

**Southern Bluff's PTO Meeting
September 18, 2023**

Attendees: Alex Powell, Kristin Damstra, Walt Smanski, Andrea Poukey, Stephanie UMBERGER, Jacqueline Weisse, Averi Kotnour, Vanessa Alves, Kate Smith, Leah Vanberg,

Meeting called to order by Alex Powell at 6:01pm

Secretary's Report: The minutes were emailed to entire PTO
Motion to approve 1st: Jacqueline Weisse, 2nd: Vanessa Alves

Treasurer's Report: Walt Smanski
Payables : Digicopy, Raffle License Renewal, Staff Shirts

Actual Balance: \$9,803.09
Available Balance : \$3803.09

Current Allocations

Teacher Support for Mental Health - \$1000

Teacher Request Allocation - \$200 per classroom to offset. We are supporting 25 classrooms. Teacher may use first \$50 without PTO approval by just submitting a receipt. The remaining \$150, if used, will require prior approval. Teacher requests to be reviewed and voted on at monthly PTO meetings. The teacher will need to take the initiative.

Motion to Approve: 1st: Leah Vanberg, 2nd: ?

Principal's Report: September Principal Update

The start of the new school year went very smoothly. Students transitioned well to their new grade-levels, and classrooms have been focusing on building community relationships. The first day was fun to come together for a Back to School assembly and many fun activities happened in individual classrooms. I'm not sure how parents felt about the Friday start day, but it seemed to be a nice dose of school for teachers and students before the holiday weekend. The following week we built routines around the school by completing behavior stations which taught students expectations outside of their classrooms. While there is always room for improvement, the students have been doing rather well getting back into the groove of things.

Morning breakfast has been a big hit. The hot choice options are fantastic and we seem to be serving a lot of students each morning. Students arriving after 8:35 are not able to partake in hot breakfast, but are given a couple cold breakfast options. Busing has been fairly consistent in the morning, but we have had a couple days where a later bus arrival did not allow time for those riders to eat a hot meal. Heather, the nutrition manager, and I will continue to monitor that in order to problem solve solutions if it becomes a trend. As far as afternoon busing, we have had a couple days of hiccups where our turtle bus has been a little later, but other than that, we've seen more days where all buses are filled and leaving campus before 3:40pm.

This week we are celebrating Central High School's Homecoming with fun spirit days. Our Family Engagement Committee is meeting to discuss this year's after school activities and next week you can expect to see information about fall conferences to be sent home. Our Building Leadership Team is meeting to finalize our school goals for the year, so I look forward to sharing those with our families in the coming weeks.

If there are any questions, please reach out anytime. Thanks for your help with a successful start of the year!

Holiday Fair - The PTO's primary source of fundraising. We don't ask our families to sell items. We create a special family community event, Saturday Dec. 2nd.

The event includes:

- **Kids Land** - A kid's only shopping area to shop for family members,
- **Raffle Tables** - \$1 Raffle Tickets for 2 separate raffles. The raffle includes teacher experiences & fun prizes
- **Santa** - pictures with Santa
- **Pancake Breakfast (new this year)** - Donation, Free (Pay as you can),
- **Online Auction (through Wise Owl Auctions)** - November 16- November 29th. Auction baskets bid on through online auction. Auction items are donated by area businesses and themed student class contributions.
- **Ornament Painting**
- **Bake Sale**

Online Auction is worked on before Thanksgiving. We send an email to 200 businesses, We call to follow up with those businesses for donations. We get together and build baskets to auction off. PTO to provide pizza for basket builders. Last year we raised 8k thru silent auction. We raised enough money to provide the spring picnic for free for students and families. We had 679 spring picnic participants last year. Currently, we are finishing up letters to professional teams, corporate businesses. Local small business letters will get sent out.

Teacher Giving Tree Discussion: We will discontinue the teacher giving tree this year based on our new teacher request initiative. We discussed putting out teacher gift boxes for parents to make gifts to individual classrooms. We will create gift envelopes with gift tags. Families can donate to their teacher's classroom. Want to look into a QR code for tree.

Southern Bluffs as a whole is trying to get away from specific holidays. Discussed slowly transferring holiday fair over to this concept. Discussed doing a winter scene backdrop of pictures to get rid of Santa. We will not use a whole tree in the foyer. We will strive to incorporate more holiday traditions. The photo booth props could match different cultures. We can replace Santa with Bluffs. Recruit a HS student be Bluffs. We can incorporate different rooms with different cultural elements and religion, ie new ornaments for painting to incorporate holiday's around the world,

Current Business:

Dental Sealants - 9-1pm, Oct 2nd & Oct 6th

Picture Retakes - October 13th - Volunteer needed

Conference Meals - Oct 12th and Oct 16th,

DWP - District wide parent committee - meets monthly

Cool Cats - Discussed revamping Cool Cats into a volunteer organization in the building fulfilling a variety of needs. In years prior the Cool Cat would schedule a time to volunteer and the staff would then find placement for them, including some work with their child. It was helpful to get the hours available first, discussing with the volunteers what they want to do and make connections. It worked best for a volunteer to come in for a couple of hours

Bow tie Classic - Alex and team won a \$1000 grant

Mr. Skiles - Covering the remaining costs of the bench swing

Buddy Bench -will be painted in October and presented in school assembly

Next meeting: October 23, 2023 @ 6pm in Southern Bluffs Teacher's Lounge