



## **South Abington Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes Sept. 21, 2017**

The Sept. 21, 2017 meeting of the South Abington Elementary PTA was called to order at 6:30 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 introduced herself, stated the mission of the PTA, and thanked everyone for coming. Based on the survey of families done at the end of the previous school year, Tori said we will be replacing movie nights with family nights that will have different themes like the Fall Frolic, game and fitness nights. She announced the Standing Rules have been updated to include the president-elect position, and that the president-elect, vice president of membership and programs and secretary positions will be open next year.

Tori announced that the St. Pauly Shed was removed at the request of the superintendent. There were concerns that someone may have been living in it. No other host location was found. The shed was budgeted to bring in \$500. The superintendent also sent out a letter that the school can no longer host events where children bring in cash to purchase things which will apply to the Holiday Store.

The swingset is still in the works. Tori is waiting for approvals. Three document cameras for the reading specialist, special ed teachers, and art and music teachers were purchased over the summer and are in place.

#### **President-Elect**

Gretchen Henderson explained that since the teacher appreciation budget was increased last year the PTA provided breakfast for the teachers on their first day, stocked the teacher's lounge with supplies like paper plates, and created a raffle basket. Every staff member received a raffle ticket and will receive more tickets if they join the PTA. The PTA also purchased welcome signs and balloons to decorate the doors for the children on the first day and gave out pencils.

#### **Treasurer**

Lisa Moher announced that the books from last year closed one month late on July 31, 2017. Lisa reviewed the audit report and copies were circulated. Megan Locker made a motion to accept the audit report, Robin Proskovec seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

Lisa presented the Treasurer's Report. The starting balance on Aug. 1, 2017 was \$21,641.02, and the ending balance was \$18,373.23. Colleen Siegler made a motion to accept the report, Beth Pucilowski seconded it, and the motion was passed.

### Fundraising

Jessica Bowers announced that the Art to Remember fundraiser would be done at home this year rather than in the art classes due to the late start of the school year. The paperwork will be sent home next week. The Gertrude Hawk fundraiser will take place in the spring as in other years, and ideas for some parents' night out fundraisers are being discussed. Box Tops, ink cartridges, and Shop-a-Roo are ongoing. Jessica said a sign-up sheet for the fundraising committee was available with other committee sign-up sheets at the back table.

### Membership and Programs

Natalie Adamsky reported that we have 39 parent members and seven teacher members so far this year. The first program will be the Sky Dome Planetarium on Oct. 27.

### Secretary

Susan Stopper introduced herself, and it was noted that her position will be open next year.

### Principal's Report

Dr. Thomas thanked everyone for the first day of school preparations and the document cameras. She announced that they are interviewing teachers for the first grade teaching position to replace Mrs. Ryon. She reminded everyone to sign up for the South Abington Elementary School Remind system using the instructions on the website. Comet Pride days, where children wear blue and white, will be the last Friday of the month this year. Dr. Thomas explained the food donation program the Newton Ransom PTO put in place during the strike for their free and reduced lunch students and offered to assist our PTA if we chose to do something similar should the teachers strike again in January. Tori added that we do have a hardship fund with \$1,200 to be used at the nurse's discretion to help children in need in our school.

### Committee Reports

#### Scholastic Book Fair

Natalie Adamsky reported that the Scholastic book fair dates have been changed from Oct. 4 and 5 to Nov. 1 and 2 because of the uncertainty as to when classes would resume because of the strike. The event will be in the evening on both dates due to the superintendent's request that no school day activities include events where children bring money in. Natalie said she will need volunteers to help set up on Wednesday and break down on Thursday.

#### Fall Frolic

Gretchen Henderson announced that the Fall Frolic will be replacing the Fun Run. It will be a free event for South Abington Elementary families that will begin at 5:45 pm on Oct 6. Every family that registers will be entered in a raffle for a gift certificate from Scranton Running Company. There will be a walk, and pretzels and a drink will be provided. Food trucks and vendors will also be onsite. Girls on the Run will be collecting shoes there, and there will be an apparel sale table with samples of different sizes available.

### Reflections

Katharine Schkloven announced that the deadline for Reflections is Tuesday, Oct. 31. She gave a brief overview of the program and encouraged members to check the Facebook page. She also recommended paperwork be sent home to the kindergarten families who wouldn't have received it last year.

#### Halloween Event

Tori Yankow explained that we are moving away from Trick or Trunk due to security and weather-related concerns and planning to do a Hallow through the Halls which will be a haunted gym with stations to trick or treat rather than trunks outside. The co-chairs, Patty Beck and Brittany Moran, did it at their old school.

#### Have a Heart Dance

Christine Pagnani offered to chair the dance again this year if no one else was interested. She said it was simple with just the DJ and food. There were some concerns that there wasn't enough light last year.

#### Read Across America

Katharine Schkloven said she will be adding an evening event with an author and illustrator.

#### Ladies Tea

Lisa Moher and Tori Yankow will co-chair the event again this year, but they are looking for future chairs to shadow them as this will be their last year. They are looking to earmark the money made at the tea this year so donors will know what their money is going toward.

#### Box Tops

Natalie Adamsky is looking to increase the call for Box Tops this year with more sheets sent home and a competition in the spring.

#### Teacher Appreciation

Gretchen Henderson said there will be a continental breakfast and a catered lunch again for teachers this year as well as small gifts and a themed recognition bulletin board. Robin Proskovec asked if room parents could help out this year. At her old school, each class did something for their teacher and one other staff member. Gretchen said that was a possibility.

#### Field Day

Aimee McGuinness, Megan Dickinson, and Mara Grad shadowed Kate Marinaro last year and will be chairing Field Day this year.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee

Beth Pucilowski, Amy Begley, and Josephine Philips are chairing the 4<sup>th</sup> grade committee this year. Beth said they are a little behind and will be getting the fall apparel sale going with tables at several events. The lottery will be done before Christmas. Lisa noted that lottery winners need to know that if they plan to donate the money back to the PTA to let the Treasurer know they are not cashing the check.

#### District Board Meetings

Tori asked for volunteers to attend the school board meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month and report back. They can sign up on the sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the room.

Miscellaneous

Tori asked if there were any questions or remaining topics for discussion. Lisa announced that to receive a teacher grant, teachers must be PTA members and have their receipts in by June 1, 2018.

Natalie reminded attendees that if they filled out their membership form online to please send in their payment.

Tori said a Gratitude Committee has been formed to write thank-you notes. Liz Lachapelle is chairing the committee. Robin suggested taking a picture of students holding a thank-you sign and adding a handwritten note on it. This was done at her old school and local businesses loved it and some displayed them.

Tori thanked everyone for coming and encouraged everyone to bring their ideas and spread the word to others. She also reminded everyone to sign up for PTA Remind and check the Facebook page and website.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Submitted by Susan Stopper, Secretary

Approved by

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