

Shenandoah Valley Elementary
PTO Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2016 – 9:15 a.m., Library

Attendees

Missy Bredbenner, Beth Chausow, Michele Duvall, Dana Evans, Amy Fitter, Gary Fraser, Sonya Land, Carrie Luttrell, Megan Morford, Debbie Palazzola, Namita Paranjothi, Mandy Rajchart, Woin Robinson, Steven Shane, and Jenni Stecher.

Call to Order

Beth Chausow called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The expectation of all PTO meetings is for them to last for approximately one hour. According to the published by-laws, one purposed of our meetings is to receive brief summary reports from all active committees. Only PTO business will be discussed at our meetings. Any personal or school district related issues should be discussed outside of the meeting with the appropriate school administrator at another time. One person at a time should speak so we may all hear each other and the recording secretary is able to provide us with clear and concise minutes of each meeting. The appointed meeting facilitator reserves the right to move the meeting forward, which means possibly limiting the time someone has to present their information.

Welcome

Beth Chausow welcomed everyone to the meeting.

September Meeting Minutes Approval

Sonya Land moved to accept the September meeting minutes, and Beth Chausow seconded this motion.

Wellness Committee

Mandy Rajchart announced that the Wellness Committee is divided into an adult section and a student section. The adult section is led by Lisa Conway, and Mandy leads the student section. There are 4 teachers on the committee, and they would welcome any parents who would like to join. There are 8 fifth grade students on the student wellness leader committee. The last week of January, the Committee will be doing Healthy Snack week, which was spearheaded by the students on the committee. This will challenge both students and staff to bring in healthy snacks for the week. Students would like to do something similar in February with exercise and brain breaks in the classrooms. Fuel Up to Play 60 will be sponsoring some exercise breaks in morning meetings. Kids can sign up to log their healthy eating and exercise and receive points to earn prizes for the school, such as pencils or a Rams assembly. Adults on the committee are instrumental in helping with the Walk to School days. Mandy welcomed anyone to contact her with suggestions for the committee.

Teacher Report

Amy Fitter thanked PTO for the food brought in prior to Winter Break.

Treasurer Report

Missy Bredbenner distributed the current expenditures. She reminded people to use their e-scrip cards at Schnucks so that money continually comes back to Shenandoah. She stated that several of the bills for busses for field trips had not yet been received by the PTO. The Panther Pledge is just slightly shy of the PTO's goal of \$15,000, and she welcomed more donations. Beth Chausow explained that the Miscellaneous Income was due to the tumbler fundraiser, and the Miscellaneous Expense was due to the track renovation.

Reports of Standing Committees

Trivia Night

Sonya Land received and read the report from the chair, Steve Kadyk. The theme this year is going to be an international one in order to try and draw from a larger sample of our school population. The questions will be written in a more worldly fashion taking into account many backgrounds. The tickets for the event are going to be \$200 per table of ten or \$20 per person if you'd like to sign up as an individual. Table sizes of 8-10 are typical, so don't feel like you have to have 10 at your table. All of these details are important, but the most important thing is getting volunteers to do the preparation work prior to the event and to work the event itself. As of this morning, we only have 3 volunteers plus Deana and Steve to work the event. Steve realizes that everyone is busy and already committed to many causes, but this event is supposed to be the focal point of our PTO fundraising effort. In past years, we've put on the event with a skeleton crew, taking huge efforts from people like Robyn Denorscia, but we don't have that luxury this year. We need people, and we need them fast. If we can't get a core group, at least 10 people, committed to the event in the next few days, Steve recommended that we look to an alternative fundraiser this year, perhaps utilizing the conference center we have already reserved and the event date. Sonya Land mentioned that we were not soliciting a ton of donations for the silent auction, but we are focusing on non-expense items like pizza parties for a classroom. Dr. Luttrell suggested auctioning off first row seats at school performances and possibly having a second Panther Parking Spot in the front parking lot. Dr. Luttrell also mentioned the lack of volunteer support for room parties and this being why PTO looked at cancelling parties a couple of years ago. Namita Paranjothi suggested making a desperate plea on Facebook for volunteers, focusing on how PTO will have to cancel the event without any volunteer base. Amy Fitter asked about how much of a percentage of total profit the silent auction is. There was a discussion about the work involved in preparation for the silent auction as well as how to better promote to all parents the very specific amounts (e.g., \$300 for busses) of money that PTO provides for the school. This also led to discussing the likelihood of parents paying for field trips or fundraising to make up any losses from Trivia Night or Panther Pledge goals. Dr. Luttrell also mentioned that PTO quietly pays for field trip fees for students who do not return their money. Missy Bredbenner emphasized that volunteer time is just as important as a monetary donation.

