



Sharon Center School PTO

Meeting Minutes

Draft to be approved at next regular meeting

Meeting Date: October 2, 2024

Call to order: at 6:34PM with the following members in attendance: Anna Crews Camphouse (President), Karen Rios (Vice President), Lisa Pedersen (Co-Secretary), Meghan Kenny, Carol Tomkalski (Principal), Devon Sheehan, Dallas Speranzo

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Anna, seconded by Karen, to accept the minutes from the September 4th meeting as written. Motion carried by unanimous vote. A request was made for future minutes to be posted in both English and Spanish; Karen offered to act as translator.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Rios provided the report in absence of an official treasurer.

- Exact account balances to be confirmed, total assets are roughly \$2,080. [Checking account balance confirmed to be \$1,764.46 as of 10/10/2024.]
- \$350.00 was spent for the Back to School Picnic. The raffle yielded \$50.00.

Principal's Report:

- The new Benchmark reading program for the lower grades is going smoothly in it's first year of implementation.
- Camp Hazen trip for the 6-8 grades will be next week.
- The next movie night will be 10/18 and is a fundraiser for the 8th Grade trip to Washington DC. There was a good turnout for the first one.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are coming up October 23-24. PTO will be providing a dinner for the teachers and staff on the 24th with the goal of 100% participation. Anyone unable to attend conferences on the 23rd or 24th can make an appointment at anytime with their student's teacher(s).
 - The potential for having child care provided for parents with younger children was discussed. Carol relayed that we cannot use staff and because conferences are student led, older students are not available as was done in the past. Further discussion was tabled until Spring conferences are closer.
- Halloween Bash and Trunk or Treat will be October 25th. Dallas (teacher representative) requested a trunk from the PTO, Karen Rios volunteered her car. Candy donations are welcome and can be dropped off at the school anytime.

Guest Speaker:

- School Nurse, Devon Sheehan, gave a detailed presentation on the school's attendance policy and the difference between absenteeism and truancy.
 - The state requires all schools to notify parents when students are chronically absent or chronically truant.
 - Up to 9 excused absences per year are permitted with a parent note, additional absences require a doctors note. Devon recommends always getting a note from your doctor anytime an absence results in a doctors appointment.
 - Truancy, defined as unexcused absences, is limited to 4 per month or 10 per year before a strongly worded letter will be sent to parents.
 - Extraordinary leave can be granted ahead of time by the Principal for activities outside of school that provide educational opportunity. The school recognizes that not all learning happens in a classroom and encourages parents to take advantage of such opportunities when they arise.
 - Parents can access information concerning health and wellness policies, current reported illnesses, and other pertinent information from the Nurse's office by visiting the directory on the school website, selecting Devon's name and clicking on the "classes" link.

Old Business:

- Review of Back to School Picnic & Raffle
 - The picnic went well. An improved sign-up system was suggested, such as SignUpGenius, to ensure a full spread is being provided.
 - The raffle was only mildly successful, yielding \$50.00 in total.
- PTO Treasurer position
 - Motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Karen, to install Meghan Kenny as the PTO treasurer. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
 - Meghan will coordinate with Karen for access to accounts and transfer of documents from Vanessa Bousquet.
- Spirit Wear Update
 - Spirit wear will continue to be provided by Simply You by Courtnie for a larger percentage of return on each sale.
 - The option to have items personalized will be added.

New Business:

- Room Parents
 - The need for room parents in the traditional sense was discussed considering the small class sizes.
 - Outside-the-box thinking may be required to come up with potential ideas. Further discussion was tabled until the November meeting.
- Fundraiser Ideas discussed include:
 - Pie sale prior to Thanksgiving, with top selling class/individual winning a pizza party as a sales incentive.

- Local business gift card raffle, perhaps in the spring, coordinated by Meghan. Dallas noted the 8th Grade is planning a similar fundraiser for the DC trip in December/January.
- Potential kickball tournament or fun run in the spring
- An invoice was received from the Sharon Playhouse and was passed on to Carol as the program has been absorbed into the school budget.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Next Board meeting to be November 6th at 6:30PM in the school library conference room; remote access via Zoom or Google Meet will also be available.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Pedersen