

SWES PTA BOARD MINUTES

Southwest Elementary School - High Point, NC

Date: May 17, 2023, 7:00 pm | Meeting called to order virtually by Ellison Cooper

In Attendance

Rachana Prabhu	Ellison Cooper	Emily Barnes	Brandi Franks-Odeh	Jenna Schaefer	Erik Garland
Krisi Moore	Christie Graves				

Board

- Ellison Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, virtually on Google Meets

New Business

- A student event will the same night as the last PTA meeting
 - Aim to meet quorum by inviting students and parents (gift cards, event, or movie)
 - Use the gym for the general membership meeting, and space for student activity in the rear
 - Invite folks with popsicles, etc., or a movie
 - Need to decide on having the voting prior to the student event or afterward
 - Child event can be within eyesight of the parents, i.e., the back of the gym
- Voting
 - Ballots
 - VP of Operations will bring paper ballots that has space for write-ins since there will likely be a treasurer being nominated from the floor
 - Presentation by President and Vice President of Communications
 - Funds we raised and what they were used for
 - Review PTA mission and overview of how we functioned throughout the year
 - Voting
 - Voice votes can happen if only one person running, but paper ballot to be used when there is more than one person running for the same position
 - For paper ballots, there must be at least 2 designated folks (tellers) that take up ballots, count, and report the findings: they could be members of the PTA
 - Process of Voting
 - Slate will be introduced and given the opportunity to speak for a short time
 - Other members who wish to nominate themselves from the floor will be given the opportunity to speak

- Nominating committee
 - Consists of two executive board members and one general member
 - The nominating committee should have been formed earlier in the school year, and we did not meet that specific criterion
 - The Slate presented will be a *recommendation* of the nominating committee
 - One Nominee is selected for each position
 - The nominees on the slate should form a functional cohesive group capable of carrying out the PTA's mission
 - The nominees selected should be interested in the position they have been nominated for as well as be suited for the position
 - The next PTA Board should be sure to form this committee earlier and follow the guidelines per the bylaws
 - Question whether all nominees can post their interest to run on the Facebook/PTA Website: there is no specific guidance here
 - Concerns
 - VP of Operations expressed concern that during an executive member chat, standing President called another Board member "Future President", which may have an unintended influence on the decision-making process
 - Concerns expressed about the method in which the Nominating Committee was selected as it relates to equity and inclusion
 - Questions whether the board can operate effectively, and at the same time, follow bylaws selectively
 - The Board has made an effort to improve understanding of PTA bylaws
 - PTA President is open to reach out to the County PTA Council about guidance regarding the best way to move forward
 - In the future, it will be important for all Board and Chair members to have a good understanding of the bylaws, as it relates to how they add structure and uniformity, as well as their limitations or restrictions
 - VP of Operations expressed possibility of not attending final meeting (later retracted)
 - Slate will be announced on May 20th, so there is compliance with the 10 days publication/notice
- The final meeting will be June 1st at 6pm: this is the last General Meeting, and will include:
 - Presentation by SWES PTA President and VP of Communications
 - Principal will give overview on the budget items/requested prior to vote on the same
 - Vote on planners
 - Lastly, we will vote in the new Executive Board for 2023-2024 school year
 - Ballots will have Slate printed as well as blanks for "write-in" nominations
 - We could use Google Forms though we'd need to have a live computer to add new nominees to the ballots as they are added from the floor
 - Plan to have Tiger Kim or some activity in the back of the gym to keep kids engaged while parents participate in the meeting

Next Meeting

Final General Membership Meeting: June 1st at 6pm