40th Anniversary Celebration

Dana Evans reported that the kindergarten through second graders had an assembly with the Frozen characters, and classes were able to have pictures taken with them. At lunch time, all students received popsicles. The morning assembly was cancelled due to the performer having car problems. She is hoping to reschedule this performer on another day. She reported that the Time Tunnel papers from each grade level showed so many different cultural events from each of the assigned decades. Students would receive their new folders on Wednesday to replace their take-home folders from the beginning of the year. She mentioned the Track dedication that would occur Friday and that she also planned on posting the answers to the staff baby pictures quiz on Friday and leave it up through next week.

Book Fair

Megan Morford announced that the next book fair would be February 22-25, 2016, with set up on February 19 and take-down on February 26. The last book fair replenished our Scholastic Dollars up to about \$5000 to help out individual classrooms and the library. There will be a coin drive to correspond with the book fair. She is looking to purchase a new rug for Ms. Wagers in the library. She also made a desperate plea for volunteers to help.

President's Report

Beth Chausow encouraged people to spread the word that PTO still needs some nominees for Executive Board positions for next year, especially Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary. PTO is looking for volunteers to help out with Kindergarten Registration on Tuesday, January 26, to greet parents, make copies, and helping parents get set up on a computer.

Principal's Report

Dr. Luttrell thanked Dana Evans and Darlisa Diltz for all of their work on the 40th Anniversary week. She mentioned the trophies and plaques that had been moved to the library for Ms. Wagers to discuss the school's history. She also thanked Nell Colozza, David Fingerhut, Beth Chausow, and Jenni Stecher for getting the track resurfaced since this was an event that was years in the making. She invited the whole school and any friends and family to meet at the track for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, with fifth graders starting an inaugural lap down to kindergarteners. Students should wear sweatsuits and tennis shoes. Bruce Hunter was invited but was unable to attend. She explained how two parents within the building had come to her to discuss how SVE's demographics have changed in the past five years, and how parents who are not from this country do not always feel like they belong at our current activities. She mentioned the changes to Trivia Night to a more inclusive environment. Woonin Robinson explained how she has invited a small group of Korean parents to meet at her home to learn more about the culture and expectations of Shenandoah Valley and make them feel more comfortable in our community. SVE is using the structure of Diversity in Action (DIA) and MOSAICS (a local non-profit organization) to encourage more inclusive activities. For Dr. Seuss night, Dr. Luttrell wants to include food and books that revolve around other cultures' traditions. She also said that SVE would be encouraging participation in spelling or geography bees starting next year in addition to the new e-hour class on engineering this spring that was created by an SVE parent. She announced that another parent expressed interest in having a Screen Awareness week where all students monitor the amount of screen time they are using, teaching students about moderation and playing outside. She emphasized the use of board games at indoor recess and teaching kids good sportsmanship and how to lose. Dr. Luttrell mentioned the importance of having volunteers at the kindergarten registration to make new parents feel welcome to SVE. She plans on contacting all local preschools to check on any students who have not registered. Steven Shane asked about kindergarten visits in the year prior to enrollment, and parents and Dr. Luttrell commented about how attending a Parkway preschool or participating in Parents as Teachers yields an invitation to visit kindergarten.

Adjournment- Beth Chausow adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m. The next PTO meeting will be April 19, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Shenandoah Valley PTO Treasurer
Statement of Activity
July 1, 2015 - January 19, 2016

	Total	Veterans Day	216.64
Revenue		Total Expenditures	\$22,557.84
Back to school carnival revenue	188.20	Net Operating Revenue	\$2,001.53
concessions	626.00	Other Revenue	
kindergarten t-shirts	-57.25	Interest Earned	311.92
movie night Revenue	209.00	Total Other Revenue	\$311.92
pancake breakfast	925.00	Other Expenditures	
panther pledge	11,410.00	Miscellaneous	180.00
promotions- box tops	1,084.40	Total Other Expenditures	\$180.00
promotions- papa john's	265.18	Net Other Revenue	\$131.92
Scholastic Book Fair	3,708.59	Net Revenue	\$2,133.45
Spirit Wear revenue	3,793.00		
Tumbler fundraiser	1,802.00		
Yearbook	605.25		
Total Revenue	\$24,559.37		
Gross Profit	\$24,559.37		
Expenditures			
40th Anniversary	173.07		
Art support	100.00		
Back to school carnival	800.11		
Back to School Gifts	1,102.50		
Birthday popsicles	77.38		
BooHoo Breakfast	76.80		
Book Fair	3,829.21		
Brain Pop Junior	1,350.00		
Chris Cakes	800.00		
Field Trip Busses	725.05		
Library Support	65.00		
Movie License	415.00		
movie night	87.22		
Music	61.79		
New Teacher support	891.05		
President Discretionary Funds	214.97		
Principal Discretionary account	135.95		
PTO liability coverage	400.00		
PTO overhead	491.77		
Science Fair	215.25		
Spirit Day	550.00		
Spirit Wear	3,339.58		
Staff	487.50		
Track	5,000.00		
Tumblers	952.00		