

**Swift Creek Elementary
PTA Meeting
February 9, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**

This was a general membership meeting.

Attendees:

1. Marie Dexter
2. Lauren Nicholls
3. Sarah Mailhot
4. Megan Holler
5. Daryl Propst
6. Jenae Delayen
7. Juanita Francois
8. Jazzmone Sutton
9. Sarah Wohldmann
10. Deb Killion
11. Colleen Muldoon
12. Dana Boyer
13. Lisa Kropilak
14. Maggie Howard
15. Sam Allen
16. ShaRhonda Smith
17. Anju Jain
18. Kristen Sherman
19. Mrs. Fallon
20. Laura Monaghan
21. Erin Galloway
22. Alex Dreier
23. Annie Pilz
24. Rebecca Simpson
25. Tina Chadwick
26. Elizabeth Worthy

1. Call to Order
- Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm.
2. Approval of January Meeting Minutes
- Motion to approve by Sam Allen. - Megan Holler seconds the motion. - January minutes are approved.
3. P2 Budget Vote

- This is the 4th year that Swift Creek has been a part of the Positivity Project. It is still a non-profit. They started charging \$1,450 per year. As of January, they are going to start an incremental increase of the program.
 - 2021-2022 (\$1,995 per year)
 - 2022-2023 (\$2,995 per year)
 - 2023-2024 (\$3,795 per year)
- Is there a reason for the increase in price?
 - Their response was that they needed to increase because they have gotten more schools in the program and their overhead is increasing. They also need to maintain the materials.
- Can we use elements of the program?
 - It is not an option. We cannot wholesale use theirs without paying for the program.
- What exactly do the resources include?
 - We get access to their P2 google drive that has access to readings, books, and materials that go along with the P2 curriculum. It is a lot of PowerPoint slides explaining the character trait.
- Do all the teachers who use it think it is worth the new price tag?
 - We have not had an opportunity to speak with teachers about the price increase.
 - ACTION: Mr. Propst/Chadwick is going to bring this up to the staff.
- Are there any other similar programs that we can substitute P2 for?
 - There were 3 different programs we narrowed down to when we were evaluating different projects. Ultimately we decided to go with P2. We have really positive school data that supports this program and the positive impact it has had on our school.
- From Tina Chadwick: What we discovered through conversations, surveys, and comparisons is that the new price point is lower than many other SEL organizations -- and the facts that P2 is digital and all-inclusive are unique (i.e. no tiered menu of options, such as extra costs for Spanish resources, virtual-friendly activities, P2 for Families). From a sustainability perspective, what also became apparent through this months-long analysis is that our prices were too low to simply maintain the quality of our current resources -- and also continue to innovate and enhance our future resources. Simply stated, if we don't raise prices, we will have a hard time surviving in the future. And, we certainly could not be as responsive to adapting our resources Partner Schools' needs as we are right now.
- Megan Holler: I wonder if we can find out how the other participating WCPSS schools are responding to the increase? Perhaps we can work together to explore other options, if they exist?
- How far out do you have to commit (ie - is it an annual renewal?)
 - It's an annual renewal - due in April

- Mr. Propst asks that if we decide to go a different route, he would like to know as soon as possible to help decide/create a new plan.
- Alex Dreier shared a resource:
<https://casel.org/preschool-and-elementary-edition-casel-guide/>
- Annie Pilz mentioned that it is first and foremost for the children and we see the positive impact it has.
- Are students visually benefiting from the program in the same way as children in person?
 - Yes. Students who are virtual are receiving the same material as those in-person.
- Vote on P2 Budget increase of \$245 for next school year
 - Sarah Mailhot motions to approve
 - Maggie Howard seconds the motion
 - P2 Budget has been approved.

4. Recent Spending for New Staff

- New classroom teachers since the beginning of the year
 - Mrs. Ruiz -- in person teacher for CCK
 - Mr. Young -- 5th grade
- At the beginning of the year, we gave classroom teachers a \$125 Amazon gift card.
- We had enough money in the budget (\$250) to give cards to Mrs. Ruiz and Mr. Young.

5. Grade Level Grants

- PTA allocates \$500 to each grade level and \$300 for each specialist
- Staff if you need to know the balance for your grade level grant, contact Dana Boyer at treasurer.swiftcreek@gmail.com
- For anything you purchase, you need to complete a Reimbursement form and complete receipts.
- Reimbursement forms are available on the PTA website.

6. Watch DOGS

- Ideas for getting Dads involved:
 - Ask Dads to record themselves reading a book on FlipGrid
 - Dads would be interested in participating!
 - March is reading month and I think teachers would welcome it!
- Second Grade does a book bracket. Could we do something like that to make it more schoolwide and have the dads read those books?
- Dads could sign up on Sign-Up Genius and record themselves on FlipGrid.
- Whoever is running this program - reach out to Sarah Mailhot. Sam Allen will reach out to her tomorrow morning.

