

PTO Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Attendees

Shilpa Rao, Zeel Ambekar, Helen Humphrey, Victoria Goldstein, Stephanie Goldstein, Dawn Carey, Sherrie Goesling, Trista McSwain, Jennifer Couchman, Angela Emerson, Marlena Neal, Ali Corrigan, Jennifer Shoen, Woojin Robinson, Avinash Naoam, Danielle Mosley, Michele Duvall, Jennifer Schneller, Amanda Marsh, Sara Johnson, Katie Lail, Kim Rivera, Valerie Harris, Kimberly Hodge-Bell, Jennifer Chalstrom, Lisa Villareal, Melissa Wachler, Tracey Thaler, Amy Fitter, Dorian Jamison, Shayla Jamison, Kimberly Danielle, Sonya Land, Steven Shane, Greg Cicotte

I. Call to Order

Sonya Land called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The expectation of all PTO meetings is for them to last for approximately one hour. According to the published bi-laws, one purpose of our meeting 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.

II. Welcome

Sonya Land welcomed everyone to the meeting.

III. April Meeting Minutes Approval

Sonya Land requested a motion to approve the PTO meeting minutes from April 2017. Michele Duvall and Danielle Mosley seconded the motion.

IV. Officer Reports

A. VP Report – Steven Shane

1. **Room Parent Meeting & Class Party Dues** – Steven thanked everyone who came to the room parent meeting this evening. There is still a need for additional volunteers to help with class parties, particularly for 4th grade. Class party dues will be requested in a few weeks.
2. **Volunteer Sign Ups** – In order to volunteer in the Parkway School District, there is a requirement to complete a volunteer packet online. The link is <https://www.parkwayschools.net/domain/783>. It takes approximately 24 hours to get approval. The sign-up sheet for volunteer committees at SVE was sent home in Friday folders. Several people have signed up to volunteer on various school committees. Please let Steven know if you are interested in being on a committee.
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Back to School Carnival** – Sonya reported that there was a great turn out and great weather for the Back to School Carnival that was held on August 25th. Please let Sonya know if you have ideas for activities you’d like to see at next year’s carnival.
 - b. **Book Fair** – The book fair is scheduled for October 2-5, 2017. Volunteers are needed to set up, break down, and work at the sale. The volunteer link is www.SignUpGenius.com/go10C0A49A4A829A2FB6. The book fair takes place the same

week as parent-teacher conferences and everyone is encouraged to stop by the book fair while they are in the building.

- c. Beautification – The next Beautification Day is scheduled for October 14, 2017 from 9:00-11:00am. We are in need of volunteers that day to help put in plants and clean up the landscaping at the school. The Boy Scouts will also be helping that day as part of their service project.
- d. Trivia Night – Michele Duvall announced that our next Trivia Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2018. It will be a 90's theme this year. Trivia Night is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the PTO and we raised more than \$19,000.00 last year for our school. Most of the profits are made through the silent auction so we are in need of volunteers who can help solicit items for the auction. Please mark the date and plan on attending this year. Contact Michele with questions or if you would like to volunteer to help with this event.

B. Treasurer Report – Michele Duvall

Michele Duvall reported that we have raised \$2500.00 to date through Panther Pledge donations. We raised a little over \$13,000.00 last school year. Our goal is \$15,000.00 this year. We will be posting "High Five" handprints on the bulletin board for every donation received this year. Sonya reviewed the pros to doing a direct donation campaign rather than having students sell items to raise money. If every family at SVE donates \$75.00, we will meet our fundraising goal for the year. Some employers will match your donation and there is a match form online for those who are able to take advantage of this. There is also the option to make your Panther Pledge donation online under the PTO link on the SVE website. The money raised helps support several programs and activities at SVE and is outlined in the Panther Pledge brochure.

C. President Report – Sonya Land

1. Food fundraisers – Due to the fact that we were not on track to reach our Panther Pledge goal last year, we started doing some food fundraisers last spring. We will continue to have these every other month and will also continue to have Papa John's fundraisers once a month. A flyer will come home and if you order Papa John's that night, SVE will receive a portion of the profits.

