

**Southern Bluff's PTO Meeting
March 20, 2023**

Attendees: Alex Powell, Kristin Damstra, Walt Smanski, Jaqueline Weisse, John Parkyn, Kate Smith, Andrea Poukey, Averil Kotnour, Alicia Place, Vanessa Colburn, Stephanie Umberger, Alicia Place

Meeting called to order by Alex Powell at 6:32pm

Secretary's Report: The minutes were emailed to everyone present at the last meeting. Motion to approve Secretary's Report 1st: John Parkyn, 2nd Walt Smanski

Treasurer's Report: Dugicopy check was written for \$21.60. Teacher requests amounted to \$1,970.02 from the Teacher Giving Tree. We have allocated \$379.50 for PBIS allocation. \$16,536.86 is our total balance with \$16,157.36 as our available balance. The swing set account has \$14,899.94. We still need to pay for the Pour in Place Foundation which is approximately 7k as well as the path. Any extra money left in the swings account will be used to upgrade the playground.

Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report: 1st: John Parkyn, 2nd: Kate Smith

Principal's Report: Great turnout and even better feedback from staff and families about the return of the Sweetheart's Dance. Thank you for this and your support! Ava Hammes served her day as Principal. She was able to provide feedback to our superintendent, visit classrooms to observe student learning and teaching, as well as get to know students in other grades through lunch and recess supervision. School Breakfast Week was a major success! I was not able to get numbers from Heather (thought about that too late in the day) but they had to be fantastic. Many warm breakfast options were served and this got me excited about the potential of more hot breakfast options to come next year! We are gearing up for a busy week with conferences, field trips, and the school-wide concert. In April we have two family engagement events in the works: Movie Night is April 27th and a Future Kindergarten Night for incoming Kindergarteners on April 20th.

Current Business:

Spring Conferences: PTO is providing lunch for conferences. Tomorrow is sub sandwiches, cookies. Thursday is Taco Bar

Spring Picnic: Stacey talked with Kenny Ahearn. We are not sure if he is available. Menu for picnic will be Hot Dogs \$2.25 and burger \$2.55 meal. Cost will approximately be \$1600. It will be served with cookies & chips. Alex to get water. Bounce Houses will cost \$400 Total cost will be approximately \$2700.

Gaga Pit: Wood is \$275. The shape size will be a Hexagon 30" high. Gaga Pit will be in for spring picnic. We will install plastic barriers on top to prevent splinters. It costs \$487.50 for the brackets and \$120 for the plastic protection. Alex will order it this week.

Teacher Appreciation: We discussed massages, having a snack table filled, delivering donuts and coffee, potted plants.

District Wide Parent Meeting - Alicia Place: There was a study on playground chips. It was discovered that rubber chips are toxic. They spent the rest of the time discussing Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities. For the past 5 years, they have been getting feedback

on the code. As a district we are seeing an increase in substance abuse. A small amount of kids aren't making good choices. They come in for disciplinary hearings and classes. We discussed what the school and police response should be. There are opportunities for parents to join .

School Board Candidates all came and spoke for 6 minutes. They took time to speak about their candidacy. Please vote April 4th. There is a forum planned for the candidates. 8 candidates for 4 spots. Attend a forum for the referendum to understand what this is voting for and get out and vote. The district is faced with a deficit in upcoming years.

Open Discussion:

Buddy Bench - Vanessa Colburn: Avoids loneliness and being left out. If other children see a child sitting there, they can invite that child kids to play. It helps being inclusive. Maybe approach a shop class at Central/Logan to build it. Stephanie to find out who the shop teacher is at Central. Alicia to find out who did the one for Central. The Buddy Bench book can be incorporated.

Explore Grow La Crosse and a school garden.

Discussed Parent Input Form: Discussed receiving more information on what info could be included. It would be nice to know how the classrooms will be decided moving forward. This is a topic of conversation parents would like to speak on further. It would be nice to turn this in after conferences.

April 17th is the next meeting at 6:30pm