

# John F. Kennedy Middle School PTO Meeting



**Location:** Cafeteria

**Date:** November 30, 2022 at 6:30 PM

## Call to Order and Welcome

Jennifer Nicoletti and Nicole Salomone-Bates: Introductions were made. The following members were in attendance: Jennifer Nicoletti (President), Nicole Salomone Bates (Co-president), Paula Mennone-Preisner (Treasurer), Rhea Mulligan (Secretary), Sue Vitcavage (Principal), Marc DiDominzio (Assistant Principal), Emily Dickson (School Counselor), Lisa Gelada and Tracy Munson (Fundraising Coordinators), Kizzy Hernandez-Bigos and Dawn Perkins (Book Fair Coordinators), Karen Corrado (Enrichment Coordinator), Kerry Hannify-Morin (Membership Coordinator), Melissa Mulrooney (Public Relations and Communications Coordinator), Cindy Peruta, Lori Avery, Karen Sciota, Sarah Focarile, Donna Wanczyk, Jane Emmendorfer.

## Guest Speaker

Emily Dickson, School Counselor: 8th Grade transitions regarding high school were discussed. On 12/1/22 a SHS virtual presentation will be held. On 12/8/22, the high school counselors will be coming to talk to 8th graders about what the high school has to offer and what courses they need to take. On 1/11/23 a virtual course fair will be held. On 1/23/23, an electives presentation will be given. In the spring there will be a club and activities fair. The 8th graders will get to tour the high school in the spring with a date TBD. In August, there will be an open house. Canvas will be the primary form of communication for these events as well as the daily announcements.

A question was asked about electives, what is offered and what high school students will need to take. Ms. Dickson directed members to the program of studies which outlines all courses offered at high school.

The high school schedule will be changing and will be discussed tomorrow night.

5th/6th grade transition: There is a 5 step process for the transition which includes the following: 1.) 5th grade will see the Kennedy drama club presentation. 2.) a tour and presentation in March/April will be held. 3.) A counselor will go to each elementary school 5th grade classroom to discuss courses. 4.) Camp Sloper Moving Up Day will happen in the spring. 5.) Summer tours will occur for incoming 6th graders.

<p><b>Principal's Report</b></p>	<p>Sue Vitcavage and Marc DiDominzio: Upcoming concerts, the Scholastic Book Fair and Spirit Wear were discussed. 12/2/22 is the last day for free breakfast/lunch. 12/1/22 is school picture retake day. A new special education teacher for the EASE program will begin teaching at JFK on 12/19/22. Substitutes (teachers and paras) are needed. Contact administration if you know of any candidates. Basketball tryouts are coming up. Nurse Berry's last day is Friday as she is leaving the district to work in New Britain. A question was asked about back-up for nurses. Mrs. Vitcavage confirmed that floater nurses are available and the school already has another nurse on staff. A school resource officer is beginning this month. Her primary purpose is to assist with community building. A question was asked about the role of the resource officer. Mrs. Vitcavage explained her role in more depth. The SRO will be at Kennedy every other day, and at DePaolo on the alternate days. A new math tutor was hired and began this week.</p>
<p><b>President's Report</b></p>	<p>Jennifer Nicoletti and Nicole Salomone-Bates: The Southington Education Foundation (SEF) will hold their annual "Honor an Educator" program. This is an annual event that allows for students to honor an educator of their choice by making a donation. An announcement will go out in the weekly e blast and general membership email. SEFs purpose and contributions were explained in detail. Donations can be made online, and cards will be distributed to the student noting the donation.</p> <p>Melissa Mulrooney discussed Kennedy Cares. It is a program that can assist families in need during the holidays (monetarily or with gift cards) Kennedy Cares works in conjunction with the school social worker to determine the families in need. Gift cards (as opposed to presents/gifts) are directly given to families.</p> <p>A list of preferred gift cards will be made available. Parents and students can drop off donations in the main office. 12/16/22 is the deadline for donations</p>
<p><b>Fundraising Update</b></p>	<p>Lisa Gelada and Tracy Munson: For the Pat's Ice Cream fundraiser, \$100 was made on a Friday night. It is recommended that we use Dairy Queen as it may increase our profits for next year. Spirit Wear was discussed. The high price increases since last year were noted. It was suggested that we may need to look at another vendor for next year for better prices. \$1500 in sales are estimated. Tracy shared that prices are up everywhere. Members discussed doing another spirit wear fundraiser again for the 5th graders later in the year.</p>