- a. We will have fundraisers at Chick-Fil-A on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 and Monday, March 19, 2018. Both will be from 5:00-8:00pm. This is the location in Chesterfield Valley. If you go through the drive-thru, just request that they put your receipt in the SVE basket. We get 20% of the profits made during the fundraiser.
- b. We will have a fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen on Thursday, November 16, 2017 and January 22, 2018. This fundraiser runs all day from 11:00am-9:30pm so that you can go for lunch or dinner. We are required to have 20 reservations for this fundraiser to take place. Please sign up at <https://www.groupraise.com/events/33068>.
- c. Our Menchie's fundraiser will take place on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 from 4:00-9:00pm at the Town & Country Crossing location.

2. Veteran's Day – We are looking for a military family member of a student to emcee our Veteran's Day program. Our previous emcee has moved out of the district. Please let Sonya know if you are aware of anyone who would be interested in this opportunity.

3. Anxiety Presentation – Dr. Chad Sylvester will do a presentation on anxiety at SVE on October 10, 2017 at 7:00pm. Topics will include recognizing anxiety in children and strategies for managing anxiety. The presentation will last approximately 45-60 minutes.

V. Wellness Committee

- A.** Walk/Bike to School Day will be held on September 22, 2017 in the morning. Students are encouraged to wear athletic attire that day.
- B.** The 4th Grade Field Trip to the Katy Trail will take place on September 28, 2017. Students will have an opportunity to walk or ride a bike on the trail.
- C.** Healthy Snack week will be held in mid-October.
- D.** Facebook for P.E. Updates – Mrs. Rajchart and Mr. Gannon have created a Facebook page for P.E. Follow them at <https://www.facebook.com/ShenandoahValleyHPE/>

VI. Teacher Report

Amy Fitter is the teacher representative for the PTO. She expressed appreciation for the volunteer support at the Boo Hoo Breakfast, Back to School Carnival, and the Solar Eclipse. She also thanked volunteers for providing food at conferences and birthday treats for teachers throughout the year. Mrs. Fitter is also on staff at Green Trails Elementary and she shared information about their Adopt-A-Gator program in which families adopt a teacher for the year and provide them with small treats or gifts of appreciation once a month. Some of the parents in attendance commented that it would be helpful if they had information about things that their children's teachers like (e.g., favorite candy, hobbies) so that they can buy meaningful gifts for them.

VII. Principal Report – Greg Cicotte

Dr. Cicotte discussed the Leader in Me program and its focus on culture, leadership, and academics. SVE is working on developing a culture where all students are leaders. Staff members are currently coming up with school-wide leadership roles for students and eventually the students will be taking a more active role in developing their own leadership opportunities. Students will also be setting and tracking their own academic goals. Dr. Cicotte thanked PTO for its continued support of this program. Dr. Cicotte discussed how Dr. Luttrell started professional learning communities during her tenure at SVE to improve the academic curriculum. The focus of professional learning communities is on teams working together on lesson plans, looking at data, analyzing data, and improving assessments. Over the past 5 years, our state test scores have been trending upward every year. SVE students are performing well academically and our school is ranked one of the highest performing elementary schools in Parkway on Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) scores in Math and English/Language Arts for 3rd-5th graders. We also are ranked 11th in the state by Niche.

VIII. New Business

- A. Accessibility** – A parent in attendance discussed the school building's lack of accessibility for students in wheelchairs and wondered if it was possible for PTO to fund portable ramps for the building. Sonya also mentioned that Parkway is currently conducting a survey and she encouraged parents to provide feedback about things they think would improve our school. Mrs. Fitter shared that SVE has worked with the district in the past on ideas for improving accessibility. One issue is that the grade of our steps is very steep and there is not adequate space for the length of ramp we would need to safely accommodate the slope.
- B. Playground Equipment** – A parent in attendance asked about the condition of the playground and noted that certain equipment is roped off and that there are weeds and a lack of new mulch. Sonya shared that the PTO has purchased two new pieces of playground equipment that will be installed in the near future. It may be that the district is waiting to re-mulch the area until after the new pieces are installed. Another parent questioned whether there was any discussion about removing pieces of equipment that are a source of injuries for several students. Dr. Cicotte indicated that he could take a look at the injury data and try to determine if it's an issue

of the equipment causing too many overall injuries or just at certain age groups. If it's the latter, a solution may be to limit the use of some pieces to certain age groups.

IX. Adjournment – Sonya Land adjourned the meeting at 8:00am. Our next PTO meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2018 at 9:15 a.m.