

9-25 South Elementary Home and School Meeting
September 16, 2025, 7:00pm-8:00pm
South Elementary Library

	Details
Opening Remarks	Annette welcomed everyone to the September 2025 Home and School Meeting. A sign in sheet was circulated. The meeting began at 7:01pm. A brief round of introductions was conducted around the room.
Budget	Gabi Lopez presented the 2025-2026 proposed budget. Total forecasted expenses total \$22,935, net revenue estimated at \$365. Primary revenue sources include walk-a-thon and spirit nights. H&S made a large donation to the outdoor classroom last year; no outlier expenses forecasted for 2025-2026. Anticipated ending cash is \$17,665. Annette highlighted walk-a-thon proposed income at \$10,000 but hoping to exceed. Annette and Gabi addressed questions; \$2,000 budgeted for 5th grade celebration; projected \$1,000 worth of fundraising and \$1,000 coming from H&S. Teacher appreciation expenses anticipated at \$1,200 based on what was spent last year. Welcome breakfast anticipated \$100 in donations, \$300 in expenses; budget was developed prior to event. In actuality, H&S received \$170 in donations, so expenses were less than forecasted. Gabby motioned to approve the 2025-2026 H&S budget. Meredith seconded. Motion carried.
Teacher's Liaison Report	No updates.
Principal's Report	Mrs. O'Sullivan provided the principal's report. School year is off to a great start. Mrs. O'Sullivan has been riding buses; she has been on 7 of 10 buses so far with the goal of building community and setting expenses. Benchmarking for students has started; parents will be receiving more information about results in the coming weeks. Safety week is underway; students are practicing safety drills. Fire Drill on Monday, Shelter drill was today, secure, hold, and lockdown will be next. Teachers are having age-appropriate conversations with children about these procedures. Fire drills are conducted monthly, and there will be an additional safety week in the Spring. Hello Week starts next week, which comes from the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation. Initiative to create a sense of belonging; students will be wearing nametags to encourage greeting each other by name, and should wear green on Friday. Construction on the outdoor classroom should be starting in the next 5 days. Targeting to have it completed by the walk-a-thon.
Completed Business	Annette reviewed completed business, including: ● Barnyard meet and greet raised \$62 ● Teacher's breakfast was held on 8/21

	• Welcome Back Event included contributions from Handel's totaling \$235. Awaiting an update from food truck.
Upcoming Business	• Spirit wear sale ongoing through Sept 21st • Handel's spirit night will be held on Sep 29th from 3-9pm. Flyer will go home next week. The event was originally scheduled for 9/22 and has been moved to 9/29. • Annette noted that most H&S communications go home on orange flyers. • Honeygrow spirit night scheduled for Oct 15th, all day. • Mrs. O'Sullivan noted that South will be having a career day on Oct 31st. Looking for parents and family members to speak to classes about their careers. Students are encouraged to dress up as their favorite career. Exploring opportunities for small career dress up accessories like fire hats, chef hats, etc. Another parent shared that Firebirds has been expanding their outreach and passing out chef hats. • Walk-a-thon scheduled for 10/10, rain date 10/17.
Upcoming Business	• Brooke Mulartrick is in her second year of planning walk-a-thon. Brooke reviewed slide deck; walk-a-thon is largest fundraiser of the year. There will be a 2 week period of fundraising leading up to the event. Walk-a-thon is held at South on the back fields. Class color assignments and schedule will be sent home prior to the event on the 25th. • This year H&S is raising money for a book vending machine. This initiative was spurred by the PV Foundation. South will be the first school in the district to receive a book vending machine in partnership with H&S fundraising. Goal is to have each student get a book through the year; potentially using as a positive reward for PBS program. It will cost anywhere from \$1-2k each time the machine is filled, which can hold approx. 200 books. Targeting to purchase mid-year. • Walk-a-thon fundraising information coming home on 9/25; it will include instructions on how to make a fundraising page for each child. Fundraising pages are tied to grade level; parents with multiple children should create a page for each child. H&S will be incentivizing families to set up page early for a chance to win prizes. Do not need to have funds on page to be eligible for a prize. H&S will need volunteers on the day of the event; info will be sent home on the 25th. Reviewed

