SWES PTA Board Minutes

Southwest Elementary School - High Point, NC

9-2-21 06:33pm| Meeting called to order by Megan Bocci

# In Attendance

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Megan Bocci | Kate Steele | Emily Barnes | Shannon Robinson | Jodi Johnson |
| Carla Mateer | Michelle Thigpen | Alison Snyder | Jenna Schaefer | Jennifer Black  |
| Dr. Shanta Buchanan |  |  |  |  |

# Approval of Minutes

8.16.21 Minutes Approved

# Board

Megan Bocci called the virtual meeting to order at 6:33pm via Google Meets

* Meetings will now include discussions of action items to minimize time.
	+ **Boosterthon**
		- We are doing great so far with student involvement.
		- More students have joined than at this time last year.
		- 3% away from meeting our next registration goal.
			* Next incentive goal we will pie Dr. Buchanan
		- Need to finalize event day and time.
			* Dance Fit Video is pre- recorded and will be less than one hour.
			* Ideally, we would want all the student to participate at the same time.
			* Principal Thigpen is okay with all students gathering either in the morning or afternoon.
			* **Action Item: Find out from Boosterthon the best time that will work for students to participate at one time.**
* **General Meeting**
	+ September 9th at 6:30pm
	+ We must meet quorum. Minimum of 20 people required.
	+ We really want our parents to find value in coming to the PTA meetings.
	+ New Parents to SWES and Returning Parents
		- Q&A – Open Forum to ask questions to PTA and Principal Thigpen
			* We want our parents to have a voice, and this will give them the opportunity in this forum.
		- Promote Participation through marketing
			* Raffle
				+ To entice people to come.
				+ Giveaway (2) Target Gift cards
	+ **Restaurant Nights**
		- We will need someone to take ownership of restaurant night to take to higher level.
			* Chick-fil-a Night
				+ 1st Thursday of each month
				+ Hours 5pm-10pm
			* Moe’s Southwest Grill has a great taco pop up night
				+ Need someone to coordinate online sales
				+ Need someone to coordinate food pickup
			* Andy’s Frozen Custard
				+ Unable to get a response from Andy’s to set up another SWES day.
				+ Need someone to take lead on follow up.
	+ **Science Olympiad**
		- Wonderful opportunity to offer this nationwide competition at our school.
		- We have a parent and teacher already willing to assist with this program
			* Mansi – Parent
			* Mr. McDonough – STEM teacher
		- We need to decide as a board if we want to fund this student program.
			* $300 Registration
			* $50.00 Coach Workshop Fees
			* Other fees as needed
		- Motion to approve as presented
			* Motion approved by Jodi Johnson
			* 2nd Motion approved by Kate Steele
			* All in favor – Yes
			* Anyone opposes – No response
* **Author Visits/Community Visits**
	+ Community Leaders
		- Physicians
		- Firefighters
		- City Councilman
		- Police Officers
	+ Carole Boston Weatherford
		- Fees: $3,000 plus travel expenses ($500 approx.)
		- World renowned author.
		- Her kids went to SW.
		- She offers 3(45 min) programs with (2) grades at a time
		- Author Illustrator option with her son – Will cost a little more
		- She will host a Writing Workshop.
		- Spoke with Taylor Hondos Pickens and she said it would be great for the students
		- Spring Booking available now, we need to book now not later
		- We have the funds available in our programing budget.
			* Open Questions/Responses:
* Principal Thigpen
	+ What is her agenda?
	+ **Action Item: What would she do with the students when she comes?**
	+ **Action Item: Would she be able to come during Read Across America week?** (March 1st)
	+ **Action Item: Would she be willing to do a meet and greet with the parents?** To sell her books and autograph them.
* Response by Megan Bocci
	+ Her focus is adaptive.
	+ We can make it what we want it to be.
		- Illustrator Focus
		- Writing Focus
		- Music Focus
		- Art Focus
		- Movement and Interactive Focus
	+ If read across America week is still available, we would need to book soon. (March 1st)
* Response by Jodi Johnson
	+ The book Jazz Baby was a hit with the students
	+ The Music Department partnered with the author to talk about the origination of jazz music and what it means and how it inspired other music.
	+ The fee is a little high but after research it falls in line with other children’s authors
	+ We need to decide if we want to spend this level of money on an author.
	+ She has written so many wonderful books and have been a champion for racial injustice issues among children with her writing.
* Response by Kate Steele
	+ Great ideas if every student is impacted.
	+ If it ties with teacher curriculum and read across America week.
* Response by Jennifer Black
	+ This is expensive, could we have an incentive to get a discount?
		- Honorary Plaque
		- Honorary Bench
* **Attraction Books**
	+ Advertising will begin the beginning of October.
	+ Sales to start the end of October.
	+ Early communication to let parents know about coupon books.
	+ We are looking for someone to head up this fundraiser.
	+ Meeting with Chris Hudson real soon.

