



April 23, 2025 Meeting

Call to Order: 7:01pm

Accept Minutes: Minutes of last meeting accepted

Membership Report: no new members

Treasurer Report

- Fiscal Report:
GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT – March 19, 2025 – April 22, 2025
Opening Balance 03/19/2025 \$43,258.20
Disbursements (\$17,669.03)
Deposits \$9,704.39
Closing Balance 04/22/2025 \$35,293.56
- Fund Request: \$350 for Mrs. Glennons class trip bus, \$350 for 3rd grade class trip bus

Fundraising Report

- Fundraisers: no new fundraisers at this time
- Spirit Wear: made \$76 from the past month
 - Contest is currently going on. Use #somervillespiritsquad

Ongoing Business

- Teacher/Staff Grants Recap:
 - Mrs. Setzer spoke about her materials to gamify instruction. The students have been using these materials and it is available to the whole school.
 - Mrs White spoke about the lego spike essential kits and how she is incorporating these kits into library lessons
- By Law Update Vote: A vote on the updated By-Laws was taken. 12 yes in person, 2 yes online. By-Laws are on the PTO website
- Staff Appreciation Week: Theme is “Our Teachers Rock”
 - PTO is asking for an additional \$1000 to cover any costs that we do not get in donations. 12 yes in person
 - There will be a sign up genius going out at the end of this week for baked goods at the end of this week
 - You can currently find a cheddar up link to donate for the teacher lunch
- Field Day: take place on 5/23
 - SMS needs only ice pops
 - VDV ice pops and more volunteers
- Board Election Nominations: Currently still open. All nominations are due by 4/30. Voting will take place on 5/21, must be a paid member and have least attended 2 meetings.

New Business

- SMS Diversity Event: Take place on 10/9 during The Week of Respect.
 - families will share a cultural dish
 - a performance will take place in the new auditorium

- some kind of raffle/student projects will also be held.
- Patriots Tickets/Volunteer Appreciation: game is on 8/1
 - We will be raffling off tickets to a family that is a member, has attended at least 2 meetings (in person or online) and has volunteered at 2 events

Updates from the Schools & School Organizations

- VDV:

April:

April is Autism Awareness Month and acknowledged the week with a Spirit week as well as a school wide read aloud.

April 4th we had our 5th Grade DARE Graduation at 9:15am

The Girls on The Run Program has begun for our 3rd-5th grade students.

2nd grade classes explored the fire museum. Here they learned about Somerville fire department's history and had the opportunity to investigate a historical fire truck.

We had our VDV Variety Show that will showcase the talents of some of our 4th and 5th grade students. Students may be singing, dancing, hula hooping, telling jokes, etc.

April 7-11 was Week of the Young Child where we celebrated with various activities including a cereal box domino challenge where we had over 300 boxes that we donated to the Food Bank of Somerset County. During this time, we celebrated the importance of early education. Each day had a theme that was celebrated by PS-2nd grade students. Students also created their own songs to children's songs.

5th grade went on a field trip to the Jacobus House to learn about historical events that took place during the revolutionary war.

Our social workers met with each grade level to have lessons discussing the difference between tattling vs. telling.

The 3rd grade classes had presentations by Somerset County 4H on Pollination.

Today our school nurses held their monthly Wellness Wednesday for our students and staff. This month's theme is focused on hygiene.

Tomorrow, staff will bring in their children to celebrate Take Your Child To Work.

With the assistance of Mrs. White, two activities will occur for these children.

Some staff have also planned various activities for their own students that explored various careers.

On Friday, our first grade students will have their Market Day as a culmination to their Social Studies unit on Goods and Services. Students chose to sell either a good or a service. Families have been invited.

NJSLA-begins for our 3rd-5th grade students next Tuesday and goes through May 13th! Please make sure your students are getting a good night's rest on

testing days, come to school on time and have devices charged and ready to use.

May:

May Teacher Appreciation Week- Themed days are forthcoming! Thank you to those who have donated.

Science Fair is May 1st from 4-6pm for families

VDV Spring Concert May 20th at the high school at 6pm

Our Final VDV iReady (K-5) will be May 19th-30th for Math and Reading.

VDV Field Day May 23rd which is also a Half Day for Students. Volunteer!

Somerset Patriots Performance for June 1st by our 4th and 5th grade music students

- **SMS:**

April is Lifesaver Month at SMS! Starting on Tuesday, April 1, all staff have bags of lifesavers that can be given to students when they observe other students helping, aka "being a lifesaver for," other students or staff! The lifesavers are an opportunity for us to acknowledge students when they spontaneously help those around them and encourage them to keep supporting each other when they get the chance. Thank you to Ines Cantatore and the School Climate Team for the idea and to the PTO for the monetary support!

On April 1st and 2nd, SMS completed their third iReady diagnostic in preparation for state testing in May. The diagnostic data will drive building-level interventions and preparation.

On Wednesday, April 2nd, the SMS staff and students wore their Tie Dye or Rainbow colors in support of National World Autism Day.

