
South Arbor PTO

Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2011

1. Introduction

The meeting started at 6:10pm when the new board was introduced. Present board members: Jen Young, Kelly Kmieske, Tom Leone, Christine Gilbert & Kim Kratzer along with 17 other PTO members.

2. Treasurers Report

- Current balance \$32,387.23
- Tom passed out a budget for the remainder of the school year
- We raised \$1,689 in donations for the PTO since August 30th.
- Total budgeted expenses are \$9,750.
- Cookie dough sales have a gross income of \$10,390 – but we still have to pay the expenses on this.
- Due to the Treasurer just coming on board, and the PTO just being created, Tom did not have all of the financials up-to-date. This should be done by the meeting in January.

3. Funding Requests

- a. David Middlin – requesting \$185 for the Band Festival - **APPROVED**
- b. David Middlin – requesting \$150 for a student who cannot afford the fee for the South Arbor Orchestra – **DENIED**

DISCUSSION:

- In the past with the Leadership Team, there was a crisis fund. This was used in extreme crisis matters.
- Some stated that if we do this for this one child, we would have to do it for many other children. And, not just for orchestra, but for any event or program. Where is the line drawn? And what constitutes that a family/child receives this benefit?
- What would happen if someone couldn't afford the Washington D.C. trip, or 6th grade camp for example?
- Different options could be discussed with Mr. Phillips (the orchestra instructor) instead and see if he is willing to give a discount, or set up payment plans.
- A PTO Member thought that \$150 for the whole year of lessons was a really reasonable price compared to prices they've paid for private lessons.

4. "Scholarships"

We discussed whether we wanted to provide a "scholarship" program (or a discretionary fund) within South Arbor. This would be for students who cannot afford certain things. Several members have stepped up and said that they were interested in this program and will research this idea and bring a proposal to the January meeting to vote upon: Christina Hasselkus, Veronica Dukes, Frances Todoro-Hargreaves, Brandy Mooror, Melissa Marowell and Kim Kratzer.

DISCUSSION:

- Frances sits on another non-profit committee and will provide more information on this topic.
- If a scholarship fund was created, it should be mentioned to the above child that they could apply.
- Some members were concerned of HOW scholarships would be awarded....would there be deadline dates for applying? Would people be willing to share their financial information? What are the qualifications to apply or be accepted?
- Asked how it was done with other PTO's in other schools.
- Members said that it would be a great benefit towards the school and our sense of community. That it would be better to help students in need instead of using the PTO money towards more materialistic things.
- Kelly K. stated that she would like to see the PTO create more of a "Community Outreach" and that the PTO is not just about fundraising; but that it always seems to lead to that.
- In the past, the Principal has had a Discretionary Fund and has been able to use it when thought necessary. This money is not PTO provided, it is budgeted thru NHA.

5. Website & PTO E-mail Introductions

- The PTO website is www.SouthArborPTO.com.
- We discussed the pros and cons of having a password protected website.
- The decision was to NOT password protect the site – it may deter people from the site, and may be frustrating.
- James McClelland said that he would help set up "forwarding" e-mail to have hidden e-mail addresses so that it keeps us from getting SPAM mail if our e-mails are listed on the site.

6. Open Floor

- Brandy M. suggested that the Box Tops promotion goes back to the kids receiving "House Points" as they turn their Box Tops into their teachers – she believed it helped motivate the kids. We asked her to talk to the Box Top Team Leader, Angie Hawley.
- A question raised: Is the band going to have a raffle with prizes at the upcoming concert at St. Luke as they have in the past? Jen Young said that it was not approved for this concert since we did not have a Fundraising Team Leader, so we will not be doing that this year.
- Cindy K. wanted to bring back the sale of popcorn during school hours. Answer: The popcorn machine used in the past was given to the 4th grade. She needs to speak with Mr. Heires, but it sounds like the 4th grade may put that on themselves.

Library funding issues were raised.

- Do the usage of the funds need to be voted on for the library? Since "parents" run the book fair – isn't it a PTO fund? Even though it is a targeted fundraiser to raise money for the library?
- Mrs. Bondy said that the library has to go through the PTO or NHA; they cannot be their own entity.

- Someone mentioned drama and sports being their own entities. However, drama goes through Center Stage Productions, and the sports has their own Booster Club.
- It was mentioned that there is no longer a library committee. And, that one is needed. Is anyone willing to take this on? Or join the committee?
- It was mentioned that if the Book Fair is run by the PTO instead of the library....does the PTO Committee Head get to decide “which” book fair to run as a fundraiser – either Scholastic or another brand? – This person believed that the librarian should be able to decide.
- Thoughts: if the Book Fair is a targeted fundraiser with money directed towards the library, they should have a list of items that the money raised is wanted to go towards. After those items are purchased, the balance of the Book Fair profits should go to the general PTO funds.
- Frances thinks there needs to be a Library Committee and that the A/R program for the library costs thousands of dollars. If the Library Committee believes that the A/R program is a great program for the school, they should have to convince the PTO (with no problem) that they need this money. If they cannot do this, are they requesting this money for a program that only benefits the minority, not the majority – maybe it could be better spent.
- It is believed that most kids do not use the A/R program. If that is the case, and for a lot of money, is it worth it? Or could we use our money better somewhere else?
- We need to discuss this at the January PTO meeting.

7. Extra Info

- Vending Head will be taken on by Stephanie Howell
- Wendy Thibeault is taking on the Fundraiser Team Leader position. Also, Roxanne Hook and Dianne Huntsman plan on helping.
 - Christine will set up a PTO e-mail for the Fundraising Team Leader, Wendy.
- Beth Jodon volunteered to run the Scrip program.
- Angela Hawley will stay as the Box Top coordinator
- Ryan Maples said that he will take on the Family Fun Team Leader position; and maybe Dianne Huntsman will help him with this.
- Tammy Butler is willing to help co-chair the Pizza Thursdays, but is looking for a co-chair – is anyone willing to step up??? We do need another co-chair, but the following are willing to help in the meantime: Christine Gilbert, Kelly Kmieske, Jennifer Young, Cindy Kumpelis, Wendy Thibeault, Gary Buchanan, Michelle Buchanan, Klaycie Browning, Dianne Huntsman and Kim Kratzer.
- Dave Peterson is taking on the Groundskeeping Team Leader position
- Book Fair Team Leader is Beth Simionescu.
- We do need to create a Library Committee. We are in search of a Library Committee Team Leader – is anyone willing to take this on?
- Tree of Warmth – items are being donated to a Downtown Detroit charity by Mrs. Moberg. They are accepting NEW or USED items of winter warmth, such as: hats, gloves, coats, snowpants, scarves and blankets. Please send items in by December 16th.
- This years’ Kalahari reservations are available for 1 night only; February 20, 2012. The rooms are \$149 for the night. It also is first come, first serve to not only our school, but Fortis and East Arbor as well – so book fast if interested.

- Christine G. will place a link on the www.SouthArborPTO.com website to reach www.PTOToday.com.

8. Closing

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm

9. Next Meeting

The next PTO meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2012.

