

**Southwest Elementary School**  
**PTA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 7th, 2019**  
**6:30 PM Media Center**

**I. Call to Order**

- Amy Wilcox called the meeting to order at 6:33PM
- Amy introduced the Executive Board. We went around the room and had everyone introduce themselves.

**II. Principal Report**

- Vice Principal Lindsay is still out per a medical condition. In her absence, we have two retired Vice Principals that are helping. Alfred will be at the school Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Haggler will be at the schools on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- E-mails have been sent to the teachers about Boosterthon coming up. They are ready for that event.
- Wednesday is an optional teacher workday.
- Thursday 25 teachers from Wesleyan Christian Academy will be coming to Southwest to observe what we do at the school. They are coming to learn from our staff and teachers.
- Friday morning is All-Pro Dads.
- Picture day went very smooth and a big thanks to the volunteers who came to help.

**III. Teacher Report**

- Murphy-Justice explained that she sends out an e-mail every month asking for what the teachers need to bring to the PTA. 2 e-mails came back this past one.
- The first from Shelly Pullum. She asked if the PTA could help with donations for school field trips if there are some students who cannot afford to pay.
  - a. Principal Thigpen stated that they have added a line to the permission slips for field trips at the bottom asking for donations to help the students who cannot afford to pay. Also, she wants to encourage teachers to look at GCS teacher fund grant to help pay for field trips. Also, every grade and club are allowed to do one fundraiser and has a separate donation account.
- Casey Jessum wanted to say thank you to the PTA for all the it does.

**IV. Leadership Report**

- Kristen reported that the Leadership team is working on their School Improvement Plan. They are working in teams, and each team has a target area. Everyone can log onto the website to see the School Improvement Plan by using the Guest login and Guest Password. Every month they are going to be talking about the progress they are making on the School Improvement Plan. Then they will update the website with the new information.

**V. Treasurer Report**

- Kelly gave out the updated budget for October. She then explained the new format for the budget this year and encouraged people to reach out to her if they have any questions.

## VI. Committee Report

### a. Coupon Book

- Amy McDowell reported that we sold more books this year than last year.
- We sent out 883 books and sold 954 (91 more than last year).
- 16 students sold 10 or more
- 1 student sold 18
- 103 students sold 3 or more
- 126.5 Volunteer hours went into this event between 12 volunteers.
- Carla and Johanna helped the most and were at the school almost every day.
- We only have 10 books not turned back in. Those 10 students will not get sample books next year.
- We sold more books with less students this year.

### b. Box Tops/Coke Gives

- Coke campaign is ongoing throughout the year. They pay out quarterly.
- Box Top collection is currently happening.

### c. Cowboy Roundup

- Amy Wilcox reported that we are trying to get an interest meeting with the volunteers set up.
- If done over dinner time, Food Trucks were suggested

### d. Class Parent

- There is a meeting tomorrow at 12:30pm in the Turtle Courtyard to discuss the rules and guidelines. 4 teachers still do not have class parents. Most classes have between 1-3 class parents (more for younger grades, less for older grades).

### e. Beautification

- Beth Talent reported the Spirit Rock fundraiser is currently active. Parents and staff can sign up to paint a message on the rock for 1-2 nights. The PTA has reserved certain dates before vacation or for PTA Events.
- The hand prints for the hallway tree have all been laminated. They had a lot of volunteers to help.
- A problem we are having is with the flower planters. Flowers have been purchased and planted, but they are not getting watered enough. All the plants are dead. Beth proposed that we have grades or classes adopt the planters. Then the students could be responsible for planning the flowers, donating the flowers, and watering the flowers 3 times a week. Principal Thigpen asked for a list of all the locations of planters to get them assigned. It was suggested that this would be good for Character Development as well.
- Starting to paint murals in addition to the "street signs" on the walls. They are starting on 4<sup>th</sup> grade hall. A student asked for an animal to be added. So, long-term, they want to hid animals in all the murals for an "animal scavenger hunt" for the students.
- Beth also proposed to get a sensory pathway. They are very expensive, but studies have proven their usefulness. They are permanent fixtures. Beth found one for \$1675 on [sensorypath.org](http://sensorypath.org) (the original sensory path). There are many

additions that we could get every year. Her plan is to put it by the gym. The purchases have to be made through GCS and will take 8-12 weeks.

