

FRIENDS OF SMS MEETING NOTES

Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/15/26

Time: 8:30am – 9:45am

Location: SMS-HS Flex Space

I. TREASURER UPDATE (Christina)

- Nicole Graves is currently training to take over the Treasurer position.
- Drama Club funds are being transferred from the district to the Friends of SMS. A check request was submitted by Brad on January 12th. Plans are underway to open a new MoneyMinder account for managing Drama Club funds separately to enhance clarity in reporting.
- Christina suggested moving most funds from checking to the money market account at Huntington over the summer to maximize interest. Birdie recommended doing this in April or May while ensuring sufficient funds are available for remaining expenditures.
- An amendment to the budget may be necessary, as there's a surplus in the School/Teacher/Staff Support section due to underuse of allocated funds for the Snack Closet. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

II. PRINCIPAL UPDATE (Brad)

- Upcoming Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on April 29 and 30, with a signup link to be shared. Each conference will last approximately 6 minutes, followed by open discussion time.
- Brad highlighted chronic absenteeism rates at SMS/HS and sought input on effective communication strategies to improve attendance.
- Attendance trends were reviewed, showing fluctuating rates over the past five years at the high school and middle school levels.
- Brad requested feedback on the need for future class programming, expressing a desire for more foreign language, Home Economics, Industrial Arts, and hands-on Art projects.

III. PT CONFERENCE MEALS (Rebecca)

- Volunteer sign-ups for January 22 and 23 are nearly full.
- Discussions about the April 29 and 30 conferences indicated that asking for volunteers on two consecutive days may be too demanding; catering for the second day is being considered.

IV. SNACK & SUPPLY CLOSETS

- No updates at this time.

V. NEXT COUNT DAY IDEAS (Birdie)

- February 11th is the next count day. Suggestions to boost attendance include holding a raffle, arranging an assembly, or a staff vs. student competition.
- Brad will consult the Spirit Group for additional ideas.

VI. HOLLAND ICE SKATING FIELD TRIP FOR 7TH GRADERS (Birdie)

- Scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2026, from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM.
- Bussing is confirmed, with two staff members to chaperone. Birdie will seek five more volunteers.

VII. 6TH GRADE FUN NIGHT (Creela)

- Scheduled for March 13, 2026, from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.
- Chaperones are confirmed, and plans include pizza, cookies, open gym activities, and games.
- A "cell phone table" will be set up to encourage students to stay off electronics.
- Krista will provide a speaker and microphone from the Tech Team.

VIII. 7TH/8TH GRADE DANCE (Creela & Justine)

- Scheduled for February 27, 2026, from 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM at the Breezeway.
- DJ is booked; photobooth arrangements are pending. Organization and publicity for chaperones are needed.

IX. TEACHER APPRECIATION

- Birdie will lead the coordination, with support from Megan, Kara, and Rebecca.
- A "grazing table" is suggested for the event.

X. DRAMA CLUB (Justine)

- Upcoming performances are scheduled for the last week of January.
- Rotary Club funds have been utilized to purchase two microphones.

XI. MEMBERSHIP

- The group is encouraging increased active participation. Updates from board members indicate that term limits restrict a member to three consecutive terms in one position. Spring elections will be held for the At-Large (Creela), President (Birdie), and Secretary (Jennifer) positions.

XII. ITEMS TO ADD TO 2026/2027 CALENDAR

- Suggested inclusions for the calendar include field trips, count days, teacher meals, fundraisers, dances, Fun Night, Washington D.C. trip, and 6th grade camp.

XIII. SAUGATUCK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

- Youth Summer Camps will be available for preview online on January 19, with registration opening on February 3. New offerings include a three-day theater camp for ages 12-14.
 - Scholarships (full and partial) will be available, with applications on the website.
 - Upcoming events include HS attending Mountainfilm for Students on March 17 and MS on March 19. Middle School field trips for "Flourish" are available now through May.
 - The annual free Community Summer Celebration event is scheduled for Saturday, June 6.

XIV. NEXT MEETING

- Scheduled for February 19, 2026, at 8:30 AM in the SMS-HS Flex Space.

FOSMS MEETING SCHEDULE PLANNER 2025-26

FOSMS MONTHLY MEETING	TIME	LOCATION
FEBRUARY 19, 2026	8:30am	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							SDECEMBER 2025							JANUARY 2026							FEBRUARY 2026						
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