

SWES PTA GENERAL MINUTES

Southwest Elementary School - High Point, NC

Date: February 09, 2023, 6:38 pm | Meeting called to order by Ellison Cooper

In Attendance

Ellison Cooper	Casey Lloyd	Emily Barnes	Brandi Franks	Shaunda Menke	Krisi Moore
Alison Snyder	Christie Graves	Jenna Schaefer	Erik Garland		

Board

- Ellison Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, at SouthWest Elementary School in the Library/Media room

Old Business

- Motion Made to Approve the Meeting Minutes of November and January; Motion Seconded; I's unanimous and no Nay's

Principal's Report

- Ranch hands are incoming and excited
- Spelling bee winner from SWES made it to the competitions 2nd round
- Battle of the Books: will compete on the 6th at UNCG
- Morning meeting: relates to the current topics whether it be black history month or wellness week, etc; kids rotate presenting during the morning meeting.
 - Lloyd wants to re-engage with the morning meeting and be removed from the car rider line to improve her connection with the student body
- Potential needs identified by Principal Lloyd
 - Second Step kits: currently about \$8,000 for 18 teachers: next year we will have over 40 teachers. Once you buy it for each teacher there is no recurring expense.
 - Other huge need: there not enough decodable books
 - We've written some grants to get these books
 - These tools are very important for the K-3 Grades
 - Huge shift in how reading is tough; we need to teach kids to read, not just take tests
 - Principal advises that the books would be the greater need versus the SEL material
 - SEL (Social Emotional Learning): focusing on manners and behaviors, as well as pandemic related changes in social structures

- Likely, next year CKLA will move to grades 4 and 5 as well
 - K-2 are currently using CKLA
 - Most schools in the county use CKLA: K-5
 - This school and a few others have stayed with the ARC program
 - Current books will get recycled but new books will come in that will allow for more in-depth reads
 - Lloyd has proposal that she will send to the PTA for this request

Committee Reports

- Treasury Report (Emily Barnes)
 - The Books are up to date and taxes are done
 - No big bills outstanding, currently around 53k in the account
 - Boosterthon raised more than budgeted
 - Fundraiser should state purpose of the funds; No large projects in the purview
 - Important to not carryover more money than what is in the operating budget
 - Money from years before were carried over for specific purposes (playground, etc)
 - Parents need to be assured that the money they donate will go to a specific purpose, whether it be for this year or next
 - Principal Lloyd has identified two areas of need
 - SEL (Social Emotional Learning) program material: District currently uses Harmony, but this is not as user friendly as others
 - Decodable Books

- DEI Committee (Christie Graves)
 - CommUNITY is February 23rd from 5:30p to 7:30p
 - Volunteers are still needed: 2 more for tables and a few others just to meet and greet
 - Secured Talent
 - Vinmark International Dance
 - 2-3 dances secured
 - Triad Soul food truck & Kibbies Crazy Caserole
 - Growing the Distance may participate in crafts
 - Games/Activities
 - Bingo with African American figures: printed and laminated
 - Reflections will be started in the next rotation with Mrs Pickens
 - Possible to have an award for different submission types
 - Unity Chain will start in the next rotation as well
 - Singer: 2 songs
 - Gallery/Hallway with door artwork
 - Lloyd will reach out to Kim Irby and Michelle Wolverton (SSO for the school) to see about being judges

- Food
 - Food truck tickets from prior event can be given to performers to take to food trucks to cover their food
 - Need lights to light the area as food trucks will park near the gym
- Funding
 - Truist Bank has funded printing of the flyers
 - Bynum Law Firm has funded the cost of the banners
 - Tables will be setup inside for seated eating
- Spend requests are in the cue for flag, etc
- Ranch Hands, started with 14 and now down to 8: we are trying to get more help from the community
- Upcoming: Women's History Month (March)
- Advocacy Committee (Krisi Moore)
 - Author reading
 - Reached out to local authors, and one has been identified that would be willing to come to the school and read
 - Reached out to an author from TIK TOK who would be willing to come
 - Good idea to have an author reading in the future, though this may be shelved for now
 - We have recently had a book reading
 - EC classrooms have projectors; and EC classes have come into the building for safety reasons
 - Mobiles/Trailers: One of them is currently being modified into a sensory room
 - Help will be needed to cover the shipping of one of the exhibits: which may be around \$200-\$300
 - Lots of donations have come in to supply this room
- Membership Committee (Shaunda Menke)
 - No significant changes to report
- Audit Committee (Jenna Schaefer)
 - Documentation is in place so the audit can be started
- VP of Communications (Brandi Franks)
 - Brandi will send a flyer with students about ordering the t-shirts: with QR code
 - Deadline for Spirit Wear purchases will be extended to Feb. 23rd so that parents may have one last opportunity to purchase these
 - Yearbook sales deadline is in April
 - Talent Show: no date as of yet
 - We have 4 volunteers
 - Restaurant night: Chicken Salad Chick, Your Pie (4p-9p only starting next month), Odeh's
 - Amazon Smile: no longer fundraising so this is not an option

- Teacher Appreciation: 3% of the PTA budget can be used for staff and teacher/volunteer appreciation (just over \$2,800)
 - Last few years, there was a park picnic for volunteers: not very expensive
 - Main part of this budget is typically for teachers
 - Last year teacher appreciation was monthly
 - Snacks/food provided during monthly staff meetings
 - Ideas: purchase favorite snacks or drinks; some realtors donate coffee bars
 - Teachers really enjoy the food activities/events such as staff refilling stations
 - An idea would be to start a fundraiser to sponsor a teacher
 - This can grow appreciation funds without pulling from the 3% budget
 - Last year PTA performed smaller events for teachers and then still were able to do a larger event because of additional fundraising
- Ideas discussed to get breakfast for teachers and/or lunch periods covered so teachers can eat with their colleagues
- Principal Lloyd: suggests Volvo can partner with Southwest Elementary School since so many parents work there
- Brandi will reach out to Sam's club and Costco about potential donations
- VP of Operations (Ellison Cooper)
 - Committee Chairs will be contacted to see if they are in need of any support

New Business

- Community Day
 - SWES signage in the front needs addressing
 - Lloyd spoke to Samet about moving the Spirit Rock: needs to be moved to where the old sign was in the front of the school
 - Curb appeal: color and flowers are needed in front of the school
 - There is still money left in the grant (Home Depot?) to utilize for school beautification
 - Soccer goals need to be assessed for damage repair
 - Those using the field need to clean up after themselves
- PTA Participation
 - Need to have literature that explains what each committee is, what they do, and what the responsibilities are
 - It is important that committees are supported
- State PTA Meeting
 - State PTA Meeting is March 31st- April 2nd: 2 people are interested in attending
 - Cost: \$100 per person
- Clarification regarding spend requests
 - Majority vote is needed
 - Formal spend requests should be made for all spend requests

Action Items

- Brandi will add in the entire admin team for the talent show communication
- Need to start a Sponsor-a-Teacher campaign to raise more funds for teacher appreciation
- Next month we can revisit who among the board members are interested in staying in their role for the 2023-24 school year
- Shaunda Menke will contact contractors about moving the Spirit Rock

Next Meeting

March 09, 2023

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35pm