



March 18, 2026 Meeting

Call to Order 7:05pm

Meeting Minutes Approval 11 yes votes

Membership Report: no new members

Treasurer Report

- Fiscal Report:

Opening Balance	\$31,274.85
Income	\$13,900.04
Expenses	-\$1,855.67
Ending Balance	\$43,319.22

- Fund Requests: 3 buses for field trips

Fundraising Report

- Fundraisers:
 - Hersey Park tickets are currently on sale for \$48 a ticket and due on 3/25
 - Blue Sheep Bake Shop fundraiser will be in May and we are working on the specifics
 - Dine To Donate: Chipotle made \$286.98
Honey Grow made \$151.00
Blaze Pizza is on 3/19 from 5:00-9:00
- Spirit Wear: \$200 since last meeting in January

Old Business

- Valentine Grams: sold 213 grams and made \$1,075 which is about the same as last year
- VDV Book Fair: Everything went smoothly and thank you to all of the volunteers
 - Made \$18,777.16 which is about \$1,000 more than last year
 - \$8,477.45 left to spend in scholastic dollars after filling the wish lists and VanDercart
 - 88 items went to the VanDercart
 - Share The Fair total was \$1,031.33 which was about \$900 less than last year but covered by left over scholastic dollars

Ongoing Business

- Day of Service: Students decided that the donation will be made to the Somerset Animal Shelter. The PTO will donate \$
- Comfort Closets: open in both VDV and SMS

New Business

- Staff Appreciation Week: week of 5/4-5/8 and will be FRIENDS theme
- Field Day: will be on 5/22 and in the April newsletter to sign up for volunteers at VDV. PTO will be providing both schools with popsicles
- 5th & 8th Grade Shirts: SMS shirt design is due on 3/25 and VDV shirt design due date will come out after Spring Break
- Board Election Nominations are open and will close on 4/25. In order to be selected to be on the Board you need to be a paid member and have attended at least 2 meetings. A President, Treasurer and Secretary are required in order to have non profit status. Voting will take place at the May meeting.

Updates from the Schools & School Organizations

- VDV: I would like to share several important updates and celebrate some of our recent successes within our school community.

We recently celebrated a very successful Read Across America week. We were joined by a wonderful group of outside readers, making it a truly memorable experience for our students. Additionally, our Family Learning Night was a huge success, filled with community engagement and lots of laughter. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you for your time and for helping to make our recent book fair so successful. Olympics Week: Students have been setting goals centered around our school's motto. Those who completed all of the rings earned the opportunity to select a nonprofit for a donation; we are proud to announce we will be donating to the Somerset Animal Shelter.

Looking ahead, we have several exciting events and initiatives on the calendar:

- Variety Show: The show is coming up with many talented acts and will take place next Wednesday at the middle school.
 - Walking Wednesday: This program is now up and running and begins at the pickleball courts.
 - DARE Graduation: The ceremony will take place on March 20 at 9:15 AM.
 - Awareness Days: We will observe World Down Syndrome Day on March 20 (please note the specific socks to be worn). On March 25, we will observe Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day; please wear green and be prepared to share why this cause is important.
 - Autism Awareness Week: We will celebrate with a school spirit week beginning April 6.
 - Spring Break: School will be closed for spring break starting March 30.
 - Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day: This is scheduled for April 23, and a Google Form will be sent out shortly for participants.
 - Field Trips & Yearbooks: Spring field trips are starting up soon, and yearbooks are currently on sale.
 - State Testing: Testing for grades 3–5 will begin during the last week of April.
- SMS:
 - Christina Eddleman, Melissa Cebula, and Catrina Coffey, along with the entire cast and crew of the Seussical Jr. put together a wonderful performance for SMS. It was an outstanding performance for the school community! Congratulations!
 - Dr. Sro coordinated SMS's annual Challenge Day for the 8th grade students. The experience is one that our 8th graders will never forget. Additional thanks to Allison

Parajon, Melissa Cebula, Tom George, Ty Headen, Asada Monae Taylor, Dana Marrocco, Rebecca Cruz, David Damaschke, Jo Pittenger, Jenna Staves, Matt DeBlock, Hillary Boff, Stephanie Phibbs, Marisol Espinoza, JR Lubisco, Colin Williamson, Emma Giantisco, Erin Rosenberg, Marie Cohen and Dr. Sro for their willingness and openness to be supportive, vulnerable and a big part of the Challenge Day success.

-Gaming Club start - team its first win of season in Mario Cart. We had a huge show of interest

-On February 3rd, SMS student Aileen Bantras Montano was formally recognized by an Optimum representative for her essay, *"Two Worlds, One Heart,"* submitted as part of the Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest. Aileen was congratulated for her outstanding work and awarded a brand-new iPad in recognition of her achievement,

-Athletics side - Boys Basketball completed their season with a victory in the championship game vs Warren Hills. Spring season is about to kick off.

-We had several SHS counselor visits to prepare our 8th grade students for high school. Additionally, over 50 students sat for the Vo-Tech placement exam.

- Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG):
4/14 at 7:00 is a virtual meeting
4/23 meeting with the school
5/30 is Friendship Day on the VDV preschool playground

Close of Meeting @ 7:50pm