

SSPO Meeting Agenda

Friday, March 6th 2015 • Noon

Welcome/SSPO Business (15 mins.)

- School Attendance/Officer Introductions/Introductions
All schools present except Arbor Hills, Maplewood, and Stranahan
- Approval of February meeting minutes
Minutes were approved with a unanimous call.
- Call for SSPO Officers
 - Review Officer Slate and Duty Description
There are still openings for next year: Parent Liaison Co-Chair and At Large position.
Please see attached for descriptions of the positions.
Contact Kate Fineske at k8designs@me.com if interested.
These will be voted on at the April meeting.
- SSPO Spring Forum: **Thursday, March 26th at 7 p.m.** at Arbor Hills Junior High School featuring our District's Teacher Leaders and Administrators highlighting and educating parents on the amazing classroom experiences our teachers are working to provide our children in today's 21st Century Learning environment.
This will be an extension of the SSPO meeting – and update regarding digital tools and how teachers are using these tools at all grade levels.
Please join us, RSVP on FB, and share on FB.

The Olander Parks System (TOPS) (2 mins.)

- Erika Buri, Distribution of quick survey
New director (Ms. Buri) as of April. Is looking for feedback regarding what they are doing well and what can use improvement as they move forward. Fill out survey passed out or complete online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FSWYQXK>
Their first planning meeting will be in May.

Treasurer's Report (5 mins.) Ann Francis

- SSPO Dues Update
There has been no activity since the last meeting.

District Update (5-10 mins.)

- Presented by Scott Nelson.
Superintendent transition has begun and is going well. Jane Spurgeon will be new Asst. Super.
Snow day update: we have missed 8 days. We hope there won't be anymore.
Testing: Going very well thanks to the hard work of the staff including teachers and administration.
The district is continually looking for new ways to be more efficient to save costs.

TOPIC: STEM in Sylvania Schools (30-45 mins. including questions)

- Guests: Northview High School Principal Steve Swaggerty, Southview High School Principal Dave McMurray, Assistant Curriculum Director Julie Sanford, and Crystal Burnworth, Sylvan Elementary Lego Team Coordinator and District Lego Team Facilitator.

Adam Fineske, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, gave a brief introduction of the team and an overview of the programs. STEM stands for Science Technology Engineering Math. Sylv Schools is working to promoting education that is geared toward these areas and preparing students for the future. Every building is having a science fair this year and Imagination Station is offering camps in these areas as well.

Crystal Burnworth, Northview counselor, is also the founding parent for the Sylv Schs FLL – First Lego League (for 4th – 8th graders). She was looking for something for her children and found this and started it at Sylvan, which now has 4 teams.

Sylv Schs FLL – First Lego League (for 4th – 8th graders)

- Not a lego club – use legos to solve real world problems, such as elderly falls, earthquake damage (defined by FLL yearly theme).
- The students get to work with many professionals such as patent attorneys, chemistry professors, Deputy Fire Chief, seismologists, etc.
- They compete locally, regionally and nationally.
- Grants were written to fund the teams.

Jr FLL members (1st – 3rd grade)

- Explore legos and solve similar projects with legos. They do not compete.
- Next year – Sylvania will be hosting a regional and district tournament.

Julie Sanford, Assistant Director of Curriculum – Junior High level and Career Tech

- 2 course offerings directed at STEM for 7th & 8th.
 - STEM module package – use computer modules to design and build projects.
 - Information Technology
- Every 7th/8th grader will do a rotation in both of these areas.

Steve Swaggerty (NV Principal), Dave McMurray (SV Principal), and Ismael Gad, SV student rep for Science Research Class

- There are core offerings at all levels of math (including statistics and calculus), science (including zoology and chemistry) as well as honors STEM classes (6 in science, 4 in math and 8 in career tech).
- The main premise of many of the STEM classes is to cover fewer topics but dig deeper which is in line with the common core.
- Science Research class is offered to 10-12 graders. Students are given the opportunity to cover topics that they care about. He gave many examples of these projects including a dress made with solar panels that could charge your phone. This class is student-driven rather than teacher-driven and the students work on real world problems.
- NV will also offer this class next year.
- Highly recommended to take algebra in 8th grade to allow more flexibility in AP/Honors.
- Career Tech route offers many ways to explore various topics through electives.
- Many clubs and activities as well
- Highly recommend starting now, possibly with the Lego league, and keep learning alive in the summer.
- NV offers Camp Creatives in the summer.

Other Business:(2 mins.)

NEXT SSPO MEETING

SPRING SSPO FORUM: The 21st Century Learner

March 26th, 7:00 p.m. Arbor Hills Jr. High

April 17th, Guidance Counselor Overview

Noon, Admin. Building, Zimpfer Conference Room

2014-15 MEETING CALENDAR

September 5th– Transportation

October 3rd– School Funding (Noon)

November 7th– Parent Sharing Meeting:*MyBigCampus, Communication Dos & Don'ts, Interact Student Volunteers*

December 12th– Officers Meeting

January 16th– Academic Update (Noon)

February 6th– School Health and Allergies (Noon)

March 6th– STEM in Sylvania Schools / 2015-16 Officer Slate (Noon)

March 26th– Spring Forum: 24th Century Learning (7:00 p.m.)

April 17th– Guidance Counselor Overview (2015-16 Officer Nominations)

May 8th– Athletic Foundation / AEF / 2014-15 Year Recap / 2015-16 Idea Input and Officer Elections (Noon)

June – TOPIC: Officer Meeting, SSPO Planning Meeting - TIME TBA