

Soaring Hawk Elementary School

PTO Meeting Agenda

November 17, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by Kimberly Kolbe



Welcome, President's Report, Kimberly Kolbe (15 minutes)

- Robert's Rules of Order
 - Each agenda section will have a time associated with it that we will stick with. If discussion is still ongoing or we do not solve the issues, we will table those for the next meeting.
 - All people attending the meetings that are SHE parents can vote.
- Read 4 Funds – was a huge success! We earned a little over \$12,000 and read a total of 61,596 minutes. We had originally cut our goal in half this year and the results exceeded our goal.
- New Website changes - We will be adding the Committee Chairs page and Staff Favorites Section
- Thank you to Catherine for organizing the Butter Braids sale and Holly, Kristen, and Jamie for helping with the Butter Braids pick up!
 - Catherine said this was the easiest process this year because everything was online. We will do this the same way next year. Online ordering and drive through pick up in front of the school were the new processes that we will stick with next school year.

Vice President's Report, Erin Finnin (3 minutes)

- Virtual Family Bingo
- Grant Approval – Chairback Buddy Pockets for Kindergarten - \$513
 - The PTO approved the kindergarten grant because they needed a decision so quickly. According to our Bylaws, The PTO team can do a vote in these circumstances.
 - Ms. Tait's Grant – this is for the 5th grade. An overhead projector/camera – This would make it easier to allow the kids online to see her do math problems. It costs \$69.99 and will benefit approximately 60 students. A vote was called with 13 yes and 0 no. Grant approved.
 - Ms. Norlin – 2nd and 3rd grade – Grant asking for a subscription for Kamie to be approved for teachers. Kamie is a system that allows you to upload PDF's into google classroom and allows teachers to make notations in it. Kids can download an extension to write directly on the document. Teachers can pull in large files or whatever they need to create new documents. It helps students that do not have printers to have their work saved. The cost is \$100 per classroom and the vote was for 2 teachers to receive the subscription at a total of \$200. Other teachers are using the free service at this time. A vote was called with 12 yes, 0 no – grant approved.

Treasurer's Report, Annaliese McLean (10 minutes)

2020-2021 Budget

- Income
 - Read 4 Funds (Checks and cash) - \$1,145
 - Spirit Wear - \$460.27
- Expenses
 - October Conference Dinner - \$419.82
 - 4th Grade Water - \$203.83

Secretary's Report, Tami Morling (1 minute)

- New PTO Newsletter

Principal's Report (5 minutes)

- We have had only 4 COVID-19 positive cases this school year but it decimates the teaching staff when we have to quarantine a class or admin. Had we been in the building last week, there would have been 34 staff out. We did not have enough coverage. It would be hard to run the building with so many people out. Parents have been helping us out as well. Mr. Roberson is hopeful that when we come back

in January, we will have a better handle on it. The teachers have a robust learning plan going on right now with e-learning and he is proud of how they are handling everything being thrown at them.

- A parent, Kimberly Bell, asked why there are so many people quarantined if there are only 4 cases. She questioned whether the school is not following CDC guidelines of 6 ft. social distance. Mr. Roberson explained that we are following the protocols that Douglas County School District has in place. Kimberly questioned again why teachers are not following the CDC guidelines of 6ft social distancing. Mr. Roberson explained that the district requires 3ft to 6ft, but we weren't able to hear anymore on his explanation as she interrupted him and asked who is making this rule. He started to list nurses, educators but could not continue as he was interrupted again by Kimberly requiring a list of these names of people at Soaring Hawk that have made this ruling. She mentioned that we are part of the cause of Douglas County closing in-person learning so she wants the names of every individual responsible for this decision. Mr. Roberson said he would email these names to her after the meeting.

