

Southern Bluffs PTO Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by Heather Harpenau

Attendees: Heather Harpenau, Kathy Hasburgh, Walt Smanski, Kristin Damstra, Lisa Schreiner, Stephanie Umberger, Alicia Place, Alex Powell, Brian Kalvelage, Katie Marquart, Laura Smanski, Amanda Witzke, Ashlee Severson, Megan Conrad, Susan Stinson

Facebook Live attendees – Jill Wurm, Stacy Wempe, Michelle Powell, Hillary Marlowe, Brittany Erler

Heather: Welcome to the PTO - Introductions

Secretary's Report – The May minutes were emailed to those present at the meeting. Read and approved 1st Walt Smanski, 2nd Kathy Hasburgh. Motion carried unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Walt Smanski - Not much activity over the summer. Current balance is \$4,275.74. The allocation for field trips line item funds bussing and offsets field trip costs. We allocated \$14 per student last year. This year's field trip allocation is 323 students x \$14 = \$4522. Our biggest funding sources during the year are the Holiday Fair, Kwik Trip Scrip cards (small kick backs each month), Dairy Queen, Culvers, Toppers, E-Cycling, Amazon Smile, and Box Tops. Clipped Box Tops are being phased out. We are encouraging people to use the new app (Box Tops for Education). PTO provides resources by funding playground equipment, field trips, teacher requests etc. Approved by 1st – Heather Harpenau, 2nd Laura Smanski

Principal's Report – Lisa Schreiner: Welcome to another school year. We have had a lot of new faces in the building. Thirteen new staff members or new positions have been filled including Special Education, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, Physical Therapy, Kindergarten, Second grade, building engineers, etc. We are working on teaching expectations, positive intervention behavior support and being Respectful, Responsible and Safe. We talk with the students about the behaviors we want to see. This week we spent time talking about how to safely ride the bus and appropriate behavior in the cafeteria. Friday, we had an all-school picture. This year's theme is "The Color of Me." We are using Zones of Regulation and talking about feelings. Thank you to the PTO for the staff shirts. Mrs. Schreiner is riding all of the bus routes again this year, morning and afternoon. It is an opportunity to enforce expectations and connect with kids. We have an appreciation for the bus drivers for getting the kids to school safely. They are the first and last to connect with the kids each day. Southern Bluff's has a Facebook page that Mrs. Schreiner maintains and tries to post on everyday. She doesn't identify students. New this year is attendance. The district is taking what the statutes say and putting them into practice. It can be viewed similar to paid time off in the workplace. You get 10 days. Kids need to be in school. If you have a doctor's appointment please get a note, then it isn't counted against you. For vacations of 3 or more days, you need to fill out the special online form. Beyond 10 days is discretion of the principal. Absence letters are sent out at 5, 8, and 10 days.

Old business

Pictures/Open House: Pictures went well. Lifetouch is completely electronic now. For staffing, you need only 1 adult. There was a hiccup because of where Life Touch took the pictures and long lines at the end of the night. They only had 1 photographer. Mrs. Schreiner has discussed the situation with Lifetouch.

Kindergarten/Preschool Orientation – Kathy and Kristin did the morning orientation to encourage people to come to meetings. There was discussion on whether kindergarten/preschool orientation is beneficial, a hardship to families, etc. Parents enjoyed orientation and felt it helps the transition to 4k/K. Discussion about when the students start school (the different days for 4K & K), the scheduling of orientation and notification of class placement. It was discussed to schedule orientation at a different time and letting parents know further ahead of their appointment time. Heather was at afternoon orientation. Stephanie Umberger took on the preschool orientation. Stephanie will send out an email for PTO signup.

Thank you cards were received from the 5th grade bowling event.

PTO newsletter listing PTO meeting dates and volunteer opportunities went out to students. Upcoming events are the Parent/Teacher Conference Meals. We provide meals for the teachers. For the fall conference, we prepare everything. In the spring we cater it and provide the sides. There will be sign-up geniuses sent out for volunteer requests.

