



**South Abington Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes
Jan. 11, 2018**

The Jan. 11, 2018 meeting of the South Abington Elementary PTA was called to order at 6:34 pm by President Tori Yankow in the South Abington Elementary School gymnasium. Secretary Susan Stopper recorded the proceedings. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Reports

President

Tori reported that the third and fourth graders sang carols at Willowbrook Senior Living in December, and the event went well. Older students may participate in a pen pal program with the seniors later in the year and younger students may do a craft for the residents. Katharine Schkloven suggested that the PTA ask if there is a room where the students can do things like caroling in the future because the lobby was so crowded with residents, students, and their families.

The swing set was approved by the district. It will cost \$2,700 and installation will be \$1,000. It will be installed in the spring when the ground has thawed.

Tori shared a thank-you note from the teachers for the holiday breakfast and a thank-you note from the nurse for the Angel Tree presents at the holidays.

President-Elect

Gretchen Henderson explained that the membership voted last year to increase the teacher appreciation budget to \$800 so she has been spreading appreciation events throughout the year rather than doing it all during teacher appreciation week. So far there have been a back-to-school and a holiday breakfast. An end-of-the-year breakfast is also planned along with a member-donated breakfast, catered lunch, and staff gifts during teacher appreciation week. There is approximately \$400 left in the teacher appreciation budget, and Gretchen proposed increasing the budget by \$200 so the gift reimbursement could be increased from \$30 a day for 41 staff member gifts to \$50 a day during teacher appreciation week. There was some discussion about waiting to increase the budget. Colleen Siegler made a motion to increase the teacher appreciation budget by \$200, Bonnie Yoder seconded it, and the motion was passed with a vote by the membership.

Gretchen showed and explained what is in the new red committee communications folders and distributed them to present committee chairs to help them plan their events.

Treasurer

Lisa Moher addressed the teacher liaison to let her know only three teachers have applied for grants so far this year. She asked her to remind the teachers that the deadline to submit their grant paperwork is June 1, 2018.

Lisa presented the Treasurer's Report. The starting balance on Nov. 10, 2017 was \$18,107.69, and the ending balance on Jan. 9, 2018 was \$23,790.50. The bulk of the outgoing money was to Yankee Candle and the Holiday Store. The larger deposits were Art to Remember, 4th grade apparel, Yankee Candle, and the Holiday Store. Lisa then explained that the adjustments on the report were due to some personal purchases on Amazon.com that accidentally defaulted to the PTA credit card after she purchased replacement balls for the gym. Amazon credited Lisa's personal purchases back to the PTA, but gave multiple credits which resulted in the PTA gaining \$136. Also, several old outstanding checks were put back into the account because the recipients never cashed them. Melissa Steinberg made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Colleen Siegler seconded it, and the report was approved with a vote by the membership.

Fundraising

Jessica Bowers reported that we have not paid Art to Remember yet. The Yankee Candle fundraiser went well, and we may do it again, but earlier next year to ensure things arrive before they are needed for holiday gifts.

Jessica reminded everyone that they can link their Gerrity's Gold Card to our organization, and Gerrity's will donate a portion of sales to the PTA. Instructions on how to do that are on the website. It was suggested that the PTA re-inform parents about the Gerrity's Gold Card program and Shop-A-Roo because it has been awhile since these programs were promoted.

Gertrude Hawk order forms will go out next week. They need to be back by Jan. 26. Hershey Park tickets will go on sale after the Gertrude Hawk fundraiser.

Membership and Programs

Natalie Adamsky explained that the next program – "Once Upon a Time," a literary presentation, is scheduled for March 2 to coincide with Read Across America week. However, if the teachers strike that day Natalie is not sure we can get the same program later in the year, and it is already paid for. There was a discussion about options. Natalie will contact the company to see if the program can happen earlier that week and to see what our options are.

Teacher Report

Mrs. Kane had nothing to report.

Principal Report

Dr. Thomas announced that the secretary, Mrs. Furmanski, resigned. The new secretary is Kris Denkers, and she has already started.

Dr. Thomas thanked everyone for their holiday donations to needy families, the holiday staff breakfast, and cookies for the students.

Training on the new positive behavior program has begun, and Gretchen Henderson is the parent volunteer.

Kindergarten registration is March 7. Volunteers are needed to guide parents and students around and also to staff a PTA information table. Tori reminded everyone that all volunteers at PTA events must be PTA members.

