

SVES PTA Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and President's Remarks

The February 14, 2017 meeting was called to order by PTA President Dorie Howell at 7:01 pm.

2. Approval of January Minutes

Howell said the December minutes will be put forward for approval next month as she forgot to bring copies. Gamble Gilbertson moved to accept the January meeting minutes and Stacey Graf seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Principal's Report

Mr. West shared the following:

- Monday, February 20 is President's Day so there will be no school.
- Wednesday, February 22 is a principal's coffee, an informal conversation on any topic. It will be held immediately after morning drop-off.
- On February 23 and 24 the middle schools will start to speak to 6th graders to orient and transition them. Information about this will be in the 6th graders backpacks.
- During the week of March 6 first Graders will do the Naglieri non-verbal assessment, one of the two abilities tests given to students during their time at SVES. The test removes language and just looks at critical thinking and problem solving. The second test is given in 2nd grade. It is called the CogAt and has a verbal component. Both are computerized tests.

4. Treasurer's Report (Stacey Graf)

As of January 31, we have \$45,814.13. We received almost \$700 from box top money and the rest from enrichment program fees.

5. Officer Updates

Communications (Kara Manton)

Nothing to report.

Membership (Colleen Elliott)

Elliott reported we are at 178 memberships. The same as last month.

Enrichment Programs (Gamble Gilbertson)

Gilbertson reported that only 2 classes had to be cancelled due to not meeting minimum enrollment. In the future cryptography will be offered on a different day than chess since there is overlap in interest for those two classes. Zumba had to be cancelled due to low-enrollment. Unique Techniques was combined into one class. Most of the Zumba kids picked something else. For photography, many people didn't register in time for the January 26 deadline but we were able to hit our minimum in the end. Next year Gilbertson will be more firm about the deadline for registrations.

Gilbertson has asked the vendors to start thinking about next year and will survey the parents about what they are interested in. Gilbertson has agreed to be the enrichment coordinator for next year. She reported that repositioning the volunteer needs in the mornings as a coop has been great.

Spring programs will be limited because of a space issue with rooms needed to be set up for SOL testing. Mr. Kidder cannot lead young men in motion this spring.

6. Event Updates

Bingo Night

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Howell reported that Bingo Night is next Friday. She has organized almost everything but needs help purchasing, setting up and selling concessions, needs a set-up and clean-up crew and help manning the tables in front. We will try to keep it all cash and will need a cash box. For raffle prizes a parent has kindly donated an iPad mini so we don't have to buy it. A company who wants to donate a gift card to Safeway or such can be thanked for their donation. We will also raffle off fun things like watching Mr. Washington do the hula or Mr. West taking a pie in the face or getting shot with silly string. In communications we send out we should remind people to bring extra money for the raffle. Nancy Darmory offered to help with concessions. Howell will be away until next Thursday immediately before Bingo Night.

Show What you Know

Andy Gallagher is organizing and the flyers have been sent out.

Destination Dining

Howell reported that the Destination dining event will take place on March 1 at Flipping Pizza. The flyer was approved and it will go in the February 24 Friday folder. Chick Fil A in Reston also called Howell about doing a Destination Dining event. They didn't call back but they want to send the cow to school dismissal. Mr. West said it should be allowable as long as safety precautions are taken.

Basketball Challenge

Nancy Darmory reported that it will be Friday, April 28. She is starting to work on it but won't have another school to play against as they go in two year cycles. She is starting to lobby for schools for next year. The format will likely be similar to last year but she wants to check the interest level for 6th graders to play. She is also trying to figure out something for each grade to have something to do and is looking for ideas that don't require a lot of equipment and are safe and fun.

7. Old Business

Directory

Howell reported the directory is about half-way formatted and will go out in the next week.

By-law committee

Howell reported that the bylaws are now in digital form. Colleen Elliott will read them and see if she has any proposed changes. Kara Manton and her husband will also review them. We need to circulate them a month before approving.

Howell asked if Colleen could check the VA PTA website to see if there is anything there about a precedent for changing to a two year term for the President. Howell asked if the Mantons and Colleen can come up with stuff to talk about regarding changing the bylaws at the next meeting on the morning of March 14 at 9:30 am.

Computer Initiative

Howell would like to wait until there is a President Elect on Board before laying out an initiative. So we need to start looking for that person.

8. New Business

Volunteer Needs

Kara Manton added a page to website for volunteers to sign up for things. All the emails are going to Megan but Kara can see them. This is under the volunteer section under get involved.

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New pay portal for members

Howell reported that we might need to look at replacing Pay4School as she has a few concerns and will talk to Jay. She asked for suggestions on better options. Gilbertson said Heather Weimer sent her a bunch of other solutions. Howell asked that she give us a recommendation and come to a meeting. Manton will talk to Heather Weimer.

Class Contest Ideas

Howeel reported that ideas have been tossed around for a class contest to raise money for a PTA initiative. Howell suggests we tighten up some of the ideas and not drop to the lowest common denominator as we know there are families that can afford to participate in some way. There's been talk about restructuring membership fees but they are what they are because we don't do selling fundraisers. Mr. West has approved a class contest as long as it doesn't disrupt class time. It should be something for the kids to be excited about and be involved in.

New Events

Antonia Blackwood asked about starting a kindergarten social event in the fall to welcome new families and introduce them to the PTA. Howell asked Mr. West if he can let us know of the kindergarten orientation event coming up this spring so someone from the PTA can attend that.

PTA Parking Spot

Howell asked Colleen Elliott to pick a number to do the free parking pass.

Agenda Distribution

Gamble Gilbertson asked if the agenda could be distributed in advance of the meetings.

9. Closing

Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Gilbertson seconded it. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.