- She would also like to see more done outside. Stencils for hopscotch or 4 squares were suggested. Stencils are expensive. So, this would be next year.
- Beth received a donation from an anonymous donor for \$350.00
- Beth also proposed building a “gaga ball” pit. It was suggested to ask the Boy Scouts to help build it. It was also suggested to get the wood donated from Home Depot. Emily Barnes suggested she could help put us in contact with the right person at Home Depot. Mr. Garland said he may be able to help build it as well. Principal Thigpen suggested taking them to Colfax elementary to see the gaga ball pit they have.

**f. Boosterthon**

- Tomorrow is the teacher overview. October 21<sup>st</sup> is the Pep Rally Kick Off. The committee worked hard this year to get the t-shirts paid for fully by sponsors. We were able to get 11 sponsors to cover the complete cost of the shirts (around \$4400).
- Sponsors: Mateer Storage, Tiger Rock, Tiger Kim, Mathnasium, Team Connections, Super Cuts, Ilderton Chrysler Dodge, Brain Balance, Code Ninja, and Edible Arrangements.

**g. Membership**

- Melissa Shivley reported we have 265 total members this year. NCPTA and GCPTA membership dues have been paid.
- We are working to e-mail any members that joined last year but not this year. We are also working on e-mailing teachers to push membership. Principal Thigpen is going to send out an e-mail to help encourage teachers to join.

**h. Reflections**

- Jolane Korson reported this is our third year participating in the Reflections program through the National PTA. She has had questions about if the program was mandatory, done at school or done at home. It is not mandatory, and the projects are completed at home.
- There are 3 categories open: art, literature and photography. We could do more categories in the next years if we have more volunteers.
- She has 35 participants so far.
- Jolane will need at least 3 judges to help and more volunteers to help with inputting data, collecting art and uploading to the Google Drive. Principal Thigpen is helping with finding Judges. She believes she has 2 so far.

**i. Restaurant Night**

- Kristen reported that September Chick Fil A night was the highest earning we have had from any night all last year. We received \$344. Now we can do to Chick Fil A all day, not just after 5pm.
- The 15<sup>th</sup> is Spirit Night at Texas Roadhouse from 5-8pm, and we will get 15% of sales. Andy the Armadillo will be at the school by 2:15 to greet kids.

**j. Spirit Rock**

- Covered under Beautification

- k. STEM Night**
  - STEM Night will be on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Planning has started.
- l. Yearbook**
  - Amy Wilcox reported that the contract with LifeTouch was signed last week. We have the website and code for submitting pictures.
- VII. Old Business**
  - Principal Thigpen made a motion to approve the Minutes from the September Board Meeting. Melissa seconded the motion. Amy called for a vote. The motion was approved.
- VIII. New Business**
  - a. Donations**
    - Jodi asked about the possibility of starting a donation closet for kids in need. Principal Thigpen loves the idea, but there is just no space for something like that at this time.
    - The school has teamed up with Out of the Garden, and 15 kids will be getting Friday Backpacks. The backpacks will be delivered Friday morning.
    - Jolane suggested that during the Talent Show they hold a can food drive to donate back to Out of the Garden.
  - b. Monthly Report**
    - Megan Bocci reported that some monthly reports still are not coming in before our meetings. She encouraged anyone with questions to contact her.
  - c. Parking/ drop off**
    - Amy Wilcox reported that there is still a large problem with parents not following procedures for drop off in the morning. The problems are in both car lines. Parents in the 3-5 line do not know the proper procedure, and the teachers are not enforcing the rules. Principal Thigpen will start going out to the 3-5 line in the mornings to monitor.
    - Amy has reported some parents are still parking and walking their children into school. Also, in K-2 car line, parents are dropping children off at the sidewalk on Southwest School Road. Principal Thigpen said if she can get a license plate number that she can track those vehicles.
- IX. Adjourn Meeting**
  - Amy Wilcox adjourned the meeting at 8:12PM

**Presided over by:**

**Amy Wilcox, President**

**Megan Bocci, Secretary**

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name:           Megan Bocci