Stoughton South Elementary School 

PTO Agenda

*September 12, 2023*

Welcome and introductions

* thank you notes from teachers
* calling meeting to order

| Allison Reddington - President’s & Kasey DiBiasio - VP’s Updates |
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* Approval of June meeting minutes - motioned and seconded - Allie introduced herself and the board members: Kasey, Abby, Tiffany (and point person for scholastic), Nancy, Jola, and Melanie and Dore and teacher reps Guay and Shute - also reminder to join fb group and fb chat - then everyone went around and introduced
* Upcoming at the South - lots of events before our next PTO meeting
  + 9/15 Online Spirit Wear Store Opens
  + 9/21 Early Release
  + 9/21 Back 2 School Night (w/ RNF Cookie Samples)
  + 9/23 1st Day of Fall, Textile Bin Reminder - when cleaning out, bring textiles to bin at school to help out our school and the environment
  + 9/25 RNF Cookie Fundraiser Begins
  + 9/25 PP Zoom Meeting, 8pm - great event for our school - last year over 500 people came and over 75 local businesses - this zoom meeting is a continuing planning meeting
  + 9/29 Classroom Rep Forms Due Lori will assign classroom reps following this date
  + 10/1 Spirit Wear Store Closes
  + 10/2 National Custodial Workers Recognition Day\*
  + 10/4 National Walk to School Day, Fall
  + 10/4 October PTO Meeting, 7pm
    - TY for the TEAMWORK!
* New Business
  + Welcome Families INFO
    - Fall Forms Sent Home (Including: who the pto is/how to get informed, what we do, volunteer opportunities, classroom reps, friendship directory, membership & upcoming events) - huge list of PTO info and community contributions - teamwork on this is so key and we’re able to give so much to the teachers and students - this was all stapled together and sent home for students and families - the friendship directory is a huge tool for families - only your class sees it and many use for birthday parties so good to include your info
  + Welcome Teachers INFO
    - Fall Forms for Teachers (Included a Welcome Back note with a DD GC, Favorite Things, Classroom Grant Letter & Form.. “New Hires” also received a welcome gift bag from the PTO) - every staff member at South were included in this (55 total) and we were able to acknowledge and welcome back with a coffee on the PTO and new teachers/staff got additional gift bags with water bottles (thanks Dore) and shirts (thanks Lori) to help give back to staff
  + PTO Events iCalendar - currently only for iphone users but you can see Allie to get added to it - if not dore’s weekly update should cover android
  + Time Capsule - 15 years ago put together and there will be an event this year to open the time capsule
  + JR’s Landscaping - School Front Project - huge supporter of us and PTO is investing in a new front area to be cleaned up (memorial area is staying) to beautify the school
  + GET PERSONAL with your PTO has kicked off! - each day over the beginning of the school year each PTO member gets a word shark of who they are to share more of who the PTO is with the school
* Old Business
  + Spring SUPPORT STAFF Giving Drive Follow Up\* - support staff includes guidance counseling, specialists, special education, speech, nurse, etc and our fundraiser now has money waiting to be spent
  + Nurse Kaplan, Water cooler NOW provided! - she’s loving her water cooler!
  + Theater Program - Mrs. Buck created the theater program and PTO invested in the 2022-2023 school year and has donated again this year so our students have opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise have
  + Kasey added: thank you this can seem overwhelming but Allie is a great resource and we are so happy for everyone to be involved

| Jola Tuck – Treasurer’s Updates |
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* Budget Vote 2023-2024 - raised 100,000 over the past 2 years and for spending its all stayed fairly consistent - some increases where we want to spend more - landscaping (4K line item - not permanent just for this year and moving forward it should be manageable to upkeep since we likely won’t be here forever and upkeep could be unnecessarily expensive - can put this in as current year special project and not landscaping so it can be for events that don’t roll year to year) and pumpkin patch to really invest in long term and school store and amounts for teacher grants
  + Motion to Approve Abby and seconded by Erin and all approved
* NEW Classroom Teacher Grants - only 2 in so far, can be emailed to PTO email address
  + Teachers used to have to pay $10 to qualify for the grant; now we’re asking them to pay with their time by just showing up and participating in events. Grant is $200
* Angel Fund (Shute) - when teachers need things, teachers will tell Mrs Shute and she will let us know - it is all confidential through Shute

| Melanie DiBiasio – Secretary’s Updates |
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* Website Updates
  + Sponsor Links from Donors - going to add a page for sponsors - Melanie is open to adding or changing anything to make it better and you can share them with her
* Red Sox - is there an interest in a community event in the fall? we will hold off til spring for more notice but maybe we’ll look to the fall in the spring?
* Recycled Mobile Home - Alex Eaves created a documentary called Reuse where he built a reused mobile home with a stoughton resident and are we interested in having the mobile home visit here? Nancy is going to look further into it

