

Southland Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2021

Zoom

Board Members Present: Nicole Campbell, Shelley Beck, Brenda Bingham, Patti Harrison

PTO Members Present: Lisa Jackson, Amy Bennion, Michelle Dunfield, Angela Greer, Amy Kalbes, Sharon Kartchner

Meeting called to order by: Nicole Campbell at 9:30 a.m.

Items Discussed:

President-Elect Vote – Amy Kalbes was nominated as 2020-2021 President-Elect by Patti Harrison. The nomination was seconded by Brenda Bingham. The vote was unanimous by all of those in attendance. Welcome, Amy Kalbes, President-Elect!

Principal Report – Mrs. Jackson provided the following updates:

School Pictures – Southland has changed from Lifetouch to Eastman Adams.

Valentine's Parties – Due to Covid concerns, Valentines will be quarantined in the classroom. Check with your teacher for their specific plan and dates.

Rock – A fence is being installed in front of the rock to address safety concerns. It's purpose is to encourage students to be picked up parallel to the building. If kids are being picked up behind the rock, it can significantly back up traffic on 2700 West.

Budget – Brenda reported that she's only been processing a few teacher discretionary, White Ribbon and Chinese New Year checks. Patti will ask Julia Halliday to send a reminder to room parents to submit their receipts.

Battle of the Books Update – Battle of the Books and the associated buttons have been popular! Nicole said more buttons had to be made. The parents on the call and Mrs. Jackson commented on how much the kids are enjoying it.

Chinese New Year – There will be no school-wide event this year. Red Chinese envelopes and chocolate coins have been purchased for each student. Brenda will be updating the Chinese bulletin board for the new year.

Art Competition – This year's theme will follow the school's theme of, "We Have Grit". Nicole will have fliers, an e-mail and a blog post out mid-February. Online students will be included. The final date for submissions will be March 3rd.

Parent Teacher Conference & Book Swap – Mrs. Jackson reported that teachers will be conducting conferences over Zoom as they did in the Fall. The PTO will provide take-home treats for the teachers. Due to Covid guidelines, there will not be a Book Swap this year. Patti has the books that were left from last year. She indicated that we should set some budget aside to purchase chapter books for the upper grades, to “seed” the table.

Green Ribbon Week – Green Ribbon (Safe Walk to School) Week, will be held April 12-16. Amy Kalbes will be leading the program this year. As one idea, Mrs. Jackson suggested having staff in the neighborhoods, walking with students. She also said pre-packaged treats would be ok.

Volunteers are needed to help with Green Ribbon Week. If you're interested, please contact us at southlandpto@gmail.com.

Super Field Day – We're beginning to think of ways we might be able to safely hold some type of event or celebration. Due to Covid, bounce houses will not be allowed and volunteers are still restricted. Mrs. Jackson said that we could possibly have the school aides assist. We may also be able to use our Culture Box as an activity.

Volunteers are needed to help plan Super Field Day. If you're interested, please contact us at southlandpto@gmail.com.

Teacher Appreciation – Will be held May 3-7 around the school's theme of, “We Have Grit”. Michelle Dunfield reported that she'll be putting together some ideas in the coming weeks and will be getting in touch with volunteers. Mrs. Jackson said that if we schedule it, we can decorate doors.

Anyone who might have ideas for donations or gifts for Teacher Appreciation Week, please reach out to us at southlandpto@gmail.com.

Field Trip Replacement – Due to Covid restrictions there will not be traditional field trips this year. Several ideas were discussed. Those on the call felt that getting kids out of the classroom, off electronics (where possible) and providing an enrichment experience different from their day-to-day would be ideal. Another idea is finding ways to provide students hands-on items to help teachers teach their curriculums in FUN and exciting ways.

Mrs. Jackson clarified that on a limited basis, some programs could still be brought into the school if conducted class-by-class. For example, the Aquarium brought in a successful and safe program. The idea of walking field trips and lunch outside was discussed. Mrs. Jackson felt she may have to get district approval for a walking field trip but agreed that eating outside, possibly using the fenced-in area, was do-able.

Ultimately, we need to find out what teachers want. Mrs. Butterfield and Ms. Wang previously said they were asking teachers for ideas. Mrs. Jackson will reach out to teachers in her weekly newsletter and faculty meeting for their input. Brenda will provide Mrs. Jackson with the available budget.

Comments – Patti noted that the PTO is trying to be very conscious of including our online students, wherever possible. Amy Bennion is keeping our PTO blog up-to-date at southlandpto.com. Mrs. Jackson let us know that the Student Announcements and other student links are also being posted on Southland's website under "Online Students".

Next PTO Meeting – Thursday, March 4, 2021, 9:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom

Motion to adjourn by: Patti Harrison at 10:15 a.m., 2nd by Amy Kalbes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2021

- Feb 4 PTO Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- Feb 11 Valentine's Day Class Parties ♥
- Feb 11 Chinese New Year
- Feb 15 Washington & Lincoln Day (No School)
- Feb 15-Mar 3 Art Competition

March 2021

- Mar 4 PTO Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- Mar 18 SCC Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- Mar 19 Grade Transmittal Day (No School)
- Mar 24-25 Parent Teacher Conferences
- Mar 26 PTC Compensation Day (No School)
- Mar 29-Apr 2 Spring Break (No School)

April 2021

- Apr 1-2 Spring Break (No School)
- Apr 8 PTO Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- Apr 12-16 Green Ribbon Week (*Safe Walk to School*)