Stoughton South Elementary School 

PTO Agenda

*December 6, 2023*

**Welcome, THANK YOUS & Introductions**

| Allison Reddington - President’s & Kasey DiBiasio - VP’s Updates |
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* Approval of November meeting minutes: Motion for approval, Approved
* Introductions of everyone in the group
* Upcoming at the South
  + 12/5-12/7 Scholastic Book Fair
  + 12/7 Early Release
  + 12/13 @3pm School Counsel
  + 12/15 @9am K-3 Concert Make sure to get here early for parking on the 15th
  + 12/19 Holiday Breakfast for Teachers\*
  + 12/20 @9am 4th & 5th Chorus & Band Concert
  + 12/21 Shark Season ENDS Sharking season is officially over with the frozen ground! Thanks to Bri Gurney, Sara Levine, and Nicole Thompson.
  + 12/21 1st Day of Winter, Textile Bin Reminder
  + 12/22 Early Release
  + 12/25-1/1 Winter Break
  + ⅓ PTO Meeting
* Old Business (Updates & Follow-Ups)
  + PP TY Banner, moved indoors for long term display Still hung for long term viewing, moved to the inside of the cafetorium
  + PP TY Notes, 39 Mailed, 46 to go\* If anyone can help, please reach out to Allie
  + Amazon Classroom Wish Lists, Still Accepting & Sharing (Pinned) These are all in the Facebook group! There is no expiration date on sharing the wish lists!
    - Can also be shared by classroom reps!
  + PTO Presidents w/ Superintendent 11/30, Summary Between now and January 3, please reach out to Allie if you have any concerns you’d like brought up during that meeting. The last meeting focused largely on safety and how safety drills are changing and are a top priority for the school to keep students safe.
    - Next Meeting 1/4/24 Thoughts & Questions are Welcomed
  + Parents Math Night Supplies, Fulfilled This event was a major success!
  + 2/18 P Bruins Game, Tickets Still Available, Link Fixed Tickets are $22/ticket, if you register in advance get a free hat, can buy tickets up to 30 minutes ahead of time
  + Teacher Anniversaries Milestones, How to Honor & Acknowledge
    - Glass Plaques Presented at a SHARK assembly? Dore was okay with this idea, executive board would come in and present the award to the teachers with milestones
      * Johnson & Russell, 30th
  + Time Capsule, Spring 2024, Mary Reese - Mary Reese has the location of the time capsule and she, as well as Mr. Russell, will help to dig up the capsule. The timing of this event will depend on snow days, but will occur closer to the very end of the year.
    - Do we Want to RePlant one? Where? We may want to wait and make one as a new community, part of the inaugural year at the new school.
  + Lori Jacques: Big thank you to everyone who helped with Friendship Directories! New contacts can still be added through classroom reps.
* New Business
  + South PTO Welcomes SuperIntendent, Dr. Baeta, to our meeting!
    - Welcome! Lifelong Stoughton Resident and proud to have become the new Superintendent. Graduated SHS 1988. Big supporter of the school as a town meeting member over the years. Worked in Norton for 10 years and worked on grad rate and college acceptance rate and pushed to increase in district special education programs. Came to Stoughton in a bit of a different way and is excited to be here. Stoughton’s number one issue is our lack of telling the story. There’s a great story here and we’re not telling it to those who vote. The education system is seen as taking, when we’re doing more giving and just not telling that. Demographic shift has taken place and we have a huge portion of ELL/FLEP students - Brazilian and Portuguese students, as well as a large number of Ukrainian and Russian students. Stoughton is known for its diversity linguistically. Keeping students and staff safe is his number one job and telling the story is what he sees as his number two job.
    - Family/parent survey will be sent out about the district in upcoming weeks. Allows parent and teacher and student views to all be looked at together.
    - FY25 Budget is being looked at to fix areas that aren’t right. Information about this will be forthcoming. He expects there to still be a lot of state support but taxpayers need to be asked to share this cost as well. Some examples of this include the buses that transport kids. He fully supports that buses are free and that fees have been removed for families to participate in school activities.
    - The most important thing beyond budget and safety is the building project. We’re going to put together a Parent PAC to support it. Final numbers will come in around February, but looking at 100 million plus. Part of this will be reimbursed by the state. Redistricting is going to have to happen no matter what because schools are overcrowded. (This would happen over the next few years if the vote doesn’t pass. This typically takes 2-3 years.) With this new school, the new building is going to serve the community and with the money from the state is going to give us more for our money. Many people in Stoughton are renters and this tends to be an area where we see no votes and we’ll need to target those voters. Further, moving away from neighborhood schools and we will have to tackle this issue. It is not financially feasible to build multiple schools and also not feasible not to build a new school. The South needs $40 million in repairs to last for a bit longer, but it wouldn’t be enough. We’ve done a poor job in Stoughton in waiting for MSPA projects and not fixing problems when they arise. There will be a huge push to vote for this and it will be hard to pull ALL voters to care about 1 elementary school. Baeta can’t participate politically but he can vote and he can lead the charge for the project. Looking at the budget, the money for this project is part of operational budget not part of curriculum or other funds. Taxes will cover the cost for the new building until it is paid off. Home values go up 12-15% in the first two years after building a new building - sometimes more - but no town that has built a new school has seen any less of an increase.
    - My job as an educator is to educate all the children who are in the town.
    - Reach out to Dr. Baeta at any time: [j\_baeta@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:j_baeta@stoughtonschools.org) and he has office hours as well - both virtual and in person.
  + Holiday Breakfast\*
    - Abby, Jenney & Lori - Sign Up Genius to sign up to bring treats in for the teacher breakfast and to volunteer to help out at the breakfast is almost filled! Nonperishable items can be dropped off the day before (12/18), but perishable items should be dropped off the morning of at 7:30 am. Kids can make happy holidays signs (any size is great!) to hang up in the teacher breakfast room.
  + Jan 3rd Meeting, Keep or push back 1 week? Keeping at January 3rd
  + Teacher Birthday Calendar Along with the PTO Calendar, teachers and staff who shared their birthdays will have them on a calendar as an extra opportunity for the community to celebrate them.
  + Pto Volunteer, Budget Line Item Idea Purposed Planting a seed for the future to consider having a budget line item to provide food/snacks to volunteers at events.
  + Pot of Gold Challenge, New Rewards Needed (Medallions Preferred)
  + Fun Run T-Shirts, Deadline 12/18 Starting to solicit sponsors now to begin to plan for and order the t-shirts for the fun run
    - Large/Center Logo & Bright Colors
    - Green (K), Blue (1), Red (2), Gold (3), Orange (4), Gray (5), Black (Staff)
  + Additional Business: There will be a gingerbread building event at the Stoughton Public Library on 12/23 - open to the public and totally free but if you want to make donations to the South PTO you can!

