due to issues of finger printing. Another member suggested that parents who are substitutes or can become certified as such could fill this need. Another member suggested the school advertise it's breakfast program more broadly. Another member posed the idea that issues of school start times can be part of the redistricting and rezoning initiative, and part of a larger conversation about ways schools can ease the demands on modern working families.

*Other business:*

Ms. Glander asks for one week's notice to distribute backpack flyers.

Tuesday 10/6 is a half day with a 12:45 dismissal.

A parent raises concerns about a child left unattended in a car and use of homophobic language by students going unaddressed.

Ms. Murphy discussed district moving toward model of restorative justice.

*Lift Every Voice and Sing* will no longer be sung in the morning as there is no more assembly.

### **3. Agenda**

*Orders of Business*

Voted to approve September minutes. Approved

Backpack info- President encouraged parents to go through backpacks, also check weekly newsletter, PTA website, and school website.

Presidents' Council- a meeting of all PTA presidents in district. The PTA Presidents' Council is gathering questions from all parents to give to the body that is facilitating BOE candidates' debates.

A survey is being conducted by the district to gather information concerning qualities parents want in a new superintendent.

The Silent Auction will be February 9th at The Woodland. Theme will be Casino Royale. Singing parent or performer for first act needed.

*Treasurer's Report:*

Jane Buchanan presented and reviewed 2018-2019 budget. Budget voted on and approved.

Parent raised issue that in 2020 SB may have to have a fourth grade and fifth grade moving up committee due to strategic plan to move 5<sup>th</sup> grade into MMS.

Mrs. Murphy thanked PTA for rolling desks and locked cabinet for social work interns.

Discussed ongoing OLC projects of building berms, installing sun shade, and installing gazebo.

*PTA VP report*

Harvest Festival 10/13

School pictures 10/30. Need helpers

Next PTA mtg 11/13 at 7pm. Babysitting may be available.

Turkey Trot- 5k and kids fun-run on 11/17 at South Mountain Reservation

Book Fair with Family Fun Night- December 4-7

Kindergarten playdate- end of October. Stay tuned for date

*Open agenda*

Membership Coordinator update: \$10 membership. Can process memberships at meeting

Member voiced concerns about mold in portables

Yearbook update: Ilan would like to receive pictures from parents of school events and will be setting up a gmail account for this purpose. Needs help with graphic design. Replacements coming from manufacturers for defective SB water bottles.

Parent Center Liaison update: The 2020 strategic planning consultant will be presenting to the SB community on 10/25 about district integration and building use plans.

PTA Assembly Chair update: She plans to meet with teachers next week to gather information about what assemblies they'd like to see to support their curriculum.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40AM

