

**Southern Bluff's PTO Meeting  
September 20, 2021**

**Attendees:** Alex Powell, John Parkyn, Kristin Damstra, Walt Smanski, Heather Harpenau, Lisa Schreiner, Stephanie Umberger, Michelle Sampson, Kara Seiffert, Andrea Poukey, Jenny Laszewski, Deb Kettner-Sieber,

Meeting called to order by Alex Powell at 6:30 pm

Welcome and Introductions

**Treasurer's Report: Walt Smanski**

We had 2 transactions this month. We sponsored \$568 for staff t-shirts. We deposited \$2.06 from Kwik Trip Scrip Cards. The current balance \$7459.93. Last year, we allocated \$5,000 for school supplies. We have \$2086.49 remaining in that allocation. The available balance is \$5373.44. The invoice for Digicopy's Ice Cream Social flyers will come through next month. The PTO generally pays for the promotional materials for our events.

**Motion to approve Treasurer's report: 1st - John Parkyn, 2nd - Heather Harpenau**

**Principal's Report:** There is a PTO mailbox that needs to be checked. Bussing has been interesting this year and she appreciates everyone's patience. She has been in communication with the drivers and bus company. In the afternoon, we were the same pickup time as Central which caused our kids to be very late. They consolidated our busses from 5 to 3, but now we have designated Southern Bluff's busses. Before, we were sharing busses with Central. Busses 20, 21, & 11 have collapsed down to one. All of the buses were here and out by 3:30 pm today. The school will create seating charts for those busses. We pass bussing compliments and complaints directly on to the district office.

We need to discuss safety protocols for events coming up. We need to present a plan to the district to get approval for the Holiday Fair. We will not be doing Veteran's day this year with a vulnerable population and unvaccinated kids. We will try to do something, but bringing everyone together is not safe or right. We need to know what your needs are for the Ice Cream Social on the 23rd. Conference sign-up's are available on Skyward now.

**Ice Cream Social on Thursday:** Can Alex bring the ice cream tomorrow for storage? Lisa will send an email to ask school nutrition. We can pick up the big cooler from Beer by Bike Brigade to use for our event. We ordered 600 ice cream sandwiches. John will be bringing 96 shaved ice. This is a new event for the PTO. We discussed separation of classes and keeping grade levels together. We can tape grade level colored signs to the cones/coolers to designate grade level areas. We discussed sending a Skyward message to students to wear their class color shirts. We will also post it to the PTO Facebook page. We will have a separate cooler for each grade level. We discussed having reminder signs at gate entrance on where to go and to wear a mask. John will bring napkins. Lisa will have disposable masks at the gate for people to wear in case they have forgotten theirs. Volunteers to come at 5:30pm and hold people off until 5:45pm. We will have hand sanitizer out by the coolers.

**Swing Set Project :** We began the swing set project in 2018. We gathered pricing and then Co-Vid hit. We passed around the swing set design proposal. The swings were in the 20-40k range. If we get really serious about this, we could approach it next spring, gather quotes and fundraising ideas. Who is willing to partner with him on this? It will be a collective effort. Kara

Seiffert and Andrea Poukey to help to research. Alex has a folder for Andrea and Kara and will bring it back on the agenda in the future. It is the responsibility of the schools to fundraise for playground equipment. If we are to use PTO funds or Holiday Fair proceeds, we need to formally allocate the money to that specific project. We discussed having plaques for donation recognition. Lisa to check the school district policies to see how potential donors would be recognized. We are 503c so funds donated are tax deductible.

### **New Business:**

**Holiday Fair:** The Holiday Fair is the number one way we raise money for Southern Bluffs. We are going to have some challenges this year. Lisa will discuss the event with the director to see if it is a possibility. We would need to expand the spacing of the event spreading out through the school to ensure more social distancing. The total gross proceeds from the last Holiday Fair was \$14,500. The bulk of the proceeds came from the silent auction, Kidland and the giving tree. We discussed other alternatives to the Holiday Fair. If we are not able to do it during Christmas discussed doing a spring event/carnival. We discussed extending the Holiday Fair hours and allowing smaller groups to go through. We discussed different silent auction possibilities including splitting it up into sections with time limits and moving some of it online. We discussed bringing a portion of the fair outside. We discussed just doing raffle tickets and the silent auction. Walt knows a person that does online auctions and he will run it by him to see what an online auction would look like. It will be hard to maintain social distancing during the event. Could we do the Kidland during the week like a pop-up shop? Could we utilize both gyms for Kidland? We have a square reader for credit cards. We can extend to anyone outside of the Southern Bluff's community for the silent auction if it is done online. We could possibly incorporate the giving tree online as well. It is a great event, experience and fundraiser. We have to be able to contact trace. The experience part of it is very important. If we can't do it with the full experience we should push it to next year. Once we get some answers from the school that will direct the way we can go. When Lisa gets the information, Alex will push it out to the group. We discussed the letter that goes to the businesses to recruit silent auction donations. We try to have a lot of people to contact businesses so it isn't just 2 people doing all the work.

**Approval of August minutes:** The August minutes were emailed to those present at the meeting.

**Motion to approve August minutes: 1st- Walt Smanski: 2nd: Andrea Poukey**

**Conferences:** Typically PTO has provided a meal. Conferences are Oct 18th from 11-7pm and the 21st from 4-8pm. The first meal parents usually donated and the 2nd one we catered. We have had multiple people bring lunch and treats for the staff. People will decide and eat at their own risk. People felt comfortable with Jimmy Johns or anything that is individually wrapped like chips, and fruit. We could ask a few parents to bring desserts in. We also discussed box lunches from the Co-op, Festival and Great harvest.

**Book Fair:** Tabled until next meeting

**Walking School Bus:** International walk to school day is October 6th. Stacy Raatz sent something out today. We usually meet at Fiesta Americana. We meet at 8am and walk to school. The information will come out soon. Do we need Bluffs? Parents/families are welcome to walk with us. The Coulee Region Chill or police officers, along with staff and parents have helped us walk or cross the highway in the past.

**Vision Screening: Oct 27th.** We request volunteers to help

**Picture Retakes: Oct 6th** - Volunteers needed to get kids from Classrooms. We start in the morning and are done by 1pm.

**PBIS:** Michelle Powell is looking for a parent representative to join the PBIS team. We have 3 basic expectations for students: to be safe, responsible, and respectful. We reteach when we don't see it. These expectations are reinforced through Bobcat bucks, classroom celebrations, student recognition on announcements and all-school celebrations. In the past, PTO would donate recognition dollars for different milestones. This year at 2000 Bobcat bucks, they want to do freezies. The parent volunteer would help provide insight and attend meetings the first Monday of month from 3:35-4:35pm. A parent doesn't necessarily need to be present, they can be zoomed in from work.

**T-shirt order:** Green PTO t-shirts. We have some in the closet. We would provide them to anyone that wants one. You can provide us your size and let us know and we will get you a shirt.

**DWP:** Alicia Place is our district wide parent rep. There are appointed reps from every school. Meetings are attended and you hear speakers from a district perspective. They want a person and a back-up person. There are typically interesting speakers and different opportunities presented. Oct 12, Nov 9th, Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8, March 8, April 12, May 10th are the meeting dates. The next 2 meetings will be held on zoom.

We discussed moving up the October meeting, because we have many events that are hinging on timing. The PTO Meeting is now set for October 11th at 6:30pm. Please note this is a change from the original meeting date.

**Motion to adjourn : 1st - Kara Seiffert 2nd - Walt Smanski**

**Next meeting is October 11th @ 6:30pm**      ``