



SOCIAL CIRCLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO



PTO Meeting Minutes - October 18, 2017

Present: , Tiffany Dean, Tiffany Padilla, Cassie Laffan, Abbey Bruno, Kelli Waldrop, Sallie Robinson, Beth Pridgen, Sabrina Sanford-Flint, Maria Hargrove, Jennifer Forster, Nicole Fleming

Apologies: Ryan Wallace and Mikiesha Castro

Documents Provided: Meeting Agenda, Annual Calendar, Robert's Rule of Order Tip Sheet

Welcome/Introductions

Meeting began at 3:15pm with a welcome by Nicole Fleming. It was announced that the new PTO website is active and is still a work in progress. Nicole explained that the boxtops, team page and calendar were already active and that the meeting agendas, meeting minutes, current activities, donations sought after and volunteer opportunities would be posted within the week. Suggestions and corrections were sought after and can be emailed to ptosces@gmail.com.

Administrative Report

Thank you cards were sent to the PTO by Colquitt, Jone & Paulos. The group was reminded that any general PTO correspondence is housed in the PTO office and always brought to meetings for review. Room Parent tips were provided to include: a shared candy donation drive to assure that we have ample candy for Math Tricks for Treats and that ALL classes receive a similar treat bag for the Spooky Science event. The PTO will collect and distribute the candy (by class) in bags provided by the PTO. Another Room Parent tip included finding creative ways to make the most out of the monthly pep rally's. It was suggested that each Room Parent work with the respective teacher to make the most of the positive behavior effort. The new tip this month was to use water bottles filled with rocks or beans to make shakers.

Treasurer's Report

Tiffany Dean gave the Treasurer's report and noted that there is currently \$2,264 in the SCES PTO bank account. Nicole noted that the PTO sold over \$500 worth of spirit wear during the Friendship Festival. Tiffany communicated that the PTO budgeted about \$200 for math night and \$2000 for Holiday house. It was noted that t-shirt sales efforts & promotions would continue to raise funds. It was also noted that Tiffany Padilla secured an in-kind grant donation from DART that included paper plates & cups for the event.

Principal's Report

Principal Beth Pridgen congratulated Nicole Fleming on being nominated and selected to represent Social Circle School District on the Georgia State Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee. It was also announced that Social Circle Schools have a 97% graduation rate and is very competitive with other schools in the greater Walton County area.

The Walton Tribute will feature our "TEAM" concept to support positive behavior in an upcoming issue in an article written by Mrs. Pridgen. It was noted that Mrs. Jones (Art) also submitted an article about the Empty Bowl project. New team shirts are being printed to correct the mis-spelling and that a few extra of each color has also been ordered to accommodate new students.

The school fundraiser has come to an end and orders will be ready this upcoming Friday. Beth noted that funds from this effort will be used to stock classroom libraries. Kids who sold 18 items or more will be rewarded with a Limo ride & pizza on November 13th.



Committee Reports: Ongoing & Past Activities

Nicole Fleming discussed the current PTO activities to include the following:

- Bookstore: The DOJO bookstore has been WILDLY successful and the bookstore team continuously seeks new books donations and inexpensive sources to stock the shelves.
- Ice Cream Sales, which is in now in need of help on Monday, Wednesday's and Friday's only per Emily. Nicole Fleming noted that she would revise the current signup genius to reflect the new days and resend it out to the PTO database. It was also noted again that all proceeds from ice cream sales go to underwrite field trips for the school.
- Teacher/Staff Birthdays are going well and the PTO has received great feedback and thanks for launching the new birthday recognition effort.
- Coffee Bar is going great and the PTO has received some of its first donations to support the coffee bar program for teachers and staff.
- Recycling Program is going great and it was noted that the children love it and are doing a wonderful job. The last recycling report for the county showed SCES in 2nd place.

PAST ACTIVITIES

- Family Resource Night (hosted by Communities in Schools/CIS) was held on 9/21/17 and it went very well. The PTO set up a table with spirit wear sales, general PTO information, volunteer opportunities, donations needed and healthy meals handouts.
- PTO Conference - Nicole Fleming attended the conference on 9/26 and commented on the vast amount of information, ideas, collaboration and fundraising opportunities the conference had to offer. Nicole invited everyone to attend the next one.
- Friendship Festival was held on 10/7/17, where volunteers set up & sold over \$500 in spirit wear. This was a huge help for the PTO and despite the moments of rain went very well. The tent looked great.

