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