

SMPA Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2011

SMPA Co-Chair, Jane Clarke, began the meeting by introducing herself, welcoming everyone to the meeting and thanking everyone for such a great turn-out. Following the welcome, the SMPA Committee and all attending the meeting introduced themselves and their children.

Richard Eyster, Head of School, then took a moment to thank everyone for being present and strongly encouraged people to volunteer as much as possible. He emphasized the value and importance of the SMPA and what it provides to the Summit community.

Siobhan Mahaney proposed amending Summit's by-laws. Currently, the by-laws read that the President of SMPA must serve on the Board's Development Committee. The proposed change would enable the President to make a choice of whether or not he/she wants to be on the Development Committee. A show of hands unanimously voted for the amendment. There was no opposition.

Darcey Dakers-Kamanitz, Treasurer, explained SMPA dues usage. Dues are used for cultural enrichment events such as the family picnic (scheduled for 9/23). Past events have included visits from the New England Aquarium and Opera to Go. There have been enrichment events on subjects like reptiles and geology. Every year, new enrichment events may be added or they may be repeated depending on the curriculum. This year, SMPA is expecting to contribute \$1,500 towards enrichment events. Richard Eyster added that this SMPA contribution really makes these programs possible. Other uses for SMPA dues are for end-of-year teacher gifts. \$25 is the suggested donation. SMPA dues contribution is currently 30% with the hopes of getting at least 75% participation from our families.

Lois Pond, Director of Development, re-introduced herself and explained how volunteering truly enriches us all and how a child's success in school depends on family involvement. She invited all to meet with her in her office to share Summit stories. What about Summit makes you excited? She would love to hear!

Siobhan spoke about cultural enrichment and how information is gathered from faculty regarding the kinds of programs which should be included based on support/curriculum. Louise distributes a "Monday Update," but people have really responded to the blog and to Facebook. 98 people have become friends of Summit on Facebook, including some alumni.

SMPA Co-Chair, Sue Savage, began by sending a big thanks to Darcey for all her help during the SMPA leadership transition. Next, she talked about the planned SMPA events for the year:

Family Picnic 9/23/11 – Participation in this event gives families a real sense of camaraderie and it's a lot of fun. Sign-up sheets for half-hour activity time slots and food contributions were passed around and left on the desk in the hallway. A volunteer is still needed to be the "Go-To" person for the day. The picnic will take place from 3:00-6:00 with a rain date of 9/24 or 9/25 from 11:00 – 2:00. There will be two wrap-up meetings prior to the event. The first is on 9/14/11 and the second on 9/21/11. Both are to take place after morning drop-off at 8:30.

Mothers' Night Out 10/13/11– Between 7:00 – 9:00 PM, eight or nine vendors set up tables of merchandise which can be purchased, with at least 5% of sales going back to Summit. The event raised \$900 last year.

Summit will receive credit for any catalogue or on-line orders placed if you are unable to attend the event. Vendors are expected to include Tupperware, Silpada and Pampered Chef, to name a few. Friends and family are welcome. Attendees are asked to bring wine and cheese for the Mom's to enjoy while they shop.

N.E. Revolution 10/15/11 – Darcey recommends arriving two hours before the game begins for face painting and bouncy house fun. Tickets are \$25/ea, parking is free and seating for Summit is all together in the stadium. Jessica added how her kids look forward to this event every year and how family-friendly she finds this event.

Book Fair 10/25 through 10/27/11 – Mary Ann Ciampa explained how the children come through and create wish lists for the books they want. What makes the process neat for the younger children is that they get assistance from the older Upper El students when making their lists. 10/27/11 is Parents' Night to come and purchase books and enjoy pizza with their children. Volunteers are needed to fill 1-2 hr time slots during the week. Friends and family are welcome to come and shop for books.

Family Nights Out – These events are big crowd pleasers. Uno's, California Pizza Kitchen, and Ben and Jerry's are the venues where they will take place. Lots of people turn out for these events and the kids always have a blast. Money goes toward the Cultural Enrichment programs. Siobhan noted that if you can't linger at the event you can order take-out and Summit will receive a percent of the sale.

Fathers' Night Out 11/21/11 – Jessica's husband, Dave Hoffman, is the Chair of this committee. Fathers and grandfathers are welcome to come and watch a Patriots game, eat some food and gab with the guys. O'Connell's Pub was the venue used last year and we're open to suggestions for other establishments.

Teachers' Appreciation Lunch 3/9/12 – Sue expressed the need for volunteers to prepare food items for a buffet luncheon on behalf of teachers on Conference Day.

On-line Auction date TBD - Siobhan talked about an eBay style auction for Summit. People can bid on items, even if they are not part of the Summit community. It seems like it would be a big job to volunteer for but Jessica and Darcey assured everyone that it's not so scary but that is actually pretty easy. There are several different roles around the auction including sending out solicitation letters to vendors. We are looking for a Chair and volunteers for this committee.

Annual Spring Gala 5/12/12 – The theme was changed from Cinco de Mayo to Fiesta Quinceañera in honor of Summit's 15th Birthday. Framingham Country Club generously donates the rooms to Summit for the Gala. This event includes a silent and live auction.

Final words from Richard reminded everyone about Parent's Night on 9/15, a wonderful opportunity to meet with your children's teachers. Limited child care is available and sign-up is on a first-come/first-served basis.

Respectfully Submitted,

April L. Smith