

**Southern Bluff's PTO Meeting
August 21, 2023**

Attendees: Alex Powell, Walt Smanski, John Parkyn, Kristin Damstra, Andrea Poukey, Stephanie Umberger, Jacqueline Weisse, Averi Kotnour, Maggie Maine, Kate Smith, Casey Scheuerell, Sarah,

Meeting called to order by Alex Powell at 6:04 pm

Treasurer's Report: Walt Smanski

Current Total Balance: \$10,575.84.

Total Available Balance: \$10,196.34.

Earmarked: \$379.50

Swings/secondary account : \$1682.35 ,

Recent or Upcoming Expenses: Pour in Place, Nicoletti, Gaga gate, repainting and repairing playground equipment.

Teacher Requests earmarked: We are earmarking \$200 per classroom - a new way of proceeding with teacher requests: The first \$50 of each classroom/specialists does not need to get approval for purchase, just submit receipts. Over \$50 up to \$200, we will review teacher requests monthly.

Other Financial: Brian Skiles won a \$150 grant, wants to partner with the PTO to repair the bench swing. Alex to get information and bring to next meeting

Motion to Approve: 1st: Jacqueline Weisse, 2nd: Kristin Damstra

Principal's Report: Next week is for teacher workshops. PBIS meeting: to designate team theme for school year. We have many new staff members this year. It is important to build our culture and our team. School improvements include a new math curriculum, We had great 3-5 grade test scores. We are discussing how to close the gap in test scores. Leadership and classroom management will be worked on this year.

School Celebrations: Make sure we are being culturally responsive. Forming a sub-committee with teachers and students for parties and celebrations. Make sure all kids feel included. We want our kids to grow to be good citizens. Discussed school parties and how to execute them/or not to be culturally responsible.

Holiday Fair - Making it as equitable as possible to the best of our ability. Implementing a pay as you can pancake breakfast.

Gaga pit - new door installed and is now fully accessible to everyone

Add: don't sit on the door to Gaga expectations.

Buddy Bench - Vanessa brought to us last year. Buddy Bench idea comes with a book about inclusion - When a child is feeling left out they can sit on the bench and other students can approach them. It will be a community based project to be involved with the bench. Paint it white and have all the kids splatter paint it, because all kids have the ability to splatter paint with a multitude with colors. Ms. Scheurell will paint Buddy bench and then we will seal it. Building and Grounds will secure it to the ground.

Picture Day - Thursday 1-7pm, volunteer spots are covered. October 11th is retake day

Open House: Tuesday, Aug 29th from 6-7pm

Southern Bluffs T-shirts: Amy Dale created an online store through Xcel. 2 different designs for shirts. PTO shirts in PTO closet to hand out at next meeting. Discussed having a table at open house and talking to people at picture day.

DWP: Next meeting

Staff Mental Health: Casey Scheuerell: Social Emotional Learning and mental health support for students and staff. Pulling focus back with zones of regulation, and providing skills to pull students back into a green zone. Help support staff from the beginning. We received a grant through Project Aware. We know when teachers are regulated and in the right mindset it helps our students. Tools to support and strengthen each other. We are looking to earmark monetary funds. Teaching and education for stress management this year and utilizing self care. We want PTO to earmark \$1000 for teachers. PBIS is for students,. Some ideas include a yoga instructor, nutrition, painting, and mailbox stuffers. How do teachers build stress management skills to do it on their own. We have 6 people on the committee. We will partner with a mental health liaison, as well as bringing out, 2nd step curriculum which as done a revamp in curriculum. We have a SEL committee under project aware.

Motion to earmark \$1000 1st. Kate Smith, 2nd Walt Smanski

Cool Cats: Discussed Cool Cats and the future of volunteering at Southern Bluffs.

Grow Garden: Maggie to approve a grow garden. We are the last school in the school district to receive one and the district is willing to pay for it.

Next Meeting: 6pm - Southern Bluffs Teacher's Lounge - Date TBD