Swing Set Fundraising: Discussed fundraising opportunities for swings on the playground. The approximate cost is 18k for a bank of 4 swings. Grant money might be an option. PTO could sell a coupon book, My Local Deals, at conferences. \$14 of each book sold comes back to PTO. My Local Deals said that some schools have made \$15k on the books (Ask how this was achieved). It could be a possible funding option for swings. PTO to put together a swing set team – Alex Powell to lead. Some other fundraising ideas are as follows: partner with an organization such as BBBB (Beer by Bike Brigade), all school walk-a-thon (Spence does a pledged walk during the school day), send a flyer home soliciting for donations, Go Fund Me fundraiser (something with a link to send out to relatives), Donors Choose, La Crosse Public Foundation (Support a school), raffle tickets for a prize, rummage sale, and a car dealership fundraiser (each test drive earns \$20). Discussion involved selling items and getting something for the money vs. soliciting donations. FB comment – a parent likes the idea of the Go Fund me page. Talk over ideas with Jay at Parks and Rec. Stephanie will look into grants through the LPEF for fundraising.

A table at conferences will have Kwik Trip Scrip cards. Heather will provide her number if anyone wants to make a purchase throughout the year and make sure that she gets the Scrip card to the student.

Family Social Event – For the first time it went well. It worked out that rain forced us inside and we used the cafeteria with tables separated by grade. It was awesome to see new families and we had approximately 75 people. Discussed on how to improve the event for next year. It was suggested to find another way to distinguish grade levels so people weren't as segregated, or designate a PTO member for each table. It was noticed that some families were sitting by themselves.

Holiday Fair Shopping – If you come across Kidland items for the holiday fair, please let us know. We have people signed up for each category. We like to double the cost, but the item needs to be \$5 or less. Letters will be going out for holiday fair soon.

PTO T-Shirts – We are talking to Games People Play about ordering PTO t-shirts. “Lend a hand together we can” will be the motto. Single side printing is \$8.25 a t-shirt. Double sided will be a little more. The t-shirts make us more visible for people to ask questions. Everything PTO related will be green. Alex will see if he can get a better price or quality from Advertising Concepts.

Cool Cats – First event is October 8th – Pizza, Lemonade, Cookies

DQ and Cool Cat flyers already printed.

Fence Decoration: Bobcat / Bluffs Face/ Paw Print / \$9 for 50 cups – covers 2 square feet.

Engage the students by voting on an image. Give them 3 options. We can upload an image and they will design a graphic. They will tell you how many cups they need. They are guaranteed for a year, but are resilient from wind, pushing on etc. The website is www.putincups.com

Teacher Request: PBIS team is requesting \$450 from PTO to take them through the year. The money will support family time, positive behavior support team, and Bobcat Buck celebrations. Some of the supplies needed will be freezy pops, shaving cream, popcorn, pie in the face, Uno and Bingo. It will pay out when we reach those milestones. Receipts will be submitted.

Approved by: 1st Susan Stinson, 2nd – Alicia Place

DWP Report- DWP is the district-wide parent monthly meeting with parent reps from each school. Each month showcases a different school. The representatives go to a school, listen to PTO relevant speakers, and listen to superintendent updates. We were at Northside Elementary this month, which has gone to year round. There wasn't a speaker, but Mr. Nelson gave a beginning of year update. We discussed the shooting that was near the Hogan Administration building and how we kept the kids safe at nearby schools. We discussed the budget and the DARE Chili Cook-off on Oct. 5th benefiting the La Crosse Education Foundation hosted at Copeland Park. We share joys, concerns, discuss fundraising ideas and brainstorm. Alicia will bring back updates each month. This is Alicia's 2nd year being the rep.

Open Discussion:

Discussed the concern that PTO events have an unhealthy food base. Discussed having a team of concerned parents that could provide healthier options making fruits and vegetables available. In the past there have been too many sweets available, hard to relegate the kids. People that have passion and knowledge for healthy eating could take the lead. Homemade foods are okay, but anything with peanuts should be labeled.

It was suggested to have a teacher request tree at the Holiday Fair. Parents can grab an ornament and directly contribute to their teacher's classroom.

Teacher requests – table until next meeting. We will discuss giving teachers money at the beginning of the year.

Any questions, concerns, ideas please email sbluffspto@outlook.com

Meeting Adjourned at @ 7:47 pm.

Next Meeting is October 21st @ 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Kristin Damstra