On Thursday, April 3rd, SMS students were acknowledged and recognized for their achievement at the Paul Robeson Recognition night at Raritan Valley Community College. The Paul Robeson program is designed to highlight outstanding African American High School and Middle School students and is coordinated through RVCC. Each student was required to apply and was selected through an independent panel at Raritan Valley Community College. Five Somerville Middle School students were nominated for awards, and we had one winner of this very selective award.

On Thursday, April 10th, SMS conducted its final spring concert in the SMS auditorium. SMS students "rocked" the SMS auditorium for one final time before the SMS auditorium makeover commences. Mr. Lorette and Mr. Gibbins put on a wonderful performance highlighting all the talents that SMS students offer.

On Friday, April 11th SMS held Career Day for all students. 16 different profession presentations were conducted in a round robin format for students to visit during their assigned PE class. The day was a great success and exposed SMS to the wide array of career pathways available to them once they leave the walls of SMS. Professions that students were able to visit with included:

Finance/Financial Planner, College Professor, Assistant Prosecutor (Essex County NJ), Nurse, Scientist for Consumer Products Goods Industry, Sales/

Marketing/ Business Development Executive, Science/Medical Writer, Police Officer, Mechanical Engineer for the US Army and Picatinny Arsenal, Mortuary Practitioner, Project Manager for the Green Acres Program at the NJDEP, Head of Quality Department for skincare factory, Electrician (work for local IBEW), Architect, Trade Worker with heavy equipment, and a Retail banker.

Monday, 4/21, was Life Skills Day, which gave staff a chance to bring some different types of skills into the classroom than those that are usually included in the every day curriculum. Some of the topics included woodworking, stroke awareness (with a nurse guest speaker), understanding insurance, active listening, healthy relationships and conflict resolution, reading an analog clock, writing professional emails, kitchen safety, and so many more!

8th grade had their Trash-Free Earth Day picnic on Tuesday, 4/22.

Take Your Child to Work Day is tomorrow, 4/24. Please submit a letter from your employer for an excused absence if your child attends your place of employment with you tomorrow.

Other upcoming events:

4/29 - Science 2 Science Field Trip

5/2 - 8th Grade Sterling Mines Trip

5/5-5/9 - NJSLA Testing

5/9 - Midpoint of MP4

5/16 - Final Peer Leadership Outreach between 8th grade Peer Leaders and 6th grade classes

5/19-20 - 8th Grade NJSLA Science Testing

5/23 - Field Day

5/30 - 8th Grade Mixer event at SHS

- Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG)
 - 4/24 is the District Meeting
 - 4/26 is the We Rock the Spectrum outing
 - 5/7 is the last parent input meeting
 - 5/10 is the annual Friendship Day @ SMS from 12-2 with a rain date of 5/17

Close of Meeting: 7:51pm

PTO Executive Board

Amanda Hoy, President
Melinda Julian, Vice President
Janet Moody, Secretary
Randa Rydzy, Treasurer
Sam Marx, Membership

Ashley Finlayson, Co-Fundraising
Alyssa Short, Co-Fundraising
Megan Britton, Communications
Korine Szot, Spirit Wear

Meetings are 3rd Wed of each month @ 7pm: 5/21

Organización de Padres y Maestros PTO de Somerville

NJ Kinder-8 Grado

Agenda de la reunión del 23 de Abril de 2025

Llama para ordenar	Amanda Hoy
Aceptar minutos	Janet Moody
Informe de Membresía	Sam Marx
Informe del Tesorero <ul style="list-style-type: none">Informe fiscal y Solicitudes de fondos	Randa Rydzy
Informe de Recaudación de Fondos <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recaudación de fondosRecordatorio de ropa escolar	Ashley Finlayson & Alyssa Short Korine Szot
Informes de Comités <ul style="list-style-type: none">Resumen de las subvenciones para docentesActualizaciones de los estatutosSemana de agradecimiento al personalDía de campoNominaciones abiertas para elecciones de la junta	Amanda Hoy Amanda Hoy Melinda Julian Amanda Hoy Amanda Hoy
Nuevo negocio <ul style="list-style-type: none">Evento de diversidad de SMSAgradecimiento a los voluntarios	Randa Rydzy Amanda Hoy
Actualizaciones de las escuelas <ul style="list-style-type: none">VDV. Escuela elementaria Van DerveerSMS. Escuela Intermediaria de Somerville (Middle School)Grupo asesor de padres de educación especial (SEPAG)	
Abierto para discusión	
Cierre de la reunion	

PTO Junta Ejecutiva

Amanda Hoy, Presidenta
Melinda Julian, Vice Presidenta
Janet Moody, Secretaria
Randa Rydzy, Tesorera
Sam Marx, Afiliación

Ashley Finlayson, Recaudación de Fondos
Alyssa Short, Recaudación de Fondos
Megan Britton, Comunicaciones
Korine Szot, Recordatorio de ropa escolar

Las reuniones son el tercer miércoles de cada mes @ 7pm: 5/21