

# **Sewell Family Engagement Minutes**

## **September 15, 2025**

### **2:50-3:30**

Members Present: Eileen Gow, Andrea Lopez, Christina Petrino, Jodi Darling

#### 1. Family Engagement Calendar

- Upcoming Events in October
  - Trunk or Treat, October 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:00
    - Volunteers to pass out candy
    - Candy Donations
  - Halloween Parade, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1:45-2:15

#### Notes:

- STEAM family event was a success. The event was well attended by families, and we received a lot of positive feedback.
- Trunk or Treat was successful last school year, and we plan to bring it back again this year. We will be seeking parent volunteers to decorate their trunks and pass out candy along with the teachers or set up a game for students to play. We will be asking for candy donations from families. The grade level that collects the highest percentage of pieces of candy will win an Eegees party.
- Halloween Parade will be held again this school year. Students will be allowed to wear their costumes to school (Ms. Darling has extra costumes to students in need). The parade route will be provided to staff and arrows will be placed to clearly mark the parade route. Families are invited to watch the parade and then join students in their classroom afterward.

#### 2. Tax Credit

- Arizona law ARS 43-1089.01 enables taxpayers a tax credit contribution of up to \$400.00 per calendar year if filing status is Married, filing Joint Return; \$200.00 per calendar year if filing status is Single or Head of Household; and, \$200.00 per calendar year if filing status is Married filing separate return — for contributions that fund extracurricular activities in public schools.
- Donation lines available
  - Field Trips
  - Fine Arts
  - OMA
  - Sports
  - Tutor Program

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- Undesignated Tax Credit
- Garden Program (in progress)

#### **Notes:**

- We are excited to announce that the Tutor Program is now a new category eligible for tax credit donations! Additionally, we are currently in the process of adding the Gaden Program to the tax credit list as well.

#### **3. Parent Organization**

- Is there parent interest in starting a PTO, PTA, or Booster Club

#### **Notes:**

- The Booster Club has been disbanded, and there is currently no PTO or PTA.
- The Family Engagement Team serves as the primary avenue for family involvement at this time.

#### **4. Parent Members needed for Family Engagement Team**

#### **Notes:**

- We will work to build a more robust Family Engagement Team as a key pathway to increasing family involvement at Sewell.
- Notices encouraging involvement will be sent out through ParentSquare as well as distributed via paper flyers to reach all families.
- At the upcoming Trunk or Treat event, we will set up an information station with details about upcoming Family Engagement Team meetings and ways parents can participate in school activities.
- To encourage greater participation, we will try holding meetings at 5:00 PM.

#### **5. Future Agenda items or ideas**

#### **Notes:**

- Next meeting: November 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the cafeteria