

FRIENDS OF SMS MEETING NOTES

Date: October 9, 2025 8:30am

Location: Saugatuck Middle School Flex Space

Facilitator: Birdie Holley

Recorder: Jennifer Hurtman

I. Safety Update – Brett Ensfield

- **Emergency Operations Plan:** State-mandated update to new format is nearly complete.
- **Campus Security Assessment:**
 - It was observed there were multiple entry points at MS/HS which was a concern, but has since been remedied.
 - After learning out of town guests were being redirected to parking lot, Brett informed all involved, the HS parking lot is not accessible to out of town guests during school hours.
- **Ongoing Safety Measures:**
 - Forward-facing cameras in all offices, monitored by Brett and office staff.
 - One-point entry and locked gates now standard.
 - Parking passes are required for all students/staff who park in our lot at SMS/SHS.
- **Online Safety Education:**
 - FBI liaison presented to 8th grade on online predator threats (focus on Roblox).
 - Request to expand to younger grades.
 - Support for **Protect Young Eyes** program.
- **Behavioral Threat Assessment:**
 - Brett and Brad undergoing retraining to assess and reintegrate students safely.
- **SRO (School Resource Officer):**
 - No current plan for SRO, but strong parent support, especially for MS/HS.
 - Brett works with Allegan PD; Douglas PD supports DES.
 - Parents view Brett as proactive; still feel an SRO is needed for reactive support.
- **Parent Contact:** Brett is available for parent questions. [bensfield@saugatuckps.com]

II. Principal Update – Brad

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:**
 - Easier to schedule than in previous years.
 - Parents with multiple children faced time constraints.
 - Teachers continuing conversations if 5 minutes isn't enough.
 - Discussing criteria to identify students who may not require conferences.
- **Count Day (Oct. 1):**
 - Vital for state funding; full-day attendance required.
 - Grace period for resolving absences.
 - Second Count Day is **Feb. 11, 2026**.
- **Chronic Absenteeism:**
 - SPS has highest rate in Ottawa ISD.
 - Brainstorming attendance improvement strategies.
- **PBIS Incentives:**
 - Gift cards requested to support "Student of the Week" recognition.
 - One student per grade, per week; suggestion from parents to consider monthly instead.
 - Budget check underway for trinket box (stickers, candy, small prizes).
 - Use of discretionary funds possible; formal budget line to be reviewed year-end.

III. Treasurer Update – Christina

- **Serve-a-Thon (SAT) Funds:**
 - \$11,000 deposited so far, with more expected.
 - Final totals to be confirmed by end of October.
- **Budget Impact:**
 - FOSMS may need to reduce its planned budget based on final fundraising results.

IV. Serve-a-Thon Update

- **Fundraising Platform:**
 - Numbers shared in last week's summary.
 - Current platform to be discontinued due to high fees.
 - Exploring donation platforms with zero processing fees.
- **Student Incentives:**
 - Held during lunch; students couldn't hear their names.
 - Will move to 5th hour next year for better recognition.
- **Day of Celebration:**
 - Successful overall, but concerns about moving event to softball field.
 - Raffle prizes not seen as strong incentives.
 - Will revisit format and incentives in July 2026.
- **Kickoff:**
 - Student engagement was strong.
 - More parent volunteers needed next year.
- **Marketing:**
 - Will expand efforts in the 2026 campaign.
- **Leadership Needs:**
 - More parent leaders needed to run different aspects of the fundraiser.
- **Field Trip Support:**
 - **Kids Food Basket** trip successful but in need of a dedicated organizer for the future.

V. President Update

- Encouraged **greater parent involvement** in FOSMS activities and leadership.
- **Teacher Appreciation Lead:** Megan Cotton volunteered to coordinate efforts.

VI. Snack & Supply Closet – Birdie

- **Snacks:** Ordered and delivered to Dan.
- **Supplies:** Ordered and delivered to Krista.

VII. Halloween Dance – Kara O.

- **Team:** Megan and Rebecca assisting.
- **Details:**
 - Location: Gym
 - Simple decor
 - Sound: Speaker secured
 - Snacks: Sam's Club cookies, snacks, and lemonade
 - **Flyers** will be posted in the Middle School.
 - Planning a **Costume Contest**.

VIII. Drama Club – Justine

- Auditions had **great turnout** and casting is complete.
- First two rehearsals held.
- Set pieces are nearly complete, minus caster wheels.
 - Industrial Arts created "really cool" set pieces.

IX. Middle School Dance

- **DJ booked.**
- Creela and Justine coordinating **chaperone list** and final details.
- We need to find new dates for the MS Dance, as basketball is hosting districts during the date we originally picked so the space will not be available.

X. Field Trips

- **6th Grade Trip to Crane’s:**
 - Date: Friday, Oct. 24
 - Time: 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
 - Cost: \$10 per student (up from \$8 last year)
 - Includes 3 activity stations + student-brought lunch
 - Bussing confirmed
- **Next trips:** TBD
- **February Conferences:** Rebecca will lead SignUpGenius for parent volunteer coordination.

XI. SCA Update

- On behalf of the SCA, a reminder that our idle School class outreach programming begins the week of the 21st and is cost free. Alternatively field trips can happen anytime Nov 10-end of April at \$7/student
- Our interwoven community event is November 7, 2025 6-9pm with presentation at 7pm. It’s free to attend!

XI. Member Comments

- **Washington D.C. Trip:**
 - Trip is full; a waitlist has been started.
 - Birdie will follow up with the school for more information.
- **Board Update:**
 - Leslie is planning to step down from the board. Parents can contact Birdie if interested in replacing Leslie.

FOSMS MEETING SCHEDULE PLANNER 2025-26

FOSMS MONTHLY MEETING	TIME	LOCATION
NOVEMBER 13, 2025	3:30pm	Saugatuck Middle School Flex Space
JANUARY 15, 2026	5:30pm	Saugatuck Middle School Flex Space
FEBRUARY 12, 2026	5:30pm	Saugatuck Middle School Flex Space
MARCH 12, 2026	8:30am	Saugatuck Middle School Flex Space
APRIL 23, 2026	8:30am	Saugatuck Middle School Flex Space

SEPTEMBER 2025							OCTOBER 2025							NOVEMBER 2025							DECEMBER 2025							JANUARY 2026							FEBRUARY 2026								
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