

PTO Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 20, 2013

Call to Order: 9:15 am

Attendance: Mehdi Ataei, Shyanala Balacherdaan, Carol Boriss, Missy Bredbenner, Beth Chausow, Lance Dorall, Brianna Dorn, Jen Fee-Keller, Gary Fraser, Margi Goehl-Dolnick, Christy Groner, Madhurika Kandula, Monica Kornblum, Sonya Land, Sandy Lohss, Kay Lundry, Dr. Carrie Luttrell, Trista Mcswain, Debbie Palazzola, Namita Atal Paranjothi, Nilambari Pisat, Mary Robinson, Toni Sharlow, Jenni Stecher, Tracey Thalen

Welcome All: Jenni Stecher welcomed everyone and read the following expectation of all PTO meetings.

The expectation of all PTO meetings is for them to last for approximately one hour. According to the published bylaws, one purpose of our meetings is to “receive brief summary reports from all active committees.” Only PTO business will be discussed at our meetings. Any personal or school district related issues should be discussed outside of the meeting with the appropriate school administration at another time. One person at a time should speak so we may all hear each other, and the Recording Secretary is able to provide us with clear and concise minutes of each meeting. The appointed meeting facilitator reserves the right to move the meeting forward, which means possibly limiting the time someone has to present their information.

PTO Board and all attendees introduced themselves.

May Meeting Minutes Approval: Approved first by Missy Bredbenner and seconded by Sandy Lohss.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Back to School Carnival: Jenni Stecher reported event is this Friday, August 23 from 6-8 pm and is provided by SVE Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Bring chairs and picnic dinner. There will be water/juice box/popcorn concession stand as well as Kona Ice available for purchase and SVE will receive a percentage of the proceeds. FroYo is also being considered. If anyone is interested in baking or contributing to the cake walk or helping with setup or clean up at the event let Jenni Stecher know. Back to school gifts will also be available for purchase.

School Pictures: We have agreed to use Wagner Studios again on Sept. 27.

President's Report:

Committee Volunteers: Anyone interested in volunteering may return form or go on website to sign up. We would appreciate any time anyone can give, not a huge commitment.

Panther Pledge Drive: Will be addressed in more detail in September. In previous years the students have sold items. Now there is an online donation form available through the SVE website.

Spirit Wear: There will be three (3) Spirit Wear shirt options this year. They will be on display at the Open House and the Carnival this week. Due date for orders is Sept. 20.

Leader in Me books: PTO will be purchasing 100 books for the Leader in Me program and Dr. Carrie Luttrell will speak more on this in her report.

Vice President's Report: Room Parent meeting is Sept. 3 at 6 pm for those interested. After the survey results, it was decided there would be 3 parties – Halloween Party (10/25), Winter Party (12/20) and Spring Party (2/13). We need volunteers to make this happen!

The back to school gifts went home with students last week – pencil bag and bookmark.

Treasurer's Report: Christy Groner stated there was nothing new to report at this time and will have more information as Panther Pledge drive gets underway. Jenni Stecher added the budget is online to view for those interested.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Wellness Committee: Mrs. JoAnne Peugh (SVE Nurse) reported that in October, SVE will be one of four schools to participate in a pilot program for flu shots. Children are more likely to suffer severe consequences of the illness and the illness is easily spread through children. Last season there were 20 reported pediatric deaths. The CDC has recommended that children receive flu vaccinations every year. The Visiting Nurse Association has been providing this program and they will come to the school and vaccinate currently enrolled students. More detailed information will be given later regarding the cost, etc. A make-up day will be provided for absent students. Medicaid eligible students will not be charged. Mrs. Peugh asked for the PTO's support in this effort and mentioned they will need volunteers to assist that day. Sonya Land asked how SVE was chosen and Mrs. Peugh stated that she had volunteered to be part of the program.

Teacher's Report: Carol Boriss reported nothing new other than to please check teacher lists as they may have been updated. There was some discussion about teacher logins. Sonya Land said she would be happy to help any teachers with their logins and Carol Boriss should put them in contact with her. Parents can access Teacherlists.com to see what is listed.

Principal's Report: Debbie Palazzola reported on the playground improvements. The facility and grounds departments worked with her on drainage issues near the kindergarten and 1st grade outdoor areas. The teachers are thrilled to not have pools after a rain!

Dr. Carrie Luttrell is proud to be the principal at SVE for the 3rd year. She talked about the formation of the committee that will attend at Parkway Central this fall to discuss possible bond issue. Debbie Palazzola will lead the committee, along with Jenni Stecher, Sandy Lohss, Steve Kadyk and David Fingerhut. The committee will also include 2-3 support staff (custodian, food service, secretary) as well as 2-3 teachers.

Dr. Carrie Luttrell also reported on the MO State Improvement Plan. The school attendance standard (one of two standards) is that 90% of students attend 90% of the time. Last year SVE exceeded that at 93% however she would like it improved to 95-96%. The second standard measured is academic achievement. We are meeting or exceeding expectations in this category as well. Dr. Luttrell and the teachers encourage all students to achieve all they can. She stated they are working hard this year to focus on the needs of all the subgroups and assist with the group that shows need for improvement.

Student MAP reports will be sent home in a sealed envelope with the 3rd and 4th grade students. Call your counselor if you do not receive one. The reports for the 5th grade students has already been sent to the middle schools for distribution.

Character education – PTO has agreed to purchase copies of books ‘The 7 Habits of Happy Kids’ (by Sean Covey) for students to access and borrow through the library. The teaching staff is very excited about working with the book and the students. Dr. Luttrell hopes to have some students report on what they are learning at our next meeting.

Adjourn: Jenni Stecher announced that the new paper color for PTO is purple and the Back to School Carnival sign-up sheet is available.

Sonya Land will send out PTO email updates on Wednesdays so please have anything you want included to her prior to Tuesday 8 pm.

Thank you for attending today’s meeting. The next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 7 pm in the library. Agenda items are due by Sept 2. The Room Parent meeting is Tues., Sept. 3 at 6 pm in the library. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am by Jenni Stecher.