Stoughton South Elementary School 

PTO Agenda

*September 11, 2024*

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| Allison Reddington (President) & Kasey DiBiasio (VP) |

* Approval of June meeting minutes Motion by Allison, second Sara Levine; approved
* Upcoming at the South
  + 9.16 Pumpkin Patch Zoom Meeting PP event Sunday 10/20 12-4pm, this is both a fundraiser & community event. Lots of fun stuff – games, prizes, haunted house (back for the first time in many years!), local vendors, food, raffles, bake sale and more!
    - This year there will also be a ‘book grab’ at the Pumpkin Patch because we have many book donations and no library to house them in
  + 9.16 Play-Doh Day
  + 9.19 Early Release & Back to School Night Visit us at the PTO table for prizes and to answer questions about building project
  + 9.23 1st Day of Fall - Textile Bin Reminder! Emptied every Wednesday! If it’s full please wait til the next Thursday to drop stuff off. Don’t leave things on the ground!
  + TBA - Fall Spirit Wear Store Opens Online Announcement coming soon!
  + 10.2 Custodial Workers Recognition Day
  + 10.2 PTO Meeting
* Old Business
  + End of Year Gifts Given to Admins (Flowers & GCs)
  + Donation Collected for theater - Thank you to the Janelli Family
  + Art Supply Closets, Update
  + Welcome K Families, K Meet & Greet, Recap
* New Business
  + FYI -> Critical Docs & Resources 📌 Pinned on PTO FB
  + Teacher Welcome Gift, Grants & Favorites forms
  + Amazon Classroom Wish Lists, 📌 Pinned on PTO FB
    - * Submit list to AllieReddington@gmail.com
  + New Elementary School VOTE (Petitions Due 10.31.24)
    - Lori Jacques
    - 8/13 we were informed by MSBA that we got an extension on the $48MM grant so we can revote on April 1 (town election)
    - As part of the extension we were asked to obtain 3,000 signatures, and as of now we only have 700. Need to get these by end of October
      * We will be at Stoughton Day, Pumpkin Patch, Back to School night, and more
      * We need help – getting petition signatures and donations
    - School Committee & Building Committee are charged with helping get the information out around town
    - Special Town Meeting in November – we will be on the agenda
    - Selectboard needs to vote yes on this before we can get to re-vote, so it is imperative we show support. Everyone should go to Selectboard meeting and make public comment, spread the word around town, and help get signatures.
    - Average voting age of people who went to polls on June 11 was 60. We need to get our families out to the polls.
    - Information sheet is being worked on to be shared, as well as a new website with updated data including a plan for what will happen to existing building and other FAQ
    - Redistricting – Dr. Baeta is putting together a committee, inviting families from each of the schools
      * This will happen whether or not we get a new school
      * Plan is for students to be at new schools in September 2026 based on redistricting
  + Fall Spirit Wear Store, Changes & Info
  + Fall Forms - What to return & when
  + Fall Landscaping, Complete Fence added so kids don’t destroy it 😊
  + Pumpkin Patch 10/20\*
  + Bulletin Board If anyone wants to manage this or has ideas for it, please let Allison know!
  + Popcorn Fridays – consider cleaner ingredient statement?
    - Kernels, coconut oil & salt
  + First Tuesday of every month @ 6pm – coding nights at the library with Dr. Laura Callis
    - Ages 7-12
    - Register on library website (sign up even if there’s a waitlist)

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| Jola Tuck (Treasurer) |

* **🗳️ Vote 2024-2025 Budget Motion to Approve: Sara, 2nd: Kasey – unanimous approval**
* Additions by request include: 4th Grade Recipe Book, Sweetheart Dance, etc.
* Brought down fundraising total because we cancelled fall fundraiser to focus energy on Pumpkin Patch
* Decided against charging for Popcorn Fridays, PTO will fully fund
* Expected fundraising totals are consistent with last 2 years (~$100K)
* Increased Book Fair expenses to add more book giveaways and funding for Read Across America Day
* Increased bussing for field trips due to increasing bus costs + cost of bussing pen pals to Hansen this year
* Adding community events but keeping funding the same
* Increased high school scholarships from $1,000 to $2,000 (awarding 2 winners, $1000 each)
* Fun Run & end of year incentives = included in “Fun Run expense”
* In house programs (Discovery Museum, Whale Exhibit) + $500 to each grade for their own special programming
  + Note: teachers can also ask us to use the PTO credit card for the $500 rather than being reimbursed if they prefer.
* PTO supplies – added funding for new website platform
* Teacher Grants – were $200 since 2015; feeling like we should increase due to inflation
  + Last year only 16 teachers participated, so we could keep total budget line the same but give $300 to each teacher
* Consider adding funding to field trips to cover more costs or chaperone costs? To reduce barrier to entry
* Walmart Sparks, Status Update: Summer project
* Dues to be collected: PTO Membership
  + Popcorn Ordered, NO Charge to families (New)
* Reimbursement Forms, NEW – fill out the form for any reimbursement requests – this is for teachers, volunteers, etc.

