

Sangster PTA Meeting Minutes – Feb. 7, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Whitestone at 7:05 p.m. There were 14 people in attendance.

Special Presentation – Using iPads in Classroom

Ms. Lambert did a presentation about the endless uses of iPads in the classroom. She highlighted apps for practice, organization and notetaking; quick access to Blackboard; using during Falcon Time. Give exit ticket poll online ("What did you learn in class today?") Online chat to discuss class material while others are finishing. Virginia SOL practice tests.

Goal is to discuss purchasing a cart of 30 iPads and set targets for future purchases.

Ms. Lambert will speak with Mark Marsden about adding a list of education-friendly apps to the Sangster PTA Web site.

Minutes

The minutes of the January meeting were approved on a voice vote.

Principal's Update

- Report cards went home today. Contact your child's teacher with questions.
- The dome theater came in January, and the kids loved it.
- We completed our lockdown drill, which went well.
- On Jan. 24, a hot water pipe in the kitchen exploded and flooded the cafeteria and kitchen. Kids evacuated; teachers were sent inside to pick up some coats. All the food had to be replaced. The county did a great job fixing everything overnight.
- School board did vote on the AAP -- they voted to expand only the overcrowding at certain schools; we will remain the same.
- Parents have asked about our start and end times -- he has not heard about any proposed change.
- Safety and security -- continue to discuss Web cam/closed circuit television or other options for security at the front door. Be vigilant -- look for visitor stickers on others or ID badges.

Assistant Principal's Update

- First grade Naglieri results just came in today; CogAts came in last week.
- Tomorrow is the deadline for referrals for Level IV services.
- Fifth- grade writing SOL soon. Default method for SOLs is online. Multiple choice March 14. Short paper the next day. Handful of kids take a paper/pencil test -- individual letters will be sent out with those dates.
- We had parent preview for 4th grade FLE this week -- lesson will be Feb. 13.
- Feb. 22 is spring pictures.
- Jump rope for heart after school same day.
- State allowing any student in grades 3-5 can take the math SOL test over 2 days.

Business Matters

- 25th anniversary celebration -- celebrating 25 good deeds with acts of kindness. Want kids to understand how easy and quick a good deed can be but have far-reaching effects. Will also have a "spirit week" with themed days – check the newsletter.
- Dome was great -- thanks to those who volunteered. A motion was made to approve funding one of the 2 days for the dome next year. The motion was approved on a voice vote.
- Hullabaloo -- they were doing Lego club and science club -- they have closed their Northern Virginia location.
- Pyramid Challenge -- there is some discussion to bring it back in the spring. But with the Sangster Fun Run, we may want to focus on this event instead.

- Nominating Committee has to be formed for the coming year. Contact Linda if you are interested in serving on the committee.

Treasurer

The reconciled checking account balance for 12/31 was \$68,297. The reconciled checking account balance for 1/31 was \$61,339.

We have a budget amendment, since we have an extra \$2,900 in fundraising and an extra \$5,000 from cost savings with electronic sign. We are discussing allocating these funds to technology, furniture replacement, and buildings and grounds. A motion to approve the budget amendment passed on a voice vote.

We have a tech budget of \$13,900. Propose that we focus on purchasing one cart of iPads (30). The motion to approve this proposal was approved on a voice vote.

Committee Reports

- Menne Dodd said that the new rules that govern student participation and how the artwork is handled caused an unexpected increase in the costs of Reflections this year and the Reflections' Virginia PTA Guide for Local PTA suggests to increase visibility and support of the PTA Reflections program by promoting said program in the awards recognition celebration. Therefore, Menne asked if there could be a budget allocation to increase the promotion of Reflections.
- Joyce -- gave budget for Fun Fair to Linda. Will have Mark add some items to the web site. Need volunteers for cake walk, pizza sales, ticket orders, etc. Also interested in finding a co-chair.
- Robyn -- This week is school counselor's week. Now have the dessert extravaganza -- there is a sign-up genius.
- Military Spouses Group -- looking at doing field day with Wounded Warriors again.

Dates to Remember

- Nana Puddin -- March 20

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33