

South Elementary Home & School

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

The meeting convened at 6:30 PM in the Library

Board members present: Naomi Morissette, Nicole Long, Dave King, Tracy Tweedie, Christine Hayward (arrived after meeting started)

Staff Present: Dave D'Andrea, Liz Dowiak

Opening Remarks – Naomi Morissette

Thank you everyone for coming. Mr. D'Andrea will start discussion.

Principal's Corner – Dave D'Andrea

South was 1st in PA in Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge.

Expectation of Home and School's involvement in South facility discussions:

Home and School bylaws – Mr. D'Andrea reviewed some points of the H&S bylaws, as to the purpose of H&S. The organization has to be nonpartisan and shall not endorse any political position. H&S shall not be used as a platform for driving any political agenda. Question from parent – Can individual members of H&S can express their opinions outside of the H&S platform? Answer – Yes, as long as it is their own opinion and not something that appears to come from H&S.

Can't stress enough that a decision has not yet been made about the options regarding South.

Naomi Morissette - H&S is fielding a lot of questions about their stance on the facilities discussion. We have to say that we as a board are staying neutral, but that should not be interpreted as to what our personal opinions are.

Refer to H&S website for the H&S bylaws.

Staff Liaison Report - Liz Dowiak

Thank you from the teachers and staff for all the nice things that H&S and parents are doing for them to show their love. And they really appreciated hearing at the facilities meetings all the nice things parents had to say about the teachers and staff at South.

Treasurer's Report - Dave King

Donations are way down due to all of the facilities discussions.

There are many kids at South who have never had to do fundraisers because of the direct donations.

Mr. D'Andrea has put Boosterthon on hold for now. But there is no reason to think that South and H&S will not be here next year, so please continue to donate to H&S.

H&S has money in the budget, but a large percentage has been earmarked for potential playground upgrade. So until facilities discussions are more defined, we will hold on to that money.

Discussion amongst group about how to increase direct donations.

Donations can be made via Paypal on the website or tinyurl.com/pvsouthdonate

Redners Rewards – Keep sending in Redners receipts with Save-A-Tape line visible. Receipts can be dated back 3 years. We just received a check for \$653.19.

The Visa gift card from Labels for Education was just used to purchase balls for playground.

South Kids Care – One of our best years for fundraising. After the break we will have the funds confidentially distributed to South families in need for the holidays.

Trunk or Treat – Bigger than last year by about 70 kids, despite having to move the day due to rain. Winner for the best decorated car was the Gabel family. Winner for best girl costume was Gabby Russo dressed as Rae from Star Wars. Winner for best boy costume was Cayden Martin dressed as a Fortnite skin.

Giant Rewards – Continue shopping with your card

Amazon Smile – Continue shopping through the Amazon Smile website. Amazon will donate a small percentage of eligible purchases back to H&S.

Eventbrite – We will still be using this for all events requiring tickets. Next event will be Skate Night.

Ways to Communicate

Website

Facebook Page

Remind 101

Event Chair emails

Weekly email blast

Committee Chairs Needed

Several volunteers have volunteered for Art Show

Wawa Vouchers – Still need a chair for this

Yearbook – Need volunteers to shadow current committee chairs to learn the ropes since their children will be moving on to middle school in a year or two

Committee Reports

Box Tops (Amy Ruppert) – Earned over \$500 for first contest. Less than last year but some parents said they didn't get the paperwork. 2nd grade won. For next contest we will include products that have box tops.

South Kids Care – see above

Spirit Wear – We have a new chair. Current sale runs through Nov. 18. Orders will be available for Christmas.

- <https://southelementary.itemorder.com/sale>

Holiday Expo – December 1st from 9 am to 1 pm. Will be bigger event than last year. 40 vendors right now. Will also have food truck, Chick fil A, live music, kid entrepreneurs, raffle. We will be using the gym and APR. Question as to whether PVYB has a game scheduled at South that day - Mr. D will follow up.

Upcoming Spirit Nights (Tracy Tweedie) - \$320 from Pizza Stop. \$229 from California Tortilla. Effort this year to focus on places with highest return and this seems to be working. Next will be Wayback Burger.

Fifth Grade Celebration - Trying to figure out where it will be. Currently looking at Northern Star Farm, but discussing payment terms with Mr. Wismer.

Fun Fair – Will be meeting soon.

Family Dance – Haven't heard much yet. Some question about the support of parents for this event. But we believe it is moving forward. What are people's thoughts on having to purchase tickets? Maybe charge a small fee, but will get more people if it is free. South held a dance for its 50th anniversary. It was a very popular and well attended event. Entrance was free but sold refreshments.

New business

Gift cards donated to family in need. Family indicated that gift cards to Giant Peapod would be helpful. H&S donated \$300 in gift cards.

American Ed week volunteers – 9 am - 2:30 pm tomorrow. Need volunteers to help sign people in.

Staff Morale Boosters –

- Letters of Love describing why we love teachers, staff, South, etc. Letters will be posted in the South lobby. Please do not make any references about the possibility of South closing. There are still students that don't know or understand.
- Treats on conference Tuesday – are people agreeable to this? Maybe a sign up genius for parents to donate items? Answer: Yes.
- Will continue to come up with other ideas

Community Facilities Committee meetings – 6:30-8:00 pm in PVHS cafeteria

- Wednesday November 28 – first meeting is more to figure out shared values of the group
- Tuesday December 11 – will focus more on the details, as facilities report is expected by then
- Question – There are facilities 2 studies, correct? Answer - Yes

Help with fifth grade chorus trip to Harrisburg on March 12th. The chorus has been selected to sing at the Capitol Building, and has asked if H&S can contribute money toward the trip. Do we want to help contribute? Question from parent: Is there money in the budget? Answer: Yes, but will confirm with Dave King. There is currently no line item budget for this. There are different ways of covering the costs. We could use money that is raised at the Holiday Expo toward this trip. Parent put this forth as

a motion. It was seconded, and confirmed with a vote. So money from Holiday Expo will be used for 5th Grade Chorus Trip. Estimated costs:

- Buses - \$437.30
- T-shirts – Approx. \$456 (75 x \$6/shirt)
- Nurse – unknown - If this is all day trip we paid \$423 for nurse for 5th grade Philly tour last year.

Questions and Discussion

Parent - Can you give more information on what is required for the committee chairs that are needed?

Answer - A brief description was given about the Wawa Hoagie vouchers. (Prepare flyer for sale, pick up orders from school, track on spreadsheet, submit payments to treasurer, distribute coupons to school.) And we can put you in touch with the yearbook chairs for more information.

Next meeting - Friday, December 14th at 9:30 a.m. in the APR

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm