



South Abington Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes
Nov. 9, 2017

The Nov. 9, 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 requested that members please state their name when they are making a motion to help people get to know each other and to help with the minutes.

Tori announced that we had a good response from Willowbrook Senior Living and the students who visited on Oct. 30. Between 25 and 30 students came in their Halloween costumes and did reverse trick-or-treating with the residents. This event was for kindergarten through second graders due to space restrictions, but there are plans to have all students make Thanksgiving cards for the residents, possibly have third and fourth graders visit, and maybe have the fourth grade chorus go and sing.

Tori is still waiting to hear back from the district for final approval on the swing set. The swing set will be \$2,769.78 with delivery and an additional \$1,000 for installation if the company installs it. A district staff member may be able to install it. Amy Begley made a motion to purchase the swing set at these prices if the district approves, Megan Locker seconded the motion, and the motion was passed with a vote by the membership.

Tori also announced that the PTA received a thank-you note from the nurse for providing volunteers for the hearing screenings.

Fundraising

Tori gave the Fundraising update in the absence of Jessica Bowers. There were \$2,769.78 in Art to Remember orders. The PTA receives 33%, a profit of \$963. Orders will ship on Nov. 24.

Sales tax needs to be added to Yankee Candle orders unless payment was made online. Tax is automatically added online. The deadline to order is Monday, Nov. 13. Gretchen and Lisa noted that the Yankee Candle fundraiser was done to make up for the discontinuation of St. Pauly's Shed and the Spooktacular being free this year.

Treasurer

Lisa Moher presented the Treasurer's Report. The starting balance on Oct. 13, 2017 was \$19,080.42, and the ending balance on Nov. 9, 2017 was \$18,107.69. The bulk of the expenses were pre-buying some apparel for the fourth grade committee to sell, the kindergarten field trip,

the Spooktacular, and the Scholastic Book Fair. Some larger deposits were from the fourth grade apparel sale and the Fall Frolic LulaRoe Sale. Colleen Siegler made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Christine Pagnani seconded it, and the report was approved with a vote by the membership.

Lisa noted that committee chairs will now receive a budget spreadsheet for their event that lists the previous year's incoming funds and outgoing expenses for that event.

Membership and Programs

Natalie Adamsky reported that we have 108 members – 93 parent members and 15 teacher members – so far this year. The planetarium program went well.

Teacher Report

Mrs. Burdett thanked everyone for the instruments the PTA purchased for music classes. She reported that the 4th grade chorus will be singing the National Anthem at the Penguins hockey game on Dec. 27. They will also be singing at the Viewmont Mall on Dec. 6, at 6 pm with the Newton Ransom chorus. They will also be doing a winter program at the school called "The Mitten." She said that 4th graders can join any time. They practice once a week during recess. Currently, there are about 30 kids in the chorus.

Principal Report

Dr. Thomas stated that Mrs. Orr had planned to come tonight, but said she wasn't feeling well and was sorry she couldn't make it. Dr. Thomas thanked the PTA for the Halloween treats and for coming out to Willowbrook.

Dr. Thomas noted that the days before Thanksgiving and Christmas break will be full days of school, not half days. There will be no school the Monday after Thanksgiving for conferences and Tuesday will be a half day. Mrs. Shoemaker, the new first grade teacher, will be at conferences so parents can meet her.

Mrs. Ruddy will be going out on maternity leave and Ms. Lavelle will be filling in.

Dr. Thomas announced that a new positive behavior support program will be starting in all the elementary schools. They are looking for one parent volunteer to be trained from each school with the school staff. Let Dr. Thomas know if interested and she will provide the training dates.

Committee Reports

Halloween Spooktacular

Tori reported that the Halloween Spooktacular had about 300 people in attendance. Entry was free this year. The PTA made \$133 from the raffles and photo booth.

Reflections

Tori announced that Katharine Schkloven extended the submission deadline to Monday, Nov. 13, because submissions were low.

Scholastic Book Fair

Natalie Adamsky reported that the Scholastic Book Fair was not as well attended as previous years and made less money, probably because it was only held at night this year. The event brought in \$2,418, \$967.49 of which the PTA receives in Scholastic dollars. Last year the book fair brought in \$3,889.42, providing \$2,139.18 in Scholastic dollars, a loss of \$1,171.69 in Scholastic dollars the PTA can spend.

Conference Meals

Susan Stopper reported that conference meals will be on Monday, Nov. 27, around 5 pm. This year will be an Italian theme and a sign-up sheet was circulated.

Box Tops

Natalie said the first batch of Box Tops, turned in on Nov. 1, made \$492. The next deadline is in March. Lisa noted that we've already brought in more than we budgeted which will help offset the loss of St. Pauly's Shed income.

4th Grade Committee

Amy Begley said they are a little light on committee members, but a few people have signed up.

Ice Cream Duty

Tori circulated an ice cream duty sign-up sheet and explained the new procedure. Students will receive popsicle sticks from the cafeteria staff if they are purchasing ice cream and have enough money in their account. Parent volunteers collect the sticks when students select their ice cream. If a child has a stick and decides not to get ice cream, volunteers should write their name down on a slip of paper and give it to Dee in the cafeteria. Dr. Thomas said this new procedure was a result of a food service audit. There was a discussion about whether the system made students who cannot afford ice cream stand out more and whether there was a way to help those students more than one Tuesday a month.

Family Night

Tori announced that a chair is needed for a family night in January. The event could be a Bingo night, game night, or whatever the chair wanted to do.

New Business/Questions

Tori opened the floor for new business or questions, and there was a discussion about the Holiday Store. It was decided that Amy Begley would co-chair it with Iris Davison and the event would be held the evenings of Dec. 7 and 8.

Dr. Thomas announced that the maintenance staff has asked the PTA members not to put away the chairs because they scratch the gym floor when dragged across it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Submitted by Susan Stopper, Secretary

Approved by
