

Southern Bluff's PTO Meeting
March 18, 2024
Submitted by Kristin Damstra

Attendees: Alex Powell, Walt Smanski, Kristin Damstra, Maggie Maine, Michelle Miller, Stephanie Umberger, Alicia Place, Jacqueline Weisse, Averi Kotnour, Meg Jelen

Meeting called to order by Alex Powell at 6pm

John raised \$500 for the Chicken Q at Charlie's Inn. John will do it again next year, PTO to bolster communication

Secretary's Report: The minutes were emailed to everyone
Motion to approve 1st: Jacqueline Weisse, 2nd: Averi Kotnour

Principal Report: 4th graders participated in national testing. Kids took either reading or math and did really well. We will not get the results. We hosted movie night and conferences which gave opportunities for families to be in the building. We had the "masked reader" - Mrs. Hoeth for "Reading across America". Pennies for Pets was done by the Student Council. We collected 300 milk cartons, grades will plant this spring

Discussion regarding intruder situation - parent concerns regarding communication - Maggie describing the situation: a former student, with an intellectual disability came to visit some teachers. The student gets fixated with certain individuals. Instead of coming in the office, he was let into the building by a student. He went and found the teacher he came to see and the teacher swiftly took him outside and called his mom. It was quickly resolved. She didn't consider it a big deal and didn't inform families because she didn't want to create hysteria. The intention wasn't there for a dangerous situation. It happened very fast. This situation brought up bigger safety concerns with the playground. Maggie has discussed this with the district safety person. The communication should have gone out to families, but she was trying to navigate what to communicate. The school is working with his school team and county team. They now have a plan regarding this individual. Discussion regarding importance of upfront and prompt communication from administration to parents

Behaviors in the Classroom: parent concerns regarding the importance of communication: How the communication is communicated and what we expect to hear as parents. Discussed examples of lack of communication from prior incidents. Maggie: communication depends on the degree of what is happening. She is trying to find the balance of what should be communicated. What is the threshold for safety concerns. Discussion regarding classroom behaviors. Classroom evacuations are not a communication home. The class is removed and sent to another learning space. Is there a standard for how teachers are communicating with families. Each situation is different, how staff responds. It is a delicate balance of keeping kids safe and helping the student regulate. We do a lot of SEL - discussions with the class on how to help. It's a day to day operational thing and preserving the social piece for the children and preserving their friendships. If there is a child doing violent things in the classroom, they might need extra counseling either through parents or counselor. It has the potential to become more inflammatory to not have communication. Some teachers communicate more than others. We evacuate to help the child adjust in the safest way possible. We have a lot of alternative learning spaces in the building and kids are resilient. We do restorative practices with kids. Maggie can pose this to teachers. If you have a child that does not share about their day at home, it is hard from the parent perspective. Maggie to

communicate with teachers to provide parents with more communication. Discussed “Handle with Care” sheets if something was witnessed during the day - parents can then open communication with their children about their school day. As parents we expect fluid and open communication. Maggie to bring “Handle with Care” to the teachers.

Treasurers Report:

Total Balance : \$17,600.25
Available Balance: \$10,663.31
Swings Account Balance: \$1683.34

Allocations:

PBIS: \$1000
Teacher Requests: \$5017.98
SEL: \$918.96

Commitments: 5th grade field trip, 5th grade celebration, Environmental Day

Motion: 1st. Jacqueline Weisse, 2nd: Averi Kotnour

Motion to approve Secretary Report: 1st: Jacqueline Weisse, 2nd: Averi Kotnour

Current Business

Teacher Conference Meals: Everyone Enjoyed the food. Too much the 2nd day.

Spring Picnic:

Food: Toppers Pizza, Discussed Dairy Free, Gluten Free - Ask Heather Skiles to get gluten free/dairy free numbers to order appropriate number of pizzas, 120 pizzas - Water, Snacks

Entertainment: Kenny the clown

Wizards will perform

Cake Walk : Stephanie Umberger

Face Painting - Need 3 helpers (high school artists)

Inflatables: Kristin to set up

Yearbook - 142 have ordered. Discussion about yearbooks, maybe hold composite and PTO buys folders for composite

Teacher Appreciation: Ideas on how to celebrate the teachers. Jacqueline to do donuts and coffee for one day.

Teacher Requests:

Older grades have outdoor classroom learning. The younger grades don't have outdoor learning area. \$1200 square outdoor table. Table will be used for staff lunches and outdoor learning. 8-10 kids at a table - 3 tables. Discussed emailing Joe to see if any other schools have them.

Gaga Pit Turf requested to prevent injury. North side has some installed. They might have extra turf for Gaga Pit

3rd grade request - would like to use the remaining teacher balance for their field trip.

Motion to approve teacher requests under the stipulation that Maggie's money is used first which follows the guidelines set for teacher requests this year.

1st: Kristin Damstra, 2nd Jacqueline Weisse

4th grade Field Trip: \$627.80 - \$6 admission, \$393.80

Discussed field trips and how to fund in the future. Holding 4th grade field trip request to next month

Brian Skiles: Requested eyewear for upcoming eclipse. Discussion regarding request. Too expensive for the unknown of weather and safety

Motion to adjourn:

1st: Kristin Damstra, 2nd Jacqueline Weisse

Next Meeting: April 15th at 6pm