# Advisory Committee

Jodi Johnson

* Sent emails to potential volunteers
	+ Only 1 response so far.
	+ Will follow up with phone calls to connect.
	+ Meet with potential volunteers for coffee to develop a friendship bond.
* Laura Ortiz
	+ Great volunteer option for restaurant night.
	+ Great reference to put on her resume.
	+ **Action Item: Contact Laura Ortiz**

Megan Bocci

* We will meet people where they are.
* High Schoolers were very helpful in the Mindfulness Garden
* Would love to see all three PTA come together

Jennifer Black

* Teacher at SWHS, Parent of Kindergartener at SWES
* Service Learning
	+ Integrate our HS student to help with events
		- Club signups
		- Sports Teams signup
		- Volunteer credits for school applications
		- **Action Item: Contact Brindon Christman**

# Budget

* Megan Bocci – President
	+ Motion to approve the budget based on one proposed change to include $25.00 for bank fees.
		- Motion approved by Jodi Johnson
		- 2nd Motion approved by Kate Steele
		- All in favor – Yes
		- Anyone opposes – No response
	+ **Action Item: Revise budget to include $25.00 bank fees.**

# Principal’s Report

* We are Fast and Furious to start the year off with smiling faces and positive energy.
* Boosterthon presence is exciting, and the kids love the excitement it brings.
* Arrival and Dismissal is going faster and faster.
	+ Kids are being dropped off by 6:45am.
	+ All car riders in the afternoon were loaded up by 2:23pm.
	+ Thanks to the parents and staff for their willingness to obey the rules.
* K-3 assessments are underway.
	+ The results will help to form small groups.
* 3-4-5 grades are finishing up baselines to determine reading levels.
	+ EOG scores were released and is available on DPI websites.
		- 4th and 5th grade reading went down by 1.6%.
		- 4th and 5th grade students did not get to retake test
	+ Leadership will meet next week to divide and conquer our school goals.
		- Discussion will include how to improve
			* Academic goals
			* Diversity goals
	+ Scholastic Book Sales for “Front Desk” are doing great.
		- Leadership will meet 3rd Tuesday of September
		- One School, One Book Theme
			* Advantages
				+ Learn more about one another
				+ Celebrate differences
				+ Help to improved school community
				+ Ties in with our Social Emotional Learning

# Committee Reports

**Treasurer Report – Emily Barnes**

* No outstanding issues, does anyone have any questions about the proposed budget?
	+ - **Question #1** – by Jodi Johnson
			* Are we going to adjust the $5200 budgeted expense for Boosterthon?
		- **Answer #1** – by Megan Bocci
			* No, we are going to leave the 5200.00 budgeted expense.
			* We will now have the wiggle room for fall attire such as long sleeve shirts, hoodies, etc.
		- **Question #2** - by Jodi Johnson
			* What are we doing with yearbooks this year?
* **Answer #2** – by Megan Bocci & Principal Thigpen
	+ This is a great question. We know that we want to have both a hard copy and digital copy of the yearbook this year.
	+ We are still exploring our options.
	+ The $1500 budgeted expense is a good figure to accomplish our goal.
* **Question #3** – by Jodi Johnson
	+ Are we going to add a line item for Bank Fees?
	+ We incurred $1.80 on last month statement.
	+ We should add a line item so that we can maintain our budget.
* **Answer #3 –** by Emily Barnes
	+ This is not something that we will occur on a regular basis.
	+ Yes, we can add a line item to cover potential bank fees.

**Membership Chairperson – Jodi Johnson**

* + We are off to a great start.
		- 202 members to join of which 59 are faculty/staff and 141 parents and grandparents, community members
		- $1370.00 in membership fees collected.
		- 100 % participation in kindergarten faculty/staff members!
			* Almost 100% in other grade levels.
			* Will be sending out an email to non-participates to join now. Don’t wait!
		- We need to have opportunities where we can have parents/staff in a physical location
			* Staff Appreciation Day
		- Principal Thigpen will be happy to help support/encourage our effort of 100% participation in PTA by members of staff/faculty and parents.

# Announcements

Jennifer Black

* + She loves DIY projects.
	+ She would like to paint/stain/seal the picnic tables near the cafeteria.
	+ Jodi will reach out to provide the materials.

Megan Bocci/Kate Steele

* Connected with GSC regarding the playground equipment.
* Found a playground equipment grant that would be 100% match

Principal Michelle Thigpen

* Thank you for all you are doing.

# Next Meeting

9-9-21 6:30pm, Virtual

Meeting Adjourned at 7:28pm