	<p>Pie update: \$483 was made from the pie fundraiser. The fundraiser may not have been kept open long enough. Meadow Farms profit was shared. We are looking to do an apple fundraiser in February. The vendor offers a variety of flavored apples to choose from. South End elementary school made over \$1000 with a 50% profit on earnings. We are looking to set it up for after holidays, sometime during the winter.</p>
<p><b>Secretary's Report</b></p>	<p>September General PTO meeting minutes were reviewed. Hard copies were made available to the members. An electronic copy of the minutes is available on the JFK Middle School site under the PTO section. Karen Corrado motioned to approve the minutes. Kerry Hannify-Morin seconded the motion.</p>
<p><b>Book Fair Update</b></p>	<p>Kizzy Hernandez-Bigos and Dawn Perkins: The book fair coordinators have been meeting to organize set-up for the upcoming December book fair. Melissa will put up a link on the parent/family Facebook page for parents to order online or sign up for e wallet. They can also pay with cash or check. A Sign Up Genius page was set up. A cash box request form was signed off by a co-president. The new CT sales tax form flyer was discussed. The flyer can go home with a sales tax reference chart so kids can budget their money and factor in sales tax. Promotional materials and a preview flyer were shown and can go out on Monday. Volunteer positions via Sign Up Genius are filling up quickly. One volunteer will be needed each night during winter concerts to help Kizzy and Dawn. Signage will be needed for parents to see where the book fair is being held on those nights. Decorations will be needed for the signage. A flyer will go home to notify parents of the book fair nights, and a blast will go home from the principal.</p>
<p><b>Cultural Arts Update</b></p>	<p>Karen Corrado: A local Trash Sculptor has been selected to do a cultural arts presentation for the students. The presentation is expected to be held sometime in January. The sculptor will do a demonstration and will display her art work for students to view. All grades will participate in the presentation. There will be 3 separate presentations for each grade.</p>
<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p>	<p>Paula Mennone-Preisner: A recent report was sent to all members. The October income membership and fall fundraiser totaled \$3,500. There were no expenses in October. Kerry Hannify-Morin noted that membership is down. Treasurer confirmed that the budget is down by \$880 due to declining memberships. Incentives were discussed to bring up membership. Mrs. Vitcavage suggested moving the Scholastic book fair carts to the lobby for the winter concert book fair nights in order to generate more income and make up for lost membership revenue. PTO will also try to recruit</p>

	<p>more members during the winter concert nights. Kerry Hannify-Morin motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Karen Corrado seconded the motion.</p>
<p><b>8th Grade End of Year Celebration</b></p>	<p>Those interested in finding out more about 8th grade end of year celebration and volunteering for positions can stay after the general meeting to learn more information</p>
<p><b>Southington High School Scholarship Committee</b></p>	<p>Nicole Salomone-Bates &amp; Jennifer Nicoletti: scholarship committee will be formed for two scholarships (one girl, one boy from SHS), the committee consists of three PTO members not including presidents, volunteers will work with school office, applications will be collected, reviewed and voted on, Karen Corrado volunteered to chair the committee. Kerry Hannify-Morin, Kizzy Hernandez-Bigos, Sarah Focarile, and Jane Emmendorfer will assist with reviewing applications and determining the recipients.</p>
<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p>	<p>A question was asked about why the PTO general meetings are held every other month as opposed to monthly. The co-presidents explained that in the past the PTO was not getting enough participation during monthly meetings. It was agreed by the PTO board that they would try holding general meetings every other month and board meetings during the off month. The co-presidents confirmed that scheduling the general meetings this way has generated more member participation.</p> <p>A question was asked about the scheduling of meetings. The co-presidents confirmed that most meetings will normally be scheduled on the last Wednesday of every other month.</p>
<p><b>Adjourn Meeting</b></p>	<p>Jennifer Nicoletti motioned to adjourn the meeting and Karen Corrado seconded the motion.</p>