

Proposed Minutes  
Sunset Ridge PTA Meeting  
December 14, 2011

I. Introductions: The call to order was made by Co-President Kelsey Stetzenbach at 6:30 p.m. Introductions were given by the 10 adults in attendance:

Andi Heidenreich  
Diane Reeber Lin  
Kristin Martin  
Todd Mann

Marcia Schiffman  
Kelsey Stetzenbach  
Joan Nelson

Natalie Senecal  
Meghna Kuckreja  
Sara Reeves-Metz

II. Speaker:

Sara Reeves-Metz, SSR School Counselor, was our speaker for the meeting. She shared that her role in the school has shifted away from only the at-risk student emphasis and crisis driven to include all students and be more curriculum driven.

Reeves-Metz discussed four components to her role:

Counseling Curriculum – develop lessons to meet standards and benchmarks, and teaching classroom guidance lessons. 8 different themes are taught: academic success, character education, communication and social skills, safety and wellness, self-knowledge and management, global diversity, career education and lifelong learning, and transitions.

Individual Planning – involved in building Student Support Teams at all grade levels, and Learner Resumes / Jump Start Conferences for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

Responsive Services – collaboration with teacher, parents, and outside agencies, individual and small group counseling. She runs a variety of groups based upon student needs, i.e. family changes, self-confidence, anger, sibling issues, conflict resolution, anxiety, focus/attention, friendships, social skills, and grief and loss.

System Support – Consultation, collaboration and teaming; PBIS (Positive Behaviors Intervention and Support); professional development

Reeves-Metz has many methods of communication that she utilizes to share information; i.e. monthly newsletters that are sent home describing the theme taught that month and suggestions to reinforce the skills at home, parent/counselor conferences, phone calls, emails, as well as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade “Jump Start” conferences for all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Sara Reeves-Metz, our school guidance counselor gave an amazing talk about her role at Sunset Ridge. She asked that if parents would like contact her with questions, they are welcome to do so. Mrs. Metz is curious to know, "What do you feel are the most pressing issues/challenges for elementary children?" If you would like to email or call Sara, please do so at [sreeves-metz@mcpasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:sreeves-metz@mcpasd.k12.wi.us) 608-829-9329. Thank you Mrs. Metz!

III. Secretary's Report: The minutes were approved from the 10/12/11 meeting.

IV. Principal's Report: Mr. Todd Mann discussed PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) that they are utilizing to teach kids what is expected of them and give them the support the need to meet those expectations.

He also discussed the growing diversity at SSR and that ESL (English as a Second Language) students have increased from 3% of our student population to 9%, or 57 students out of our current 530 at SSR. Free and reduced lunches have increased from 5% five years ago to 11% this year, and our students of color have gone up 19% from last year as well.

V. New Business:

A. Upcoming Events:

- Winter Tea needed volunteers (This was a big success and enjoyed by all. Thanks to all of our volunteers)
- Winter Carnival will be held on 2/10/12. Be sure to pre-order your tickets.

VI. Committee Reports:

-Square One Art – is complete and was a wonderful fundraiser for our school again this year. Thanks to all who helped with this event and to all who placed orders!

**Our next PTA Meeting will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**