

# FRIENDS OF SMS MEETING NOTES

**Date:** November 13, 2025, 3:30pm

**Location:** Saugatuck Middle School Flex Space

**Facilitator:** Birdie Holley

**Recorder:** Jennifer Hurtman

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## Meeting Summary

### I. Welcome

- Board members present: Birdie Holley, Christina Leathers, Jennifer Hurtman, Brad Lundvick, Leslie Donkiankis, Creela Hamlin.

### II. Boys & Girls Club Update

- Operating at 4 local sites, including DES, currently serving 1st–5th grade with plans to extend to kindergarten.
- Uses DES cafeteria, gym, outdoor space, and media center.
- 340 students registered; 262 served; ~140 attend daily. Registration is \$5/year.
- Partnering with Rotary Club to explore safe-space needs for MS/HS students.
- **2025 Fundraiser:**
  - Location: Ivy House
  - Date: Dec 3
  - First-time attendee ticket: \$75
  - Open to all.

### III. Principal Update

- PBIS “Student of the Week/Month” program is active.
- Washington DC trip: 61 travelers, 2 buses; wreath sale successful; booth at SCA Winter Market (Dec 6).
- Shop class received a supply donation.
- Winter sports: boys’ & girls’ basketball, bowling.
- Trimester 2 begins Nov 17, 2025.
- Member concerns raised:
  - Restrictive bathroom break rules
  - Parking lot safety issues (traffic flow, limited space, student drivers)

### IV. Tech Safety Group Proposal

- Creela reviewed Protect Young Eyes program for student/parent digital safety.
- Costs: \$500 for 6–8 grade assembly, \$500 for 9–12 grade assembly, \$800 for parent session.
- Birdie will ask Mark about surveying parents on interest.

V. Treasurer Report

- Balance (Oct 31): \$76,555.26. Serve-A-Thon slightly under expectations but budget still OK.
- Planned fund transfers: robotics, drama/band, DC trip, 6th-grade field trip.
- Approved: \$500 per grade for 6th–8th.
- Audit completed; findings reviewed.
- Conflict of Interest policy signed.

VI. Committee Updates

- Halloween event successful; Family Fare donated food.
- P/T Conference meals: Rebecca Andexler leading; upcoming dates Jan 22–23 and Apr 29–30.
- Count Day planning ongoing.
- Supply closet refilled.
- Upcoming student events:
  - 7/8 Dance – Feb 27, 2026
  - 6th Grade Fun Night – Mar 13, 2026

VII. Field Trips

- Crane’s event successful for 6th grade.
- Missed opportunity for SCA integrated trip; teachers interested but not scheduled.
- Snowshoeing trip being explored for 7th grade.
- Other options: RollXScape, AirZoo, new Holland ice-skating rink.

VIII. Saugatuck Center for the Arts

- Mountainfilm student registration opens next week; festival Mar 9–27, 2026; community screening Mar 21.
- Holiday Market: Dec 6, 9am–3pm.
- “Flourish” by Kayla Powers on display through May 8, 2026; field trips \$7/student.
- Arts-integrated field trip programs available year-round with gallery tours and hands-on options.

IX. Board Updates

- Leslie resigned from the board.
- Rebecca Andexler nominated by Birdie, seconded by Leslie and unanimously approved as her replacement.

FOSMS MEETING SCHEDULE PLANNER 2025-26

FOSMS MONTHLY MEETING							TIME							LOCATION						
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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MARCH 2026							APRIL 2026							MAY 2026							JUNE 2026							JULY 2026							AUGUST 2026								
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