	incentives. Students will be helping to update fundraising totals in the cafeteria for all to see. • New this year: walk-a-thon website; primarily targeted at business sponsors: tinyurl.com/southwalk25sponsors. Business donations are not included in grade level fundraising totals. Reviewed sponsorship matrix. H&S is a registered nonprofit; all donations are tax deductible. Email H&S or walk-a-thon if you need the tax ID. If donating through link, donor will receive an email with the confirmation number. Tax ID is 46-0484933. Brooke noted that many companies will do corporate matching. List of companies that have donated in the past linked on website. Issued request for volunteers. • Annette shared information re: potential trunk-or-treat. Tentatively scheduled for Oct 24th, approx. 5:30-7. Requesting volunteers to help with planning the event. Hoping to have a 'candy monster' at school for donations. We will also need to have sign-up-sheets for cars and some decorations. Request will be posted on Facebook; please email H&S if interested in helping. • Liz Cady & Jessica Stevens will be chairing the yearbook this year; will focus more on this after the walk-a-thon. Jess shared that South will be using a new vendor this year. Parents are encouraged to submit pictures via the QR code. Still need classroom photographers, and do not have any volunteers for 3rd grade yet. Yearbook committee will also need assistance with matching up pictures to classrooms; new vendor does not have tagging functionality. Also looking for grade leads; goal is to make sure that all kids in that grade are being represented. Yearbook flyers are green. Anyone willing to help email PVSouthYearbook@gmail.com. • Will need volunteers for Spirit wear and South Kids Care; current volunteers have 5th graders and will be graduating this year. Second half of the year we will need volunteers for teacher appreciation week and art show. • Update for new homeroom parents: minutes will be posted to H&S website. H&S will send newsletter with updates; homeroom parents should forward the PDF to classroom parents. The other major event that homeroom parents help with is the art show, which will take place in April.
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	Requesting homeroom parents assist with collecting donations and compiling raffle baskets. Additionally, homeroom parents can gifts for teachers if there is interest in their class. Recommend questionnaire for teachers. Link to sign up for homeroom parents was circulated in the South Spotlight. All classrooms are full now except for Mrs. McKenna and Mrs. Kenney. Some homeroom parents may assist with winter parties; that will be dependent on the teacher. ● H&S meetings are also a platform discussing topics of interest to parents; Annette made a request for recommendations to be incorporated into future meetings.
Additional Business	● Remaining H&S meeting dates TBD. Previously meetings were held on Mondays but this conflicted with Board meetings. Surveyed attendees for feedback on preferred day of week; no reservations for Tuesdays voiced. Next meeting will be held Oct 14th. ● South Dance date has been moved to 12/6. ● South Kids Care set for 2nd week of November; students decorate feathers. Donations are collected to support families in the district that could benefit from assistance for the holidays. ● H&S received request to distribute link the MLK Day of service survey for parents for provide feedback. Link will be included in the newsletter. ● Fundraising opportunities: when shopping at Redner, use card to check out and send receipts in to South which allows South to earn 1%. Must use card or phone number. ● H&S has additional opportunity to raise funds via Box Tops. Current promotion: first purchase earns \$5 for H&S. Annette reviewed bonus offers. National box tops week is coming up the week of 10/14. ● H&S is planning to put together a billboard in the entryway at South for flyers, volunteer sign-ups, etc. ● Requested parents bring stuffed animals to donate to the fun fair.
Meeting Adjournment	The meeting ended at 8:09pm

Minutes recorded by Gabby Country Schultz

Attendees:

Annette Diehl
Shannon Nicastro
Teri Miller
Gabi Lopez
Gabby Country Schultz
Rebecca Wagner
Alana Fatto
Brittany Dornblaser
Brooke Mulartrick
Carolina Gammarina
Marie Taylor
Meredith Spadaccino
Chris Louten
Katelyn Schubert
Erin Spitco
Jessica Stevens
Liz Cady
Nicole Bernat
Susan Kwak
Bennett Tomlinson
Jaclyn Tobin
Ashley Smith
Stephanie Carey