SAC Report (10 minutes)

- Eric Allen, chairperson for the school accountability committee – a recording of the last meeting is available on the website.
- Fall Conferences – parents were pleased with how these were handled this time. They felt that that teachers provided good information and it was well received.
- Halloween celebration – parents were appreciative that everyone pitched in to make this a good experience for the kids. Thank you!
- Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 8th

Committees (10 minutes)

- Catherine – Butter Braids – Next school year will be Catherine's last year at Soaring Hawk so we need to find a replacement for the Butter Braids fundraiser Chair.
- Aurora Milstein – Committee Chair for 6th grade money earned from Yankee Candle last school year. This money was earmarked for the Avid trip that the 6th graders should have taken. She will be sharing ideas soon on how to use this money to benefit these students this school year.

Upcoming Events (2 minutes)

- Planning on holding a Virtual Bingo in January
- Papa Johns Spirit Night – November 18th
- No December PTO Meeting. January 12th will be the next PTO Meeting.

Parent Discussion (10 minutes)

- Parent with Concerns regarding Fundraising, Budget and Teacher Grants – Kimberly Bell
- **Below is a short recap of the conversation that took place. We understand that many people would like future meetings to be recorded and that is what we plan to do.**
 - Kimberly Bell wanted to bring up fundraising by the PTO team. There has not been school in person yet fundraising continues when nothing is happening. We are continuing this practice even though we are in a global pandemic. Parents have lost jobs and are struggling to make ends meet yet PTO is still fundraising regardless. We have shut down school with no notice, but we are still fundraising. Teachers are panhandling fundraiser in class to children which creates an environment of bullying to the parents of these children. She stated again that teachers are bullying parents with their actions. The PTO is acting unethical and not showing any empathy towards parents with fundraising and she wants this to end immediately.
 - Kimberly Kolbe explained that first, teachers are not responsible for fundraising at Soaring Hawk, they just support the PTO efforts. Secondly, fundraising is about choice not a requirement. There is not a rule in place that each family must participate, it is always a choice and does not reflect poorly on any student that is not participating. Kimberly Bell interrupted and asked if the PTO team ever says no to their children. Erin Finnin responded that they are new to the area and

she does tell her children no when they cannot do all of the fundraising. Kimberly Bell interrupted again and said that Erin is not showing empathy to the community. Erin explained that fundraising cannot go straight to the parents because we do not have access to all parent information and that is why we ask teachers for their support. Erin also explained that her family has been doing extra work in their household to make ends meet and she runs her own business and they have said no to their children on certain fundraisers. Kimberly Bell responded that this likely was not true at all.

- Kimberly Bell continued by stating that the PTO budget is laughable, we have too much money that is not being used. She said that since Erin has her own business, she should be ashamed of what our PTO budget looks like. It is a line of information without detail and her own house budget is much more detailed and professional looking. Kimberly Kolbe responded that the foundation that we are under oversees monitoring all expenses and incomes that PTO reports and that we are in good standing with the foundation financially. All information regarding income and expenses can be found in each month's meeting minutes. She also stated that she has told Kimberly Bell in numerous emails that going forward, we will vote on each fundraiser on our monthly PTO calls. If the consensus is that parents do or do not want the fundraiser in question, their voices will be heard.
- Catherine MacInnes asked Kimberly Bell if she realizes that the PTO team are all volunteers. Kimberly responded by calling her sweetheart, but it became difficult to understand everything being yelled back and forth with so many people talking at the same time. Kimberly Bell then stated that the PTO team is only doing the status quo and they don't have the ability to look beyond what has always been done. Ms. Wulf stepped in and explained that she takes offense at Kimberly calling the teachers bullies and then a lot of fighting erupted between teachers, parents, and Kimberly Bell. Ms. Kolojay told Kimberly that Douglas County was a free choice district and she can exercise her right to look at other schools to which Kimberly responded that she planned to do just that.
- Kimberly Bell stated that she will be reaching out to the media regarding all of her concerns. She also stated that Mr. Roberson had better get that list of names to her that she has requested after the call and she is not happy that his boss has not returned her many calls. She stated she is not to be trifled with and needs a response from his boss immediately.
- Kimberly Kolbe thanked Kimberly Bell for attending the meeting and that her concerns will be taken into consideration moving forward and ended the call, cutting off Kimberly Bell because her time was up – she moved to adjourn and Erin Finnin and Ms. Wulf seconded the motion.