



**South Abington Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2018**

South Abington Elementary PTA held their first meeting of the 2018-2019 school year on Thursday, September 13th; it was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Gretchen Henderson. Secretary Colleen Siegler recorded the proceedings.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gretchen Henderson-President welcomed and thanked everyone for coming, she stated the PTA mission statement and the importance of the PTA and we will continue giving to our kids with little to no cost to our families. Gretchen went over the theme for the PTA this year and expressed that part of putting the puzzle together was that we need volunteers. We need new chairs and co-chairs for our events. Many that have chaired an event in the past are no longer in the school. We would like to see more volunteers to prevent volunteer fatigue.

Gretchen announced that going forward the monthly PTA meetings will start at 6:15 p.m., instead of 6:30 p.m. The change in time will allow Dr. Thomas to attend the PTO meeting at Newton-Ransom Elementary.

Gretchen stated the PTA was able to provide a back to school gift for all of the students. The gift was a daily folder, with a PBIS insert. Additionally, the PTA provided breakfast for the staff and welcome back balloons. We also had gum donated by a family that was handed out at Curriculum Night for parents.

PTA packets will be coming home early next week, if you sign up for a committee tonight, there is no need to duplicate your efforts and resend a response in.

Gretchen spoke about homeroom parents. We'd like to get as many parents as possible into the school. The basic guidelines of the homeroom parent is to offer support to the teacher. We need two homeroom parents per classroom; which will be chosen by the teacher. We need at least one to come to our PTA meetings. Colleen Siegler will forward the monthly meeting minutes to the teachers, as well as to the homeroom parents, and we ask that they be shared with all parents in the classroom who are interested in receiving updates. We have three parties throughout the year that are funded by the PTA. Each class has up to \$50 to spend on a craft, gift, etc. to help take the financial burden off of parents. A reimbursement form does need to be completed and submitted within 30 days of the event.

We need a committee for PBIS to help facilitate the activities; such as school store, blowouts, pep rallies, etc. Gretchen will chair the event. PBIS is not in this year's budget; but we will work with the school on initiatives and cost.

There will be Board vacancies for next year. We will need a President Elect (1 year and then 1 year as President), as well as treasurer (2 year commitment).

Patty Beck, President-Elect has created “red folders”, to be used by the chair/co-chair of each event. The red folders outlines the details of each event, giving step by step instructions of each event, an evaluation form from last year, forms for the event, etc. Some committees are a one-time event, where others are ongoing, such as the Ladies Tea. There are different positions available for each committee, such as making calls, greeting guests, donating items, etc. Any questions about the committees, see Patty.

Lisa Moher-Treasurer reminded everyone that all forms are available on the SAE PTA website, all receipts must be submitted within 30 days of an event. This year we are granting each teacher with \$50, instead of \$150 + \$50. The \$150 went to the kids this year, our hope is to rotate yearly. Lisa stated that 2 signatures are required on a deposit form. For committees that make money, a request for change should be made three days in advance for withdrawal. Email is the best way to communicate. Debit card requests are typically for Gretchen, Patty and Lisa, with the exception of Ladies Tea. Big check request forms need to be handed in ASAP. Lisa thanked Kathy Snyder, Beth Pucilowski and Colleen Siegler for auditing the books from last school year over the summer. The Audit report was submitted and approved by National. Tori Yankow made a motion to accept the audit report, Mara Grad seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Lisa presented the Treasure’s Report, a copy was passed around for everyone to review. The starting balance was \$21,641.02, and the ending balance was \$19,346.82. Heather Statsman made a motion to accept the report, Kathy Snyder seconded it and the motion was passed.

Brittany Moran-Fundraising announced that we will have a Yankee Candle sale going on from 9/24 - 10/9 with delivery before Thanksgiving. In addition, Art to Remember will be done in school this year, paperwork will be sent home mid-November to order a piece of your child’s artwork. We are still need of chairs for Parents Night out and Family Fun Night.

A survey was completed at the end of previous school year and Gretchen shared that an analysis was completed based on responses driven by feedback from parents. In previous years the 4th grade committee would have to fundraise exclusively for “Fun Day” and other events, going forward, we will not have a separate budget for 4th grade, it will all be one budget. Instead of doing the lottery, we will be hosting a “Family Pizza Night”, where our 4th graders will serve pizza. We’re adding a new event, Parents Night Out, make it your own! We need chairs for both events.

Bonnie Jo Yoder-Membership and Programs advised this is the first time we’re doing a family membership for \$20 and reminded that everyone needs to have their clearances on file. We’re having a membership contest, where the most PTA members in one class will win a party (ice cream or popcorn). Bonnie Jo will be printing the PTA minutes and posting them monthly on the PTA bulletin board. There will be an assembly on October 11th, with Corey the Dribbler, he teaches kids about kindness and respect. There will be two other assemblies scheduled throughout the year.

Colleen Siegler-Secretary informed everyone about Ice Cream Duty. Parents are allowed to come in and serve ice cream every Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; however, you must have your clearances on file. The September and October schedules are already full; however, a sign-up sheet will be available for those interested in volunteering going forward.

Dr. Thomas-Principal's Report, thanked the PTA for the gifts, breakfast and balloons. She spoke about PBIS and that we need parents to come in and run the school store. There will be two kids, randomly selected, from each class, every Friday that are allowed to go to the school store. She asked for ideas on what to have, some ideas have been little squishies and patches. Any ideas, see Dr. Thomas or Gretchen. The swing set is in and will be installed; also the tables purchased last year will be moved to the grass area. Tori Yankow asked Dr. Thomas how PBIS is implemented to make our children more respectful. Dr. Thomas advised that everyone had different expectations and they're trying to align the expectations and teaching students of what is expected in all areas, consistent rewards, star cards for more rewards and recognitions, additionally overtime, there will be a blowout for kids to experience. Dr. Thomas went on to state there is a core team made up of teachers, parent and aides who were trained by the state. The core team chose "respectful, ready, responsible" and made up lesson plans that were shared with the rest of the school personnel, as well as the bus drivers. There are also stickers on the buses and the bus drivers have star cards that can be handed out. The next phase is to reward teachers. It was also asked about a budget for each school and Dr. Thomas confirmed we received a grant and there are other funds available and the school will work with the PTA to continue to fund. There will be a kickoff tomorrow (9/14) with high school cheerleaders, the Comet bear and the high school band.

Patty thanked everyone for coming. The meeting adjourned @ 6:27 p.m.

Submitted by Colleen Siegler, Secretary

Approved by:
