



Parent Teacher Organization

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 7, 2023

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. York (principal) Jessica Muelleck (President), Trina McCarthy (Treasurer), Becca Price (Communications), Becca Bishop (secretary), Julia Halliday (volunteer coordinator, Jen Preece (Musical), Amy Kalbes (safety), Amber Elkins (jog-a-thon co-chair, musical), Robyn Shelton (president-elect), Patti Harrison (jog-a-thon co-chair, fundraising chair, book fair), Shelley Beck (Musical, Spirit chair), Amy Bennion (room parents) **via zoom:** Katie Ennis **Others:** Katy Hansen, John Christensen (Math Team), Candice Diehl (Battle of the Books), Amy Burton (P.E. Equipment)

Called to Order: Becca Bishop, Julia Halliday (seconded)

Teacher Breakfast:

- This was a great breakfast! Thank you!
- Feedback: Overspent the budget that was set last year. This is tricky that we don't have an official budget until after jog-a-thon
 - Can we please keep track of what we did from year to year so we will have a record and not make the same mistakes? Suggestion was made to have a write-up after the event and have the historian collect these as a way of going from year to year.
 - We definitely needed less food and we could simplify while still making it nice for the teachers

Principal Report

- Upgraded sound system was installed and there are problems involved
 - More modern, but the problem is that things aren't balanced well in the school
- Finalized roster for the student teams. These have been forwarded to teachers
 - Murray and Geer are over safety patrol. Safety patrol training will happen next week and safety patrol will start about September 18th
- COVID is going through the school
 - Support staff have been sick with COVID
- Teacher representatives will be as follows this year. They were not at the meeting and there was not update from them.
 - Lay Kou (DLI representative)
 - Kristen Frohlich: Lower Grade rep
 - Jenny Weenig: Upper grade rep
- 3rd grade Chinese teacher – Na Dou

- State department denied a request for an expedited interview. Beijing embassy is over her visa for the 3rd grade teacher. We can't now have her submit to another consulate. Mr. York has been working with Owens, Lee, and Romney to try get them to intervene on our behalf and grant the visa earlier than later. Each of them only want to work for constituents and representing hundreds of constituents.
 - Have housing lined up for the new teacher
 - Still have to set her up when she gets her with bank, set up in the U.S., etc.
 - Once she gets her, she applies for the job officially and then takes time to get into the Jordan system. This then includes onboarding with Jordan district and background check.
 - We had multiple teachers hired for the 3rd grade position and had to start the whole process again.
 - We have a Chinese-speaking aid that is now teaching
 - NEW USBE and Kou are helping with the curriculum, recent graduated student from bridge program, and a new aid will also help in this classroom.
 - Many backup programs
 - Has taught in the United States before in about 2010. She is an accredited teacher and has a couple of masters degrees in psychology.
- STEAM teacher has been hired and is working on onboarding.
 - Elementary school teacher with a bachelor's degree
 - Passionate about teaching and STEM related items
 - Plan to setup classroom next week and then start the next week
 - Library is back in the rotation system until she gets her
- Library
 - Library rotation will have a designated time to check in and check out books. It will be a shorter amount of time because it was too long
- Music, Art, Computers, STEM, PE are our 5 rotations
- Can we get a list of teacher and staff birthdays from Mr. York?
- Chinese Immersion program at Southland. What is the future of the DLI program at Southland?
 - Superintendent will be coming to the school this month to see what is going on in our school.
 - Working with other principals in other schools around her to arrange parent information nights at their schools so parents can come to the neighborhood schools and learn about Southland's program.
 - Meeting after our Chinese New Year to have the hype up
 - Involve Kindergartners with DLI early to help to encourage more of our own people into the program
 - Better percentage of kindergartners this year, but we have smaller class sizes because of school
 - Keep advertising Southland as the Chinese
 - New district DLI lead who is working with us
 - DLI program makes staffing at school extremely difficult. Our AOS has done a great job advocating for our school. We are technically 2 teachers over-hired, but we are able to

arrange that because of Mr. York's spreadsheet that gives the actual student to teacher ratio. When the board and cabinet members see the 30s in the numbers, they become more lenient.

- Recruitment for DLI program begins in February.
 - Enrollment is down across the board
 - Southland's numbers are the best as far as percentage. Good spot numerically, just not geographically because our enrollment count is declining.
 - Misconception of the extra work that Chinese involves. The information sounded very overwhelming.
 - Foothills numbers are down, but they have good geographics. Monte Vista numbers are down, but geographically the enrollment is not declining.
- Students can permit in for the DLI program only. For English only, you will not be able to permit in.
- Cultural experience was very important and involving the whole school in the Chinese New Year experience for the whole school
- Could we keep the program if we had a teacher that taught 1st half the day and 2nd grade, half of the day?
 - This would be frowned upon and the State would fight this.
- How do we create a system that does not feel like a caste system
 - We need to bridge the connection between
 - House program with Gryffindors, Hufflepuff, Slytherin, Ravenclaw that are not related to DLI. This is to help combine the age gap and to help unite DLI and English students.
- House system
 - Hufflepuff, Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw meant to unite the school and the grades.
- Water coolers
 - Bathroom trips have increased, but the novelty will wear off
 - The teachers have appreciated it.
 - The cafeteria will fill them up and Mr. Bench (or substitute) will help to bring them out.
- Recess Equipment (Upper and lower)
 - Incentives for bringing in the balls?
 - House points on Fridays?
 - Bats, gloves, and softballs that belong to recess – but the P.E. teachers would like them if we aren't using them.

JOG-A-THON

- Assembly will be next week
- Volunteers needed for day of jog-a-thon
 - Don't need a background check because teachers will be present with their classes and they will not have unsupervised access
 - High school kids can be used if they have a specific task
 - Snacks and warm-ups are most needed
- AMAZING sponsors – record breaking!
- Thank you for all the sponsors! We got some new sponsors this year.
 - K-fabe was generous because the kids are in their store all of the time.
- Dress up like a witch or a wizard for the JOG-A-THON

- Send info to Mr. York for facebook and Instagram page

MATH TEAM

- John Christensen is in charge of the program and how we can continue to make math team happen. He proposes to continue math team, we should have 3 different roles in Math Team:
 - **Parent Coordinator Lead (John Christensen)**
 - **Teacher coordinator for each grade**
 - Individual Teachers should get 4 kids to be involved with Math Team and have the forms signed by their guardians. Teachers would team them into the grade coordinator.
 - **Grade Level Coaches** – 2 per grade for each grade. Math team only works if we have math team coaches to run it.
- Can Mr. York find a math team teacher coordinator for each grade?
- John Christensen will type something up for Mr. York to send to teachers.
 - Make sure teachers know the goal of math team and what the experience of being on math team is? This is an accelerated math program for students who are ready for a challenge.
 - Last year, there were students who were chosen that struggled in Math and they did not enjoy it because it was difficult.
- Maybe Southland should not participate in the program at Daybreak Elementary? Or figure out how to better run this program? Monster Math is NOT the same as the district competition.

Battle of the Books

- Information to come out at Parent Teacher Conference. We are waiting on the final list from Battle of the books.
- Last year, one of the biggest requests with battle of the books was to have more copies for students to be able to read. We had over 150 students last year and they were sharing the same books
 - Becca Bishop has gone through and collected all of the books that the PTO owns, library owns, and a collection from the leveled library.
 - Patti Harrison is looking into what books can be bought with our scholastic numbers so we can have more copies of the books. We have some books that no copies. So this would be our priority.
 - Parents asked if they could donate copies of books. Once Patti orders what she can, we can share the document with how many copies of each book we have.
- The PTO will continue to provide buttons for each book that is read. Mrs. Denzley would like to have candy or a small prize for them to get as well
- We will probably not give out books for everyone who read. Instead, we will do some sort of treat. Maybe we can give books and a shake as our 20 book prize? We just do not have the funding to provide books to all students now that our numbers have increased drastically.
- The battle was suggested for March 14th – confirm date with Mr. York

Storyweavers

- If we have funding, this was a great assembly. Mr. York was supportive of doing this again.

Colonial Days – April 11th?

- Teachers want to involve the whole 5th grade this year. After seeing how great this activity was, the DLI teachers would like to also participate.
- Can we have funding for this year? Can we put this money into the budget?
 - Amy Bennion reached out and they guessed that it would cost **\$600** for the colonial days for 5th grade?
 - How did this number go up so much from last year? Trina will look into where this money came from?
 - Less money for DARE because all they need is donuts
- Patti Harrison will be in charge of this

Teacher Appreciation Week

- Can we move up the date?
 - Feedback in the past has been that there is a lot going on during testing?
 - The end of February was proposed as a possible date for Teacher appreciation week.
 - Feedback was given that the February date is too close to Parent Teacher Conference dinners
- Giftcards is a sticky area with the accounting. Teachers appreciate this...Trina wants to just make sure that this is falling in line with our tax-exempt status as far as a gift.
- Amy Bennion and Jillian will think on the date and get back to us.
- Mr. York reminded us to avoid extra things outside of the classroom of require them to shift their schedule and remove themselves from the classroom. This is where it is hard! It is not necessarily the week.
- Remember that money was taken from PTC dinners last year and what is why we were able to spend as much as we had. We had the money because of reallocation.
 - Approved budget of \$1850 and we went \$430 over. This did NOT go over the teacher budget though. Just a reminder because we won't always have the extra money.

Spirit Friday/Simba

- Spirit team is up and running – Simba as much as possible. Simba would love to be there as much as possible.
- Simba Cleaned once
- Last year, we used a lot of the leftovers for Spirit Fridays. This was done every other Friday. If we want to keep this up, we will need to give more budget.
- Jolly Ranchers are used from the disaster packets.
- If we keep the budget the same, we should be fine.
 - \$100-\$200 for cleaning and money for treats

Parent Teacher Conference Dinners

- Soups

- Café rio salad bar for the second night
- Jessica will get a rough budget from Trina

Chinese Chair

- We need the chair. Julia and Jessica to reach out to parents to find a chair.

Back to School Night

- We want to funnel the people to the cafeteria so we had the table blocking the hall
- Can we have more PTO members to help?
- Julia fill out what we could fix
 - Volunteers giving directions to different classrooms
 - PTO signups
 - Missing sign-ups for certain activities

Chips & Chat

- We need an updated calendar with dates of the PTO dates. This should be given out at Chips & Chat.

Mental Health Presentation

- Children's author who does a mental health assembly
- Mr. York is not wanting to do an assembly. There is a lot of backlash.
- Our school psychologist is doing a great job and we have a good system going on.
- Parents feedback would be mixed. So addressing this in an assembly would be opening a can of worms.

RED RIBBON WEEK

- Is it required to do Red Ribbon week? The answer is no.
- Do we have someone that is in charge of this?

Motion to Close