| Jola Tuck – Treasurer’s Updates |
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* Budget Notes, Profit & Loss as of 11/30/23
  + Teacher Grant, Updated
  + Popcorn Friday, Updated
  + Textile Bin, Summary

| Melanie DiBiasio – Secretary’s Updates |
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* More Website Updates Coming
  + Sponsor Links from Donor
  + Get Personal with your PTO
* December Newsletter, Released 12/2/23

| Abby Eustis & Jenney Ivaldi – Fundraising Updates |
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* Scholastic Book Fair\* Tiffany has been such a rockstar for putting the book fair together and even under difficult circumstances made it a huge success!!
  + Tiffany White: Thank you so much to the parent support!! We got a book in every child’s hand (even those that had no money got to pick a book and be a part of the fair) and did really overall with our profit earnings!
* Ongoing Fundraiser Reminders:
  + Sharking (Until Winter Begins 12/21, or ground freezes) - Ground has frozen!
    - Sara Levine, Bri Gurney & Nicole Thompson
  + Textile Bin - Any textile - even couch cushions or pillow! - can be put into the bin!
  + Staples CONNECT, Missing lots of South Teachers! - You can do this online or in person!
    - Mrs. Shute & Ms. Guay, Please Remind Staff
  + Walmart SPARKS, Follow-Up Post-Poned until January Meeting
    - Jola Tuck
* Rebecca’s Nut Free, Update/Summary & Feedback
  + Tiffany White
* Holiday Store, Event Summary & Feedback - Items are purchased for $2 and sold for $3 and we raised $4,700! Every single child were able to get the people in their households gifts - no one walked away empty handed because of the angel fund.
  + Melanie Lenhardt
* Fall School Store, Summary & Ticket Feedback - made over $800 from selling very inexpensive items! Going to move to a more scheduled visiting and relocating to the gym. Also will taking pictures of and showing them some of the items ahead of time to cut down on the time in the store.
  + Beth Letterio
* SpiritWear, Summary & Status Update *(Since Nov Meeting)* - profited $277.85
  + 11/2 Shipped to School & Distributed
    - 11/30 Back Ordered Items, Delivered
    - Corrected Bag Orders, Still Processing

| Nancy Nunez – Cultural Enrichment Updates |
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* Potential Future In-House Enrichment (?) - will provide future updates
  + Whale Exhibit, Recycled Mobile Home, etc.
* Parent Math Curriculum/ Homework Help Night, Summary & Feedback - Event went very well!
  + Laura Callis & Nicole Murphy
* Garden Box\*(?) - Pushing this off to a later date
  + Ms. Gabriels

| Tiffany White – Membership Updates |
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* Membership Updates - No updates

| Mr. Dore & Teacher Reps - South School Updates |
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* Signage, Update - New parking and dismissal area signage will be here in January
* New 4th & 5th Pick-Up Procedures, Update - This have been in place since Thanksgiving and they’ve gone well so far!
* Solar Lights on Sign, Update - Working to find some options to update this
* Spring ‘23 SUPPORT STAFF Giving Drive, Follow-Up
  + Mrs. Shute’s Purchases (shared on FB)
* Vote for Spring Play SHS FT, All School - Holding off on vote for now
* Top Elementary Schools, MA - Exciting news! We were one of two elementary schools on list of US News and World Reports Best Schools - the South was ranked #111! Our school continues to perform well which is great! Now we are eligible for signage and we are looking to use some funds from the PTO to purchase these signs - one for outside and one for inside - and they will run under $1,000. Motion made to approve $1,000 for signage, seconded, and then voted unanimously in favor of and approved!

**\*Volunteer(s) Needed**

***>> Next Meeting - January 3, 2024 <<***