Southern Bluffs PTO Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2019

**Meeting called to order** by Heather Harpenau @ 6:31pm

**Attendees:** Walt Smankski, Kristin Damstra, Heather Harpenau, Jaclyn Osley, Stephanie Umberger, Laura Smanski, Kristin Pretasky.

**Secretary’s Report –** Jaclyn Osley, The December minutes were emailed to those present at the meeting. Read and approved1st Stephanie Umberger, 2nd Walt Smanski Motion carried unanimously

**Treasurer’s Report** **– Walt Smanski:** 3 checks were written out from the Holiday Fair. Kwik Trip credited the account $9.40 for the Scrip card shipping fee reimbursement. Checks were written to Mt. La Crosse for Ski Day ($1,203.78) and for the 4K-3rd grade Field Trips ($3150). $20.52 credit is from the ongoing use of Scrip Cards. $9,265 is the current balance and the available balance is $7,767. We received a $264.90 Box-Top check. Kwik Trip is discontinuing Milk Moola, we have until March 31st to submit them. We need to notify parents to encourage them to submit Milk Moola as soon as possible. Discussed attaching the Milk Moola notification to the Valentines Dance flyer to encourage parents to send them in.

**Principal’s Report – Lisa Schreiner (emailed report prior to meeting):** The Here Comes the Bus app has been in place for about a month and appears to be going well. 4th-grade students will be taking the National Assessment of Educational Progress (also known as The Nations Report Card) on January 31st.  This is given to selected 4th and 8th-grade students throughout the United States (since 1969) to gather information on how students are doing. No School this Friday and Monday.  Report cards will be going home on January 25th. Due to some scheduling conflicts, our ALICE drill has been moved to January 22nd. Prior to the holidays, our school received a generous donation from the Shelby Fire Department to assist in providing winter gear for our students.

There was a question whether or not Ski Day was mentioned on Mrs. Schreiner’s automated Early Release Call. Automated call is a good marketing tool for events.

Discussion of Here Comes the Bus app: The app can be delayed due to WIFI, inaccurate GPS, delayed and/or have blocked signals and other factors regarding the inaccuracies in the delivery and pickup of students.

Shelby Fire Department sponsored Southern Bluffs for winter wear.

**Old business**

**Kwik Trip Scrip Cards:** Will they be for sale at the Valentine’s Dance? Discussed strategy in regards to Scrip Card sales in regards to Holiday Fair. Possibly keep Scrip Card at a non – fundraiser type events. Concern is that people will purchase Scrip Card in lieu of spending money elsewhere at Holiday Fair. The Scrip Card makes PTO very little money. Further discussion of how people view Scrip Cards when purchasing. Some people view Kwik Trip Scrip as money you give up front but are still able to use funds in the future. There was a suggestion to keep them at the Holiday Fair unless we see a decline in donations. We discussed keeping them at the auction table, as an add-on and not promoting them on the flyer. Other ways to encourage Scrip Cards other than Holiday Fair were to send out an order sheet the week after the Holiday Fair, saying we still have Scrip cards available. Discussed alternative ways/when to sell Scrip cards such as a Google Doc, sign-up sheet in office, V-day dance, conferences, back to school night etc.

In auction area, it was nice to see different size baskets, so there were multiple price points available to bid on.

Heather wrote a letter to Mr. Skiles to thank him for the help with the Holiday Fair. The Donor List Thank you cards all went out.

V-day dance is Fri. Feb 15th, 6:30-8pm. Lisa is DJ’ing. Heather has the Longfellow pantry needs. Roger is working on getting Cool Cat bouncers. Discussed putting veggie trays on the flyer to encourage more healthy snacks.

Spring Picnic: Thursday May 2nd. Heather will start working on food. Further discussion of Spring Picnic will be next month. The caterer we used, Premier Catering, is no longer operational. Hopefully, we can get the same pricing. Discussed Rooster Andy’s catering as a possibility.