Upcoming Activities

Nicole Fleming discussed the following upcoming activities:

- Math Tricks-for-Treats & Spooky Science will be held on 10/19/17 to be held in both the cafeteria and gym, where the PTO will provide pizza, soda and cookies for all participants. Candy donations are in and the PTO has separated candy into bins for each Math station. The candy was wheeled into the meeting to show all in attendance. Candy not used for Math Tricks-for-Treats will be used for Spooky Science.
- Spirit week is coming up on 10/23. The red flyer explaining the daily activities was on display for all to see.
- Spooky Science activities will be held on 10/31 for all classes. Each class will rotate and do fun science experiments. The PTO has collected candy and will create small treat bags for all students by class and have them ready to distribute for each child to take home after the fun-filled day.
- Empty Bowls Night is coming up on 11/6 and each grade was asked to donate chili. Tiffany Dean said that she spoke with 5th grade Room Parents and they are going to handle providing soup and/or chili. Third and Fourth grade will talk about how to provide support to their respective grades (teachers) and get the chili done.
- Vetearn's Day Program is coming up on 11/10. Mrs. Welch has all of the music ready and everything is already taken care of as reported by Beth. The PTO can provide support by decorating the doors entering the gym, decorating the PL room and will provide a cake.
- Thankful for families is coming up 11/14-11/16. The PTO will provide support by helping to decorate tables, packing lunch and supporting the CIS cake auction in any way needed. Beth announced that Mrs. Rakestraw is taking the winning (cake sale) grade to the Carter Center as a reward. It was suggested that we invite the Police Department to come and have lunch on SCES. The designated overflow areas for this event are the PL Room, Spanish Room & the media center.



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- Holiday House Fundraiser on 12/8-12/15, where Tiffany Dean discussed the plan to purchase items to resell to students and staff with a \$2,000 budget to begin. It is typical that the PTO clears \$2,000.. The Holiday House will take place in the Science Lab as it did in prior years. Tiffany Dean noted the great success of this fundraiser and solicited volunteers also noting that the December meeting will be a Holiday House working meeting. The PTO will start collecting donation of holiday wrapping/bows to prepare for this amazing annual fundraiser.
- Spring Festival, Tiffany Padilla (new Event Co-Chair) spoke about the success of last years event and proposed that we add to an already great plan with more activities (maybe a rockwall), cotton candy, sno cones and other items for the kids to enjoy. The PTO will lock down a date this upcoming week and begin the planning phase for the event. .

Existing Fundraising Reports

- Tiffini Padilla *discussed* the Boxtops program noting that we have already collected nearly \$800 for our first submission. The annual goal was \$1000, so this is a great start of the year. Each winning class (by grade level) was rewarded with a special treat and a Box Top star to hang by their respective classroom doors.
- Nicole shared that she was in the process of applying for a nonprofit Wal-Mart card to exempt future sales from taxes, a Kroger Community card for shoppers and that we are not Amazon Smail participants with \$5 raised in the first day.
- Nicole noted that the PTO is trying to construct a Grant/Sponsorship team of at least 3 people to continuously work on grant and sponsorship opportunities.
- Nicole shared that Cassie Laffan will not help coordinate the Ink Recycling for the school. We will seek an additional volunteer to help with this effort.

New Fundraising Ideas/Needs

Nicole shared the “2-Hour Pledge” program that asks parents to donate 2-hours of time doing various tasks. This may reach parents who may not be able to fill a role, but help out at different times. The group agreed to proceed with the promotion of the program.

Teacher Proposal Requests

The PTO recieved a request to help underwrite the amounts not collected from families for the TEAM t-shirts. The amount needed is uncertain, but Kelli Waldrop will send out a reminder to families to see how much more we can get in to reduce the expense to the PTO. As it stands, there seemed to be a shortfall of at least \$1000 before adjustments made for the correction of the green shirts and re-orders for incoming students and returning staff.

Mrs. Robinson asked if we would proceed with the Marker Recycling Program and the PTO group agreed to initiate the program. The PTO has to create the containers and get them distributed. The goal is to get this done in November.

Nicole mentioned that meeting minutes and agendas would be posted on the new website moving forward. This was also noted as a way to engage and inform parents who could not make the meetings since it had not been determined whether or not we would host evening meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:15

Meetings for the rest of the 2017-2018 school year: November 15th, December 6th*, January 17th, February 21st, March 21st, April 18th and May 16th

Minutes Respectively Submitted by: Nicole Fleming & Tiffany Padilla on 10/27/17