

Southern Bluff's PTO
Monthly Meeting
Monday Sept. 21, 2020

Meeting Session begins @ 6:30pm

Participants: Heather Harpenau, Walt Smanski, Lisa Schreiner, Stephanie Umberger, Sam Morris, Michael Wagner, Beth Wagner, Kathy Hasburgh, Alex Powell, Michelle Powell, Katie Alderman, Kristin Damstra

Introductions: Introduction of the board and participants

Treasurers Report: Normally, we have several different fundraisers during the year. This year will be a challenge and we are committed to overcome the obstacles needed to support the students and teachers of Southern Bluff's. We have a balance over \$10,000. It is more than what we normally start off with. The Holiday Fair is Southern Bluff's biggest single fundraiser and we had a great one in 2019. We have allocated \$5,000 in school supplies towards this school year if they are needed. Traditionally, the students provide their own supplies. Families are more distressed this year with unemployment. Normally, at the beginning of the year we allocate money for field trips. Because of the unknown with school, we will probably keep some money aside for field trips. The PTO supports the school in any way we can.

Fundraising Ideas: We need to brainstorm other ways to fundraise. Currently, we are apart of Amazon Smile. To contribute, you can log on to make purchases through Amazonsmile.com and choose Southern bluffs as the charity beneficiary and we will get a portion of those sales. We participate in Box Tops, Kwik Trip Scrip, and High Rollers. Are there any questions about the financial status?

Motion to approve Treasurer's report: 1. Kathy Hasburgh, 2. Kristin Damstra

Principals Report: I am happy to share with you what I know right now, but that might change. We have some new staff. Ms. Fitzwater left at the end of August and Kate Olson (formally at Bangor) has taken her spot. She has been a huge help with technology, Canvas, Zoom etc. Ms. Hemmersbach is the new 3rd grade teacher. Ms. Peterson is in Special Education. Ms. Poff and Maria Franke are in CRVA. Miss O'Reilly is in Early Childhood Development. We normally have around 330 students. Currently, we would have 259 students in the building and 52 students doing CRVA. Right now, the students won't be present in our physical space for everyday learning. The number that initially started in CRVA has gone down and students have started coming back to virtual school. We will be starting book checkout through the library next week. Ms. Olson will send out information on how to request, pick-up, and drop-off library books. We have not had a formal food pantry in the past. We have distributed food informally every 2-3 weeks. This year, we are doing some distribution of food the 4th Tuesday of every month. We will see how we will sustain that in the future. During the first couple of weeks, we know we need to provide grace with one another as families are learning through Canvas and are trying to work. We need to work with the families as needed to provide the learning. The soft start was awesome. Starting next week, the teachers will be beginning some assessments. It's our time to see what kids know. We don't expect them to know everything but we need to see where their growth in learning is. The superintendent has put out that we will be following the Harvard model safety protocols: You can look at the La Crosse County website. Right now we are in the red. We do not have a date set of when we are going to open. We will look at the status every Wednesday. We are two weeks away from starting each time they look at the model on Wednesdays. When we come back we are working on safety protocols. Things will look different on how kids will enter the building. While we love our volunteers and parents, outside access will be very limited. How we eat lunch, have art, music, and PE will be different. The basis is to keep groups together, so if we

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have to do any contact tracing it will be a small group. The kids will have art, music and PE in their classrooms. Recess will be divided so cohorts won't be mingling. We have hand sanitizer and 2 face masks for every student.

Mrs. Lueck is in charge of the food pantry. Miss. Scheuerell is back as the art teacher. If a kid wants to wear their own mask from home that will be allowed, but we want a clean mask everyday. We have class colors for masks. We are also working with families that have children that have sensitivity to fabrics and textures. It will be different when we come back and we will make it work. We ask families to help the children work on the safety protocols. When we do come back, we are asking the families to complete a screener, then we won't have to go around and take temperatures. There will be a QR code on their backpacks which will be easier on our end. We are encouraging families to drive their children to school instead of bus. Who will receive the screening questionnaire data? It goes through the Qualtrics, a program purchased. It is an administrative and health assistant so they can run a report.

Motion to approve : 1. Walt Smanski, 2. Kathy Hasburgh

Old Business

Heather - We sent out Thank you cards for Teacher appreciation. We are grateful and appreciate what the teacher's do.

New Business: We need to brainstorm over the next few weeks. The decision was made not to hold the Holiday Fair. We need to find fundraising opportunities and are open to other ideas. We discussed the coupon books. They would need to be sent to the parents, because we do not ask the children to sell. We discussed a Little Caesar's fundraiser. We discussed the Holiday Fair silent auction and asking businesses to donate. The silent auction is a big driver, along with the teacher experiences. We discussed not feeling comfortable about asking the struggling businesses for donations. A Chicken-que or BBQ cannot be held on the school grounds until the students are back in schools. We discussed asking a church to have pre-sales for pickup to let us use the space for a few hours. We discussed possible locations such as the Goodwill or Shopko parking lots. Alex will talk to Matt from Premier Catering to see what they can do. We use Matt for the Spring Picnic so he is familiar with working with us and it might be something he may be willing to entertain. We further discussed the Holiday Fair. Heather will see what the fees would be for an online auction. A donation letter in lieu of the holiday fair was suggested. Could Santa be in a Zoom room and for a fee have him talk for a few minutes. All Glazed up offered some carry out projects during Co-vid, packaged up for kids. Would Lisa still do a principals purse? She would need to think about how that would be done. You could make a virtual deposit into the purse. The problem with the teacher experiences is when/if those experiences would take place. Those experiences are popular. There was discussion on the raffle license. Walt will do more research on how many raffles and how often they can be done with a Class B license. A suggestion was made to have a wing eating contest through a zoom. Six wings would be delivered and people could zoom in and watch. Each person had to eat their wings and make your donation by voting. Put your money to a certain person. There are options out there, we just need to see what will work best for what we need.

Cool Cats (Caring about Terrific Students) Roger was running the Cool Cats and Alex has now taken that program over. Mr. Dutchin is the teacher contact person. Cool Cats is an organization of male role models. Cool Cats come to volunteer at school. It is a way for males to be involved. We do a couple of family nights a year including Cookies and Cocoa.

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DWP: They meet once a month with the superintendent. An opportunity for the cross section of the entire district to get together. Last year our representative was Alicia Place.

Swing Set Project: Let Alex know when we want to get that rolling again. We need to wait until we are back in building. Discussed the logistics of installing and fundraising. There might be grants available. If we can acquire the swings and just have the problem of installing them, that is a good problem to have. We are going to have a fence on the other side of the basketball court. We are just waiting for it to be installed. Having the busy highway can be a concern and it prevent students from getting to the road.

Open Discussion: Discussed feedback from parents regarding moving back and forth from Zoom, Canvas, and Seesaw platforms. Sam Morris would be willing to help supplement with videos. Some parents are frustrated with some of the Zoom calls. Canvas is our platform and some teachers are using Seesaw for activities. Is there anything specifically you are noticing ie: themes, parental frustration. Families go first to the teacher for help, then Ms. Olsen. If it is tech issues then it goes to the Technology department at the Hogan Administration Center. There is an opportunity to use Qualtrix to receive feedback from parents if it is a real issue. As a teacher its hard to see from the student end. Would recommend getting a survey out to see if there is an issue.

Motion to adjourn : 1st Alex Powell, 2nd. Walt Smanski