Committee Reports

Holiday Store

Gretchen Henderson gave the report in Amy Begley's absence. Iris Davison will be taking over this event from Amy Begley next year. This year 146 students used the \$2 vouchers. Amy ordered \$4,000 in merchandise, and it was not enough. She also suggests that we pair it with something else next year now that the event is after school hours. Suggestions included pairing it with the book fair or a winter wonderland. The event made \$74.89 despite not being a fundraiser.

Have a Heart Dance

Christine Pagnani announced that the Have a Heart Dance will be Feb. 9 in the gymnasium. There will be a DJ, balloons, glowsticks, photo booth, and food. There was discussion about a photo backdrop. The event is free. Christine said she could use a few more volunteers. There was a discussion as to whether siblings can attend. Since parents must attend with their child, siblings may attend. The flyer information needs to include the fact that parents must stay.

Read Across America

Katharine Schkloven announced that Read Across America week is Feb. 26 through March 2, ending on Dr. Seuss's birthday. There will be an evening event on Tuesday, Feb. 27 with a local author and illustrator. A book swap is also planned.

Reflections

Katharine Schkloven announced that two students are advancing to Regionals – Olivia Conway for visual arts and Matthew McDonnell for film.

Ladies Tea

Lisa announced that the Ladies Tea will be April 15, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm at the Glen Oak Country Club. This is the last year she and Tori will be chairing it and new chairs are needed for next year or there may need to be a new fundraiser. Save the Dates are going out next week, and the committee has started getting donations. Donations, sponsorships, and table sponsors are needed.

4th Grade Committee

Josephine Phillips said the fall apparel sale went well. They are still waiting on the final numbers from Brucelli. The committee tried to do the lottery sale in December, but it didn't happen. It is set for March, but that will mean it hits amid several other PTA fundraisers. There was a discussion about not doing the lottery so as not to overwhelm parents with so many fundraisers at the same time. Members also discussed the 4th grade celebration being absorbed into PTA general fundraising because all children will eventually benefit as fourth graders. It was noted

that the 4th grade committee had already been somewhat absorbed in that they were not responsible for solely raising the money for 4th grade celebration so they were not required to do the lottery. Katharine Schkloven made a motion that the fourth grade does not need to fundraise separately, Lisa Edwards seconded it, and the motion was passed with a vote by the membership.

New Business/Questions

Tori announced that we need a nominating committee to look for candidates to fill outgoing board positions. Outgoing board positions include President-Elect, VP of Membership and Programs, and Secretary.

Tori spoke to the National PTA about our budget and was advised to look at it as a guideline. The National PTA representative applauded how much we have and said that although there is no limit, it is a large amount and it would be good to use it. Tori has reached out to staff and parents and one suggestion was to reimburse parent volunteers for their craft expenses at the classroom holiday parties each year. Tori proposed we reimburse \$50 per party per class. With three parties a year for all the classes, this comes to approximately \$1,800 a year. Lisa Edwards made a motion to approve this, Colleen Siegler seconded it, and the motion was passed with a vote by the membership.

Tori said that Mrs. Orr buys Scholastic News for her classroom each year which is \$164. Tori proposed we offer \$150 to each teacher for things like Scholastic News. The specials teachers would be included, but not the aides this time who already received a \$200 gift card this year for indoor recess games. Dr. Thomas suggested we form a committee of teachers and parents to brainstorm ideas of how to spend surplus funds. Katharine Schkloven offered to chair the committee. Tori said Mrs. Gaidula suggested tables with activity bins out on the playground at recess for kids who don't want to run around. Dr. Thomas suggested a buddy bench. Tori said that Natalie Adamsky had found four tables with benches and bins and a buddy bench for \$2,000. People questioned whether they would want umbrellas or whether that was too much of a pain. Dr. Thomas said the shade would be good, but we would need a recurring budget for upkeep. Tara McGurrin made a motion to spend \$2,500 on the outdoor equipment. Aimee McGuinness seconded it, and the motion was passed with a vote by the membership. Colleen Siegler then made a motion to give each teacher \$150 to use as they see fit, which would be \$3,000 for 20 teachers. Lisa Edwards seconded it, and the motion was passed with a vote by the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by Susan Stopper, Secretary

Approved by
