

SWES PTA GENERAL MINUTES

Southwest Elementary School - High Point, NC

Date: November 10, 2022, 6:30 pm | Meeting called to order by Rachana Prabhu

In Attendance

Rachana Prabhu	Casey Lloyd	Jenna Schaefer	Jennifer Skender	Shaunda Menke	Erik Garland
Jodi Johnson	Mariana Woodward	Maria	Eric		

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of October Meeting Minutes
 - **Motion was made to approve meeting minutes of October's meeting; Motion was seconded; I's unanimous and no Nay's. Minutes were approved.**

Board

- Rachana Prabhu called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm, at SouthWest Elementary School

Advisory Committee

- N/A

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report (Jodi Johnson)
 - Membership-we have done better than expected on membership fees
 - Boosterthon earned more than expected. \$20,183 collected and expecting more to come
 - Restaurant days: awaiting deposit (will be in next report)
 - General donations: \$160
 - Spirit Wear \$2,525: doesn't include cost because the apparel was purchased last school year
 - Budgeted \$1500 in sales, so we made ~\$1,000 over
 - AmazonSmile: continue promoting and using AmazonSmile; you can use this from your phone
 - Harris Teeter: you must update this with the company annually
 - Business Sponsorship was up and so PTA did not need to pay for kid's t-shirts; donations covered this expense
 - Teacher mini grants: We've given out \$475 worth; so, we have another \$3,000 there
 - The outdated reimbursement request method has been updated so that reimbursements are better
 - Principal Lloyd requests monies for educational programs (TBD)

- Educational program is Raz Kids; this helps improve decodable readers
 - Per Principal Lloyd's conversation with the school district: there is no plan for non-title 1 schools receiving funding on these educational enhancements.
- **Motion to approve the \$3,500 for educational enhancements to Educational Programs**
 - Motion made and seconded, I's unanimous and no Nay's. Approved
- Approximately \$500 left in the Home Depot grant
- Need to decide how Spice Grant fund will be used. There was some talk about Reflections coming
- Principal Lloyd would like to have a spring beautification day; clean up outdoor classroom area, as well as the courtyard area
- Sign in the front: Work order was put in to remove the electricity. Waiting for the district to remove it. Okay to remove the front sign if someone could do it. It would be great for the Spirit Rock to be in this location or a more central location.
 - DH Griffin may be able to move the rock
 - Reached out to Samet about moving the rock to the front; in past we've made more than \$700 with fundraising with the rock
 - Vulcan delivered the rock and may be willing to move it again
- Educational Enhancement Closet; need to add the EC requests to this list prior to purchases

Principal's Report

- Boosterthon went well and the vendor took care of everything
- New projectors have been purchased; Some Tv's were stolen recently
- Continuing to push the science of Reading: reading everyday
- Need new bookshelves; 3 tier bookshelves and steri-lite containers
- One of the Girl Scouts will paint and renovate 3rd trailer and make it a sensory room
- Finished first round of teacher observations: great conversations with teachers

Committee Reports

- Vice President of Communications (Report given by Rachana)
 - Boosterthon
 - The school profited \$31,564: need to collect \$468
 - \$3,260 corporate matching
 - October Restaurant night contributions: Odeh's \$300, Chicken Salad Chick? ; and Your Pies': \$202
 - Do we want to continue with Boosterthon next year?
 - Nice because everything is taken care of by Boosterthon
 - They take care of all financial management
 - They are present all day long
 - Before getting rid of Boosterthon we'd need to have a plan as well as the staff willing to manage the event
 - They make videos, huddles, assist in rider line at the end of the day, etc.