| Shauna Cristoforo, Abby Eustis, Jenney Ivaldi – Fundraising Updates |
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* Welcome - Hello and welcome, I’m 1/3rd of the team and happy to share some updates
* Spirit Wear - fundraiser we do through booster and its South School apparel that we hold in the Fall and Spring - we have tshrts, hoodies, quarter zips, hats, slouch beanies, fleece blankets, and totes, leggings, etc - fall and winter mostly for the Fall spirit wear store - flyer will go home on 9/14 and can be ordered from 9/15 til 10/1 and also great for holiday presents and ship directly to your house
* Rebecca’s Nut Free ([www.rebeccasnutfree.com](http://www.rebeccasnutfree.com)) - new fundraiser this year - local family owned business out of Ipswich and developed it because Rebecca couldn’t eat standard cookies - they offer so many different allergy free options and tons of flavors and decorating kits - can order online or via paper or mix! - with multiple kids you can combine orders - just one box gets home delivery for $10 and 4 boxes gets you free home delivery - starts 9/25 and ends 10/14 - school deliveries will need to be picked up on a specific date at the South - they can be stored in the freezer for 12 mos, fridge for 3 months, and can bake frozen
  + Tiffany assist
* Sharking Season (Until Winter Begins 12/21, or ground freezes) - Sara Levine runs the sharking and puts yard signs in someone’s yard for $25 - can do it for fun, for birthdays, etc. can do for yourself or for someone else
  + Add signage out front
  + New supplies ordered - new signs with more sharks and for birthdays
* Textile bin, how it works, spread the word! - you can put anything and everything! if its a textile it can go in - clothes, stuffed animals, purses - mass law states you can’t put textiles in trash so use the bin! shoes and everything!!
* Staples Connect (Teacher Rewards & Admin enrollment) - connect to staples reward to get 5% back and to choose the school as a whole or specific teacher to also get 5% back from your purchase - the store scans a barcode for you - Shute and Guay will work with teachers to get them signed up so they get funds to use for their class
* Pumpkin Patch Planning\* - we’ve been planning for a month now and created subcommittees and leads for them and this year we’re dividing labor and getting more people involved than ever! bake sale, food trucks, maybe inflatables, maybe touch a truck, vendors - all about community and local support- lots of raffles!! open to the whole community! if you can volunteer for even just an hour that is amazing!
  + Leads selected for each subcommittee
  + Letters mailed & Flyers sent home

| Nancy Nunez – Cultural Enrichment Updates |
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* Discovery Science Museum (Fall) - this will be week of 10/16 - they bring a science lab into every classroom - this takes a lot of planning to secure a spot and to spend this money - a unique opportunity that not every school gets - just a South School thing
* Whale Exhibit? (Spring) - this will end of January/beginning of February and attempting to get it for all classes - a large model whale made out of a school bus that kids can go in to to learn more about oceans etc - this is typically done over multiple days and need to figure out scheduling
* Garden Box\* - this is still being researched and looked into and the new building committee is looking to create something to this effect at the new school - this is being researched more thoroughly so that it can be accessed by all students K-5
  + Dore
* Parent Curriculum/ Homework Help Night - looking to do an informative night for families - as parents get frustrated helping their kids with homework, the PTO can offer a night to help guide parents through homework - lots of interest in attending such an event from those attending tonight
  + Laura Callis

| Tiffany White – Membership Updates |
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* Membership Updates - 50 members signed up already this year!! Reach out to any board member to help get set up
* SEPAC - Tiffany is secretary of Stoughton SEPAC that helps parents of students with special needs or any disability, on IEP etc and the group is trying to bring back more programming and community/school outreach - SEPAC is asking for small donation from PTOs in Stoughton to get them started with materials: printing, items for students - these materials will be used at the South - table during back to school night with info and printing and asking for $50-$100 - Tiffany will connect with Jola to specify amounts

| Mr. Dore & Teacher Reps - South School Updates |
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* Notes: We have grown to our largest start of year yet - starting the year with roughly 300 students - so much that the PTO contributes - it would be great to continue to see parents showing up for PTO meetings - thank you to Lori for last 2 years and Allie for work last year and kick off this coming year and to all PTO board members - welcoming old and new faces!
* Math Literacy Clocks - School or PTO Funded? - ms mccormick bought this special clock for her classroom to help students who struggle to read the clock and is asking if the PTO can purchase for 18 classrooms to help students learn to tell time - Shute and Guay to talk to teachers about amazon wishlists for teachers so that parents can contribute with purpose and not just give randomly
* Other - lots of new faces in the south school: added new classrooms - grade 5 miss savoy, 3 classrooms at K-4 grade level to keep class sizes low, new reading specialist (2!), new 2nd grade teacher, mrs sirk-nguyen is new K teacher to keep K extra small this year, ms burke meyer is new art teacher, mrs mcnalley cohen is new library teacher, miss rizzo is new math interventionist, 3 new paras on staff this year and in process of hiring 2nd school counselor due to moving numbers - almost every position we have is filled and had a great hiring season and added to our awesome veteran staff
* hope you all like the new format for the newsletter and hopes its more interactive - will be spotlighting new staff in the newsletter each week
* in future meetings will talk more about school improvement goals and mcas situation
* safety awareness pieces throughout the year - fire drills, social stories building up to drills and lock downs
* arrival and dismissal has been going really well and dore appreciates everyone doing their part to keep it moving
* back to school night coming up - do the cori form for a year and finger printing for 7 year window
* teachers asked to get field trips planned asap this year to prep for busses and dates
* thank you all for all your help reach out with questions
* guay and shute say thank you for welcome back gift

motion to adjourn - nancy

seconded and passed

**\*Volunteer(s) Needed**

***>> Next Meeting - October 4, 2023 <<***