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| Melanie DiBiasio (Secretary) |

* Website, Updates
  + NEW WEBSITE! 🤩
* INFO RESOURCES:
  + Shark Parents FB Messenger DM Group
  + Facebook
    - Stoughton South Elementary School
    - Committee for Better Stoughton Elementary Schools
  + PTO Website
    - southschoolPTO.com
  + Admin Texts & eMails
  + Flyers
  + School Message Board Sign & Banners (carline)
  + PTO Newsletter
    - email [southptostoughton@gmail.com](mailto:southptostoughton@gmail.com) to be added
  + Classroom Reps
    - Requires participation in Friendship Directory

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| Abby Eustis & Jenney Ivaldi (Fundraising Chairs) |

* Shark Season - Book Special Dates (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Graduation, etc!) Yard signs to decorate your yard at night for a fun surprise in the morning! We do this until the ground freezes.
  + email [southptostoughton@gmail.com](mailto:southptostoughton@gmail.com) & venmo @SouthSchool-PTO-1 to order
* Textile Bin - Emptied on Wednesdays Please don’t leave stuff on the ground outside!
* Box Tops For Education - Download the App, Select our School & Scan Receipts! This is now super easy to do, via mobile app
* Walmart SPARKS -> Treasurer Determined this was not worth it to invest in
* Book Fair Dates for Fall -> 10.28-10.30 (Setup & Pack Up too)\* We tried to line this up with conferences but unfortunately that isn’t working out.
* Dining4$\* - Melissa Lynch First one will be at Chateau on the day of Parent/Teacher conferences. 20% of order goes toward the South PTO

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| Sara Levine (Cultural Enrichment Chair) |

* THIS YEAR, we look forward to:
  + Whale Exhibit, Grades 3-5, 10.7
  + Discovery Museum, Grades K-2, 10.15-10.17
  + Pumpkin Patch 10.20
  + Parents Math Night 11.14
  + Cultural Night, 1.9 5:30pm – 7pm - (BackUp dates: 1.16, 1.23)
  + Sweetheart Dance, 2.12 (2) or 2.13 (1) (Poll) Execute poll on Shark Parents
  + Bingo Night 3.13
  + Parents Night Out, TBD
  + Dr. Mary - Family Health & Wellness Event, TBD \*School Council, School Improvement Plan
  + Garden Box & Compost Project, TBD w/ 4th Grade Staff

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| Michelle Frost (Membership Chair) |

* New & Returning Members
* Classroom Reps
  + Lori

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| Mr. Dore, Ms. Buckley & Ms. Savoie (Admins & Staff) |

* Time Capsule Unveiling, TBD
* Anniversaries Milestone Award for 24-25 Year
* Fix old Speakers? 🔊 (Curley, summer project)
* PTO Plaque, Complete
* 24-25 School Council preferred meeting dates & times, Update
  + Meetings will remain at 3pm but will have a virtual attendance option. All are welcome.
  + 2024-25 dates: September 18, October 16, November 13, December 11, January 15, February 12, March 12, April 16, May 14
  + There is an open board position and interested parties should attend the upcoming meeting next Weds (9/18) at 3pm
* Other School Updates
* Welcome new PTO reps Ms. Savoie and Ms. Buckley! 😊
* Friday Updates – families should keep an eye out and read these for important information, especially regarding pickup procedures and safety!
  + Default will be to put kids on the bus at the end of the day if staff is unclear on which is the preferred pickup protocol on any given day
  + If alternate pickup option is being chosen or alternate person is coming to pick up your child please be sure to notify the classroom teacher AND CC Mr. Dore and Mrs. Fitzgerald **no later than 1pm on that day**
* BTS Night 9/19 – there are 2 sessions, back to back so you can go to one or the other – they are the same content (6-6:43 and 6:45-7:30). Kids are welcome but this event is moreso for parents to get information about the school year.
  + Note, not all specialists can attend given that they are shared between schools, so if there is a particular specialist you want to meet with you should reach out to them via email to set up a time.
* School arrival procedure: if kids are being dropped off after **8:30am** you MUST park and walk into the building with them to sign them in. If this is not followed you will get a call from the school to return and come back to sign them in. This is a safety issue and we appreciate all families’ cooperation.
* Chronic absenteeism = 4+ absences per term
  + This is a big issue in the district, communication will be shared if your student exceeds this threshold. It is not personal but the goal is to keep kids in school as much as possible to address the issue.
* Theater program TBD– there is currently no after school programming at elementary level but we are trying to work around this and still run the program
  + The email that went out earlier in the year was an interest form only, not a registration form. More info should be coming soon.

**\*Volunteer(s) Needed**

***>> Next Meeting - October 2, 2024 <<***