

Southern Bluff's PTO Meeting
March 15, 2021
Meeting Started at 6:32pm

Attendees: Heather Harpenau, Walt Smanski, Kristin Damstra, Kathy Hasburgh, Lisa Schreiner, Stephanie Umberger, Susan Stinson, Michael Wagner, Beth Wagner

Approval of February Minutes: The January minutes were emailed to those present at the meeting and are posted to the website.

Motion to approve Secretary's minutes: 1st-Walt Smanski 2nd-Susan Stinson

Treasurer's Report:

A check went to Kathy for back to school teacher appreciation gift bags. We had a \$42 Amazon Smile donation. We filed the annual report for \$10. We had a deposit from Kwik Trip Scrip for \$.01. We received a check from Network for Good, and we decided not to deposit it. The check was for \$40 and I don't want to risk it because of the possibility of a scam, and needing to adhere to their terms listed on the back of the check. Total balance is \$8675.48. We still have \$3225.19 for allocation of school supplies. \$5450.29 is the available balance. The school will continue to draw down the school supply money. It is easier to use the PTO money, but we are good stewards and mindful of it. They probably won't use it all, but it is nice to know its there. We had a school supply draw back in January, that Amy submitted to Walt.

Motion to approve Treasurer's report: 1st-Kristin Damstra, 2nd-Stephanie Umberger

Principal's Report: The March newsletter is about to come out. There is an article about teacher requests for next year. She will give the request thoughtful consideration, but will promise nothing. It is an art and a science to complete a class list. The last thing to come into play is the parent request. We just wrapped up conferences. She would like feedback about doing conferences virtually. Feedback: It is nice to have the option to do virtual for the families that need it. Some parents preferred the in-school option. It is more personal to meet with the teacher face-to-face. You are able to see the classroom and feel more connected to the school. It is also good practice for the kids to be in a meeting instead of staring at a screen. At the elementary level Heather prefers face-to-face. At the middle school level she prefers virtual because she can have them back to back. The 15 minutes is not enough time for a conference. Overall, people preferred to have a virtual conference as an option. It was nice not needing to get a babysitter for younger children. It is nice to have a choice of preference. Feedback from the teacher perspective: Stephanie likes the virtual option. Stephanie thinks the in-person option is the best choice, but virtual would be the second choice. It is nice to have an easy option. It opens the doors for a lot of possibilities. We have now moved to a progress report for 1st and 3rd quarters versus a report card. At the elementary level it made sense to have the progress report tied the parent teacher conferences. It was more meaningful. Report cards come out in 2nd and 4th quarters. We are planning on letting kids go back to Art, Music and PE back in their spaces after Spring Break. We are moving things around to make that happen. Desks will still be 6 feet apart and have hand sanitizer available. We were in zones on the playground and now they have moved to "free range recess: The children still have masks on and we are encouraging kids to keep their distance from each other, but still letting the children be children. March 26th marks the end of 3rd quarter. April 19th - 30th will be the WI Forward Exam. The school district has been working with the county to get immunizations. The 3rd one is happening this Fri & Sat. Then we will be starting the 2nd round on the 26th. A lot of teacher assistants in Special Ed were prioritized, as well as Pre-K. Now we are all doing what we can to get everyone vaccinated. Send snow pants and boots back tomorrow. CRVA parents should be receiving their packets about the WI forward exam.

If you want to opt out of the exam, it needs to be in writing. What is the benefit of not taking the exam? It will be nice to get a sense of where the students are at. Internally, we can look at the gaps and ask does this affirm what we thought? Sometimes, in the media it becomes a comparison point and is not the best way to use the information. Whether or not the student takes it or not, we have time scheduled in the building. The info that came out to parents in CRVA was very cloudy. It said to refer to the classroom teacher, and the classroom teachers didn't have the info either. The district put out information to gather info to see who wanted to take it. It is all the schools and a variety of teachers with a variation of schedules. In terms of proctoring the exam, it might be student teachers, classroom teachers, or CRVA teachers. We have indicated dates and times and they will gather the info and decide on places and times. Our exams are mid Apr-mid May. We try to keep the exam within the 2 weeks. They have removed the writing test and shrunk it up.

Old Business:

Fundraising (RADA, letter to parents)

Casey's cookbook request: The grants aren't due till March 29th. It won't be until April when the LPEF will meet and decide. The CRVA kids have received their envelopes from Casey.

Letter: The letter is a good idea. If you have a 4k student, a kindergartener or are new to the school, you might not know what the PTO does. It is a good way to keep people informed and help families feel connected to the school. Also, some people are looking to donate, but do need to be asked first. It can't hurt to ask for a donation. We can include info like moving the spring picnic to a fall welcome party, the swings that we hope to purchase, etc. An option would be to include it as a save the date. A letter would be beneficial and make families feel involved. Some people like to donate and want to know what they are donating for, so including what the money will be used for is important. It helps parents imagine their kids using it. We could make a video . Create excitement for next year with the hope that next year will be more normal and get back into the swing of things. Heather will email the letter that we sent out last year and to make adjustments. If we want them to go in back packs, we can send it to youngest and only's. We can do a letter with an envelope and donation. I like the idea of having an envelope to send back with the kids. We want the option to use Venmo. We can get an account set up for the PTO. Walt will look at getting it set up. We could have a contest. If the children raise X amount, the principal will have lunch on the roof, dodgeball, dying her hair as a rainbow for class colors , etc. A representative from each class could come help put it in. Maybe have a couple of different options. We will put the options on an envelope and the people that contribute can vote. Heather's Brother in law grew a massive beard for his 6th graders for a fundraiser.

New Business:

DWP Report - They are usually posted on the CRVA Face Book page, but we haven't seen anything yet.

Open Discussion:

Next Meeting April 19, 2021 at 6:30pm

Motion to adjourn at - 1st Walt Smanski -, 2nd Kathy Hasburgh