Holiday Fair: Kathy and Heather sorted out the Kidland closet. There were 0 men items (Kathy will purchase items throughout the year.) If you come across men items you are interested in purchasing talk to Kathy first. We need a volunteer purchaser of Mom items. We have a lot of puzzles, coloring books, & stickers. There are more girl items than boy items. We do not have any pet items. Kristin P. – Holiday Fair Kidland over the years went from gently used items to all new items. We are possibly missing an opportunity to use some of these gently used items, that might be more unique. Used product does create more work, but does give the Holiday Fair more unique items/treasures. We can decide when we are pricing Kidland, if an item isn’t in good enough condition and then decide to get rid of it. It gives the kids ownership and they are more excited when the items are unique. Open it up for discussion.

Heather – Harbor Freight Ads – always running free items in advertisement. If you are up on the Northside and come across the advertisement, these are good items for Holiday Fair. Harbor Freight cannot do local donations, but it is a good way to get inexpensive items.

Ski Day Update – Ski Day went well. 75 approx. attendees. One broken wrist otherwise went smoothly. Employee that ran ski school was new, and Heather has some things she would change to make things run smoother next year. It was $21 for lift/ski rentals ($75 regular price for 2 kids). Heather proposes making it a fundraiser next year. Would this be okay with the group? Discussed possibly adding on a few dollars to the ticket price to raise money for PTO. Many families already have season passes. Good way for kids to connect. It’s an event that is looked forward to every year. We asked for the forms on Wednesday and were limited because of the January timing. Because we did not have a Feb. early release, the ski day was in January. Heather got forms Wed, Thursday and people showed up on Friday and purchased tickets. Not a big enough window to give Mount La Crosse accurate attendance numbers, therefore staffing was difficult. The Ski Day came about because it was a 5th grade field trip in the past. PTO picked it up as an event after the field trip stopped. Next year there is no early release in Jan/Feb. No school Feb 14th and 17th. Suggestion to have the Ski night after school one day. We will need to reconvene on ski day.

**New Business**

**Next Fundraisers:**

High Rollers: Jan. 25th, March 22nd

Toppers: April 24th, Little Caesar does the fundraiser $1 on every pizza. Topper’s you must mention the flyer and they give 25%

Dairy Queen: March 21st, May 7th, June 5th. (all are 5pm- 8pm). Longfellow also requested June 5th.

Cool CATS Cookies/Cocoa: Jan 29th, 6pm – 7pm

Discussion on how to include more men in Cool Cats: Laura: Cool Cats is too broad, more specific ideas need to be defined on how to get men involved. Jaclyn: What is the goal with Cool Cats? Mr. Thorton talks about cool things like fishing, worms, dissecting a deer heart etc., Kids enjoy spending time with him. What do he and other Dad’s bring to the table. What do they have that the kids need? Discussed possibly including Mr. Dutchin/Mr. Schuda to help get Dads involved by working side by side with them. Heather: Example : Have March be “Come to eat lunch with your student” month or “Participate in PE” month. Have a specific goal for each month. Walt: people might be interested in coming to talk about a hobby or skill, something they can share with the students that they really enjoy. It would be nice to have it connect to a classroom discussion. . Possibly combining school learning with hobbies (ie: rocks with rock climbing). Discussed having a survey for Cool Cat’s at picture day and have them bring it back. We can give the hobbies/skills survey to teachers to give them ideas to work with. Currently, Mr. Dutchin sends out an email when he has a Cool Cat coming to school with a 30 minute time block. He asks the teachers’ if they would like a Cool Cat to come in to share in their classroom. The goal is to work on having a connection point for the Dad to come in, have short schedule for them, and share with the students (ie lunch, recess, sharing a hobby/skill). Needs to be a small block of time.

DWP Report: next month

**Meeting Adjourned** at 7:50 by Jaclyn Osley

Next meeting is January 14, 2019 Respectfully Submitted By: Kristin Damstra