- Number of Boosterthon volunteers are limited and this may impact how well an event of this magnitude can smoothly run
 - Suggestion: For parents who would rather not contribute to fundraiser's, allow them to make a direct contribution to the PTA in which 100% of those funds will be deposited
 - Decision about Boosterthon needs to be in made/secured in previous school year
 - **Motion to approve Boosterthon to continue for year of 2023-2024**
 - Motion made to approve, and seconded. I's unanimous and no Nay's. Motion Approved
- Vice President of Operations (Ellison Cooper: not present)
 - Allison Snyder has offered to manage the shirt/apparel purchase process
 - We need to purchase the shirts soon, though information is still needed prior to the order, such as:
 - What is the cost per shirt?
 - What are the designs to be used? Number of colors and size of design.
 - The breakpoints/quantity of shirt purchases
 - Then we can decide the quantity of shirts
- Membership Committee (Shaunda Menke)
 - 180 parents came to Boosterthon
 - Farmer Minor: working with curriculum facilitator to get programs for each grade
 - Daisy the Pig
 - Curriculum Connections: Kindergartener study farms allows kids to engage with the learning material
 - Suggestion:
 - One Book One School Program: funded by Spice Grant in the past
 - Good idea to employ again
 - Principal Lloyd asking Ms. Kelly to do concerts for various grades
 - Date Moved to December 15, 2022.
 - Will have PTA Meeting first and then the concert
 - Principal continuing to encourage teachers to use Class Dojo
- DEI Committee (Jennifer Skender)
 - Idea for creation of 5 packets (such as disability awareness, visual impairment (glasses with visual impairment), hearing deficits, Down Syndrome awareness (padded hands), immigrant (non-primary language), Autism, lifestyle (single parent or parent incarceration)
 - \$6 kits that can be created and laminated
 - Suggestions
 - This is important content: don't cap funds to \$350
 - It may be worthwhile to check into purchased programs
 - Maybe include race/ethnicity here as well.
 - Could make this as an actual program for Morning Meetings (gratitude, managing disappointment, etc.)
 - District is providing Harmony which does focus on these topics
 - Not as teacher friendly

- Second Step, more user-friendly program but more expensive
 - Gives an outline for instruction
 - If PTA could present DEI survey questions to staff at next staff Meeting Tuesday, then we can get their feedback quickly to start implementation
 - DEI survey reviewed and read aloud for review
 - Suggestion:
 - Limit this to 5 questions and have the survey more focused
 - These questions could be done more often to keep track of how responses change over time
 - Google Forms can be utilized as the platform to disseminate the surveys

New Business

- SWES Website has translator link, which goes to Google Translator and will translate information on the website
- Guilford County has not gone to standard space report cards. Principal wants to be sure that she and Assistant Principals are hands on with children's report cards.
- Concern about parents Coming to the cafeteria door and coming in. Not aware of this. This door is always locked from the outside. Someone must open the door from the inside for access.
- Stolen items from trailers
 - Most often the music trailer
 - Not often computers or electronics; most often Ukuleles
 - The doors have been repaired so that the doors are securing shut.
 - Police have been doing patrols as well
 - Discussions about security upgrades including audio/visual (lights/signs, sirens)
- Rachana spoke with Secretary of PTA at Florence Middle school in the spirit of collaborating for a greater community engagement: general security could be a topic of discussion at such a meeting
 - The School Bond has appropriations for safety measures
- Five volunteers for teacher appreciation are needed: requiem posted on Facebook
- Teachers are good at requesting supplies from parents using Amazon Wish list, etc.
- Coffee with Casey: will be done quarterly
 - Parent work hours may be interfering with participation
 - Wednesday 11/16/22 is next planned meet; UPDATE: plan to cancel this and send a survey polling parents' needs
 - Principal is making herself accessible and is open to ideas
 - Suggestion: Could ask for parents to volunteer to stay with class while teachers participate with this
- Movie Night: The projector is working, but we will need to investigate the costs for movie display
 - Would need to consider space, number of kids, weather, etc. (Spring would be ideal)
- The Yearbook processes are going well
 - Cover Art winners not yet announced
- Tik Tok dance from Boosterthon has yet to be done
- Maria, a returning parent who wants to be active with PTA, is willing to assist with new parent orientation/warm transfers

- Parents have agreed that new parents/students, and especially those without English as a primary language could use some additional support with the new student process
- Suggestions: When requesting volunteers, we should have clear instructions of the roles: this eases the angst of volunteering
- Children should be sure to check lost and found for missing garments

Next Meeting

December 15, 2022

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08pm