7. Garden Updates

- Currently identifying plants for Spring
- Creation of a Pollinator garden

- We found a space behind the school to create a pollinator garden to help target the monarch population and get registered for the Monarch program.
- We are hoping to get that cleaned up in early March and get them planted with the garden.
- New cover for strawberry garden
 - THANK YOU to Matt Howard!
 - We paid \$500 using money from the Whole Kids Foundations Grant to pay for this structure.
- With students returning to school, our hope is to get them in the garden. We also hope to bring ChromeBooks so we can share with VA students in live meets and pictures.

8. Yearbook News

- 5th Grade Dedications due Feb 28
- Send candid photos to Sarah Wohldmann at yearbookpics.sce@gmail.com
- You can purchase a yearbook through TreeRing. If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook for a student who cannot afford one, you have two options:
 - Order through TreeRing. For the student name, use Swifty Cougar.
 - Donate to Care and Share in MemberHub.

9. Swift Creek Spirit Night: Tomorrow

- Celebrate Valentine's Day with a heart-shaped pizza!
- 25% of all sales are donated to Swift Creek PTA!
- Address: 161 SE Cary Parkway, Cary

10. Shower Someone with Flowers

- MemberHub (the PTA database) offers promotions that can earn money for PTA.
- For Valentine's Day, you can get a discount on flowers! You will get \$30 worth of flowers for only \$15 at FTD.com.
- PLUS, when you order, a portion of the proceeds goes to the PTA.
- <https://swiftcreek.memberhub.store/store/s/ftd/ftd>

11. Small Business Directory

- Many of our families own small businesses, which have been negatively impacted by the pandemic.
- We would like to support our families during this time. We are creating a small business directory on the PTA website.
- If you are a small business owner and you have a child at Swift Creek, please share your business information at tinyurl.com/scesBusiness

12. Nominating Committee

- Nominating committee is accepting nominations for next year.
- We are specifically looking for Committee Chairs:
 - Advocacy

- Reflections
- 5th Grade Chair

13. Cultural Art Performance

- Our last cultural arts performance will be about origami from Yasu Ishida.
- Your child received 10 squares of origami paper so he or she can participate in the performance.
- This performance is supported by a grant from the United Arts Council and your Fun Run Donations!
- Performance Times:
 - 1:20 K-2
 - 2:30 3-5
- BIG THANKS to April Bartley

14. Decorating School

- The theme is: Teachers are ALL Heart
- You can contribute:
 - Sidewalk Chalk
 - Posters
- You are welcome to come during that time to decorate or if you have posters, I am happy to pick them up from your house. Text me at 919-602-9993. While on campus, we will be observing school protocols (masks and social distancing).

15. February 16: Materials Distribution

- For VA students in 3rd grade and ALL students in 4th & 5th.
- You will **turn in EL books** that your child has been using and exchange them for new books.
- You need to return these books:
 - 3rd: Rain School, Nasreen's Secret School, Everything You Need to Know about Frogs, Bullfrog at Magnolia Circle
 - 4th: Love That Dog, Animal Defenses
 - 5th: The Most Beautiful Road in the World, Esperanza Rising

16. Return to School: Feb 17 Plan B Students

- All K-3 return for daily instruction starting Feb 17
- Cohorts for 4 & 5 grades:
 - Cohort 2 : Feb 17-19
 - Cohort 3: Feb 22, 23, 25, 26 (Wednesday is Asynchronous Day)
 - Cohort 1: March 1 -5 (No async day)

17. Black History Month

- Mr. Propst is sharing clues about a famous African American every day during the month of February. Each week highlights a new person.
- At the end of February, email your guesses for the 4 famous people to SwiftytheCougar@gmail.com. There will be one winner for each grade level. Prizes will be delivered by Swifty!
- We are trying to keep track of the clues on the PTA website.

- <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/black-history-month.html>

18. Spring Book Fair

- Look at mid-March for the book fair
- It will be virtual this year

19. Upcoming Events

- February 11: Cultural Arts Performance
- February 10: Spirit Night at Papa Murphy's 1-8 pm
- February 15: Calendar Out Day
- February 16: Teacher Work Day
- February 17: Staff Appreciation (Our Staff is All Heart!)
- February 23: BOG for VA 3rd graders
- February 28: Deadline for 5th grade yearbook dedications
- March 9: 6:30 pm Next PTA Meeting
- March 11: Spring Pictures Virtual Academy Students
- March 25: Virtual International Night

20. Principal's Report

- Back to School Reminders
- BOG?
- We would love to have a sub lined up. They would work for 30 hours a week to fill in for teachers who have to quarantine.
- We also have an open position for an instructional assistant.
- Future School Rebuild:
 - It is still in the books. We are looking around the 2023-2024 school year. That is still subject to change.
 - We would be in a temporary facility at that time. Years ago it was a facility in Garner but that could change.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

--Minutes taken by PTA Secretary Lauren Nicholls.