

Sag Harbor Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2024 | Called to order 5:35pm

Summary

The PTA meeting covered the successful completion of the first teacher grant for an Amber Waves field trip, highlighting its educational and experiential benefits. The budget discussion revealed a preliminary deficit of \$12,000, which is expected to be offset by fundraisers and donations. Key expenses include pizza for students, teacher grants, and merchandise. The PTA aims to save \$10,000 for the next fiscal year. The meeting also discussed the formation of an Audit Committee and the implementation of QuickBooks for transparency. The Wait Until Eighth initiative was introduced to delay smartphone use until eighth grade, with a goal to increase pledges to 50% of the school.

Outline

Fundraising goals, budget, and strategies

- Discussed updates on teacher grants, budget, and fundraisers.
- Discussed budget for fundraisers and expenses, mentions large balance and new board.
- Noted cost of updated systems, including website and printer, and need for historical data.
- Discussed fundraising efforts for school events and programs, mentioning various events and initiatives throughout the year.
- Discussed fundraising committee creation, goals and transparency for the upcoming year - also educating the community on PTA costs and goals.
- The PTA aims to be transparent about fundraising efforts and their impact on students and teachers.
- The budget includes items such as teacher grants, coffee and tea for staff, and custodial staff, totaling \$11,000.

Using PTA funds for school events and merchandise.

- The PTA wants to provide more experiences for students, such as author visits or assemblies, which would be good for the community as well.
- The PTA is considering using grant money to fund these experiences, but teachers may prefer more hands-on activities like a field trip to Amber Waves.
- The PTA plans to distribute merchandise to students, including free T-shirts and other items; got input for the upcoming merchandise run, inventory, and sizing.

Volunteering and fundraising for Sag Harbor Elementary School.

- The PTA is seeking input on how to organize parent volunteers in the classroom.
- The PTA has had limited success in getting parents to sign up to volunteer, despite efforts to make it more convenient.
- Yavanna Gettling expresses concern about volunteer coordination for school events.
- Suggestion made to reach out to class parents for backup coverage during absences.
- Proposed creating a pizza committee to organize monthly pizza days for staff and students.
- Consider setting up a booth at Harbor Fest or Farmer's Market to fundraise for the library.

Improving yearbook photo submission process.

- Ana Gambuto (yearbook chair) encouraged parents and teachers to send photos throughout the year for the yearbook.
- The yearbook has an updated submission process with a link through the school ID, making it easier to share photos.

Upcoming events at a school, including a turkey trot and parent-teacher conferences.

- The PTA has planned a Turkey Trot at school on Thanksgiving morning, hoping to make it a yearly event.
- Parent-teacher conferences are on November 25th and 26th, with SHAEP available to sign up.
- PTA holiday fair is scheduled for December, replacing gingerbread house night with a multicultural event.

Budget, teacher gifts, and playground improvements.

- Yavanna Gettling discusses holiday gifts for teachers, fundraising plans, and budget deficits.
- Suggestion made proposing upgrading dirt area of playground, limited room for upgrade; consider sand or other open space option for dirt area, bring to Mr. Malone's attention.
- Discussed budget priorities, including playground improvements and fundraising events.

Streamlining donations and expenditures for a school fundraiser.

- Yavanna Gettling discussed streamlining donations and expenditures for a school fundraiser.

Wait Until 8th Subcommittee Special Presentation

- Representatives from Wait Until 8th (MC, Laney, and Kiley) discussed smartphones' negative impact on children's mental and physical health.

- Parents advocate for smartphone-free childhood initiative to combat addiction, anxiety, and depression.
- Excessive screen time reduces face-to-face interaction, critical thinking skills, and physical health.
- Online predators, inappropriate content, and privacy concerns are major concerns for children on devices.

Delaying smartphone use for children until 8th grade.

- Parents pledge to delay giving smartphones until the end of 8th grade, empowering like-minded communities to raise healthy kids.
- In Sag Harbor, wait until eighth existed pre-COVID, revived in March with active pledges in every grade K-5 by end of school year.
- Goal: Increase pledges by 50% by end of scholastic year (210 members)
- Group will provide regular newsletters with updates on progress, local activities, and events

Limiting screen time for children, focusing on social media education.

- Discussed the importance of keeping smartphones out of children's hands, citing their potential negative impact on mental health and social skills.
- Emphasized the need for a small, dedicated community to work together to achieve this goal, and invited others to join the effort.
- Discussed the importance of educating parents about social media and its potential dangers, particularly YouTube, Roblox, and Minecraft.
- Emphasized the need for parents to understand these platforms and their consequences, and to make informed decisions about their children's use of them.

Delaying screen use until 8th grade to reduce distractions.

- Discussed the importance of setting boundaries and rules for technology use, particularly for young children.
- Emphasized the need for community support and collective action to delay the adoption of smartphones and social media until later in life.
- The speaker emphasized the importance of setting boundaries and taking small steps towards reducing screen time, rather than trying to tackle everything at once.

Safety measures for school children, including use of smartwatches and other devices.

- Discussed organizing a winter event for kids, inviting experts to speak and promoting sign-ups through email and text messages.
- Offered various devices that can be used for school safety, such as Garmin watches, and Gizmo watches, but notes that Apple Watches can be distracting in class.

In Attendance:

Online:

Kelly D'Angelo
Kim Christofel
Martha Montalbano
Jessica Matsuoka
Yesenia Quichimbo
Eva Greco DeLesia
Justin Christensen
Lu Geffen
Susan Passoni

In-person: