

**Solomon School PTO
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2016**

1. Call to Order by the President, Donna Rempas – 9:21 a.m.
2. Introduction of PTO Board Members
3. President’s Report – Donna Rempas
 - a. Goals of PTO – Funding of visual arts curriculum due to limited CPS budgeting; we achieve the goals through fundraising.
4. Treasurer’s Report – Jamie Kaplan
 - a. The PTO account balance stands at \$41,871.13. \$15,000 from Walk-Jog-Roll and International Night is earmarked for arts spending, while \$20,000 is set aside for playground improvements.
 - b. We earned \$389.85 through our Chipotle Night fundraiser.
 - c. The registration of the Solomon PTO as a non-profit with the Secretary of State’s office has been completed.
 - d. Jamie is requesting a conversation on what items we’re now raising money for next.
5. Principal’s Report – Chris Gamble
 - a. Three priorities last year:
 - i. Expansion of technology in the school
 - ii. Arts Enrichment Initiatives
 1. Visual Arts (last year Goldmine cost approximately \$10,000). This year two vendors are under consideration. Goldmine is not one of them, as the teaching staff is requesting more skills-based instruction.
 2. Dancing with Class will return this year, although we do not have last year’s grant to cover costs, so there will be different funding streams this year.
 - iii. Playground and outdoor space needs
 1. The outdoor committee is being “rebooted” this year.
 2. The school is looking into expanding the courtyard and sensory garden into a greater classroom environment with an emphasis on unifying the entire space.
 - b. New volunteer forms were passed out to parents this year – they are still being returned. Only two people have volunteered for Saturday’s Community Day, which may be postponed pending more volunteers. There is a particular need for help in assembling the new PTO shed, so volunteers with that particular skill set will be individually approached.

6. Old Business

- a. That Back to School picnic saw over 100 students and their families attend. We received a lot of positive feedback! The ice cream was a big hit. We still have 74 ice cream bars left over, so they may be used as incentives or rewards for future events.
- b. We have 22 new memberships from the picnic. PTO swag should be ready soon for distribution to those who signed up this year.
- c. Curriculum Night – PTO will have a table and will approach Solomon sponsors like Northshore Bank to host an informational table.

7. New Business

- a. Art to Remember – A new cycle will be starting soon. This year's timeline will ensure that orders will be delivered before the holidays. Currently, the due dates are set as follows:
 - i. Artwork Due Date: October 14
 - ii. Payment Due Date: November 9
 - iii. Receipt of Orders: December 5
- b. Restaurant Givebacks
 - i. Last year's Lou Malnati's giveback earned us \$399.54.
 - ii. Our next giveback will be at Candlelight (7452 N. Western) on October 16, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. We will receive 15% of all sales.
- c. Upcoming events:
 - i. Holiday Shop (December 6th and 7th). Donna R. and Anne M. will be attending an informational event today.
 - ii. Solomon Soiree – we would like again schedule it around February when there are few other conflicting events. We need to start looking for venues.
 - iii. Walk-Jog-Roll will be in May again, although possibly earlier in the month to avoid conflicting with end-of-year events like International Night.

8. Miscellaneous Business

- a. The LSC approval for this year's budget allocates 99.2% of the total school budget to salaries.
- b. Mr. Gamble would like to move away from parents subsidizing workbooks and other school supplies. He would like to see the school take on the purchasing burdens and is looking for funding strategies.

9. Adjournment – 10:20 a.m. Next meeting will be October 19th at 6 p.m.