

Friends of SMS/SHS April  
23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Agenda  
8:30 AM – Flex Space

1. Call to Order & Attendance

Approval of March 12<sup>th</sup> Minutes

2. April Board Elections (all candidates running unopposed)

**Kara O'Connor - Secretary**

I would love the opportunity to serve a term as Secretary of the Friends of SMS/SHS. I am the mother of two daughters, currently in 8th & 10th grades. We are in our fourth year attending school at SPS and I've found several ways to be actively involved since enrolling. I have helped with the fall Serve-A-Thon fundraiser, led the Halloween Dance, am on the Teacher Appreciation Week committee, jumped in on several class field trips, chaperoning opportunities, donation gatherings, and have enjoyed becoming more actively involved with our Friends of group this past year.

I am a small business owner with 17 years in business, running a boutique Interior Design business, with a wide ranging portfolio and several awards and accolades.

I would be delighted in the opportunity to give more to our school community by taking on a more substantive role as Secretary.

**Birdie Holley - President**

I would love the opportunity to serve another term as President of the Friends of SMS/SHS. I began working with Superintendent Mark Neidlinger to create this group just before COVID in 2019, and we were able to officially launch the parent organization in Fall 2021. In 2022, I worked alongside Christina Leathers to establish our 501(c)(3), creating the foundation that has allowed the group to grow and support our students and staff in meaningful ways.

As a parent of three students currently in 11th, 9th, and 6th grade, this work is especially meaningful to me. I'm proud of the momentum we've built and would be honored to continue helping move the group forward. I previously served nine years as DES PTO President and currently serve on the boards of Children First Lakeshore and our Convention & Visitors Bureau, while working full time as a property manager.

## **Creela Hamlin - At Large**

I have thoroughly enjoyed bringing fun to the middle school by organizing the 7th/8th Grade Dance for the last 5 years and more recently 6th Grade Fun Night. It has been rewarding to play a small part in all the amazing things this parent group has brought to SMS and SHS.

As a parent of students in 6th, 8th and 10th grades, I see first hand how important this group and its support are for both teachers and students. I would love the opportunity to serve another term.

My husband and I are 5th generation farmers, we enjoy sharing our knowledge of agriculture with others, and especially with young people.

In addition to Friends Of SMS, I also serve on the Michigan Blueberry Commission and Michigan State Horticultural Society.

## **Resignation Letter**

Vice President, Krista Schrottenboer has submitted her letter of resignation effective immediately. Board will need to appoint her position until the end of her term next year.

3. Drama Club - Justine
  4. Treasurer Report – Nicole Graves
  5. Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences (April 29-30) - Rebecca
  6. 5th/6th Grade Fun Night Recap (March 13) – Creela Hamlin & Julie Barman  
Event follow-up
  7. Teacher Appreciation – Birdie/Kara/Meaghan/Rebecca  
Committee update
  8. Spring Field Trips
    - A. Roller Rink Trip (May 8th, 12p-2p)
    - B. Outdoor Discovery Center “Amazing Race” (Proposed May 20<sup>th</sup>)
- ODC Meeting Summary**
- **Event Plan:**  
We are planning an “Amazing Race” style event in downtown Saugatuck for approximately 200 students in grades 6-8. The proposed date is **May 20**, with a half-day (afternoon) schedule. We are considering **May 29** as a potential rain date.
  - **Roles & Responsibilities:**  
ODC staff will develop the content and provide full staffing for the event. Teachers will serve as chaperones; no additional parent chaperones are

anticipated at this time.

- **Budget & Billing:**

Friends of SMS will cover the cost. We request a quote in advance and ask that billing be completed **no later than 30 days prior to the event**, due to past timing challenges with our fiscal year.

- **Future Planning:**

For the **2025–2026 school year**, we plan to proceed with the Amazing Race event only. Looking ahead, we would like ODC to propose additional program ideas, whether for combined grades or separated by grade level, for the **2026–2027 school year**. Ideally, these would be presented by **July 2026** to support our planning process.

## 8. Principal Update – Brad Lundvick

### 9. Fall Fundraiser – Serve A Thon

Day of Celebration Lead: Rebecca Andexler Student

Donations: Ingrid Bensen

Kick Off Celebration: Need Lead Business

Sponsors: Need Lead\*

In School Prize Giveaway's: Need Lead Marketing:

Need Lead

Community Night Involvement: Birdie needs to meet with admin at SPS

*\*Birdie would to step down as business sponsor committee lead*

#### **Proposed dates:**

- Kick Off - 9/11
- Duration: 3 weeks
- Final celebration: 10/2

## 10. Next Meetings

A. May 21<sup>st</sup> 8:30am (added meeting)

B. June 30th 10am (review final treasurer report and set budget meeting for next school year)

## 11. Member Comment