

Sycamore Creek Elementary General PTA Meeting Minutes
December 1st, 2022 5:00pm
SCES Auditorium

50+ total members in attendance

Janelle Obaydi, PTA president presenting:

Welcome to 2nd General PTA membership meeting. Tonight marks our first in person PTA meeting and chorus concert since shut down in March 2020.

Thank you to current PTA board (introduces each member and position).

Before we recap all incredible things PTA has done this year, we need to approve the minutes from our 1st General membership meeting on July 28th, 2022. These minutes can be found on PTA website.

PTA secretary, Meghan Becker calls for approval and voting on 7/28/2022 meeting minutes and vote carries, minutes are approved by present members.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for this year. Platinum: Gladwell Orthodontics Gold: AJT Construction, Rebirth Counseling and Coaching, and Dogwood Pediatric Therapy Silver: Matt Stone with Farm Bureau Insurance, Raleigh Pediatric Dentistry, Sandi Brooks Realty Group and Wells Family Dental. We have raised a total of \$11,200 in sponsorships. In addition, GoMedia which includes Gladwell Orthodontics and Wells Family Dental will be sponsoring our holiday luncheon tomorrow for our teachers and staff. We are so very grateful to receive support from our community businesses year after year.

What the PTA has provided for our school so far this year-

Turf maintenance and beautification supplies, Croc Shop merchandise, Spirit wear stock, Music Department (paid for donated piano to be moved, music cart enhancements and rights to the Musical), Portion of class t-shirts, Teacher grants (\$150 for each classroom teacher and \$100 for each specialist-\$8000 budget), Croc Mile support, Installation of playground benches purchased last year, Battle of the Books, Teacher appreciation (includes gift cards for WCPSS teacher recognition days and gift cards for teacher recognition at SCES monthly staff meetings as well as hospitality on teacher work days), Thanksgiving turkeys, Custom tent and Carpool Casanova supplies.

Some new expenditures we are having coming up next month will include our biggest project this year -updates to our Media Center. We will be bringing our space up to date by not only replacing furniture but also creating a space more conducive to collaborative learning. We will be spending approximately \$35,000 from our facilities and maintenance budget. This will include in Area 1 (whole group section): 9 tables, 36 chairs, 4 curved benches Area 2 (everyone section): 5 pebble chairs, 1 writable ottoman, 1 dalton ottoman Area 3 (maker space section): 4 wave sync tables, 16 chairs Area 4 (lounge reading section): 3 lounge chairs, end table, 3 cube ottomans. TVs will be lowered to make them more accessible. We are hoping project will be completed in March. This year will also see the return of Cultural Arts assemblies. Toni Gage, our committee chair has helped procure grants totaling \$1750 through the United Arts

Council to offset some of the cost for performances. There will be 4 assemblies throughout the year and each track will see 3 of these. All 4th grade classes will also experience Practicing the Art of Narrative Writing with author Tony Peacock. These experiences will cost us a total of \$4940 with the first one on December 5th.

Our fundraising has begun successfully so far this year. We earned \$7537 with Go Play Save and while this is a good amount, it was a significant decrease from previous years. After careful consideration, we decided to try something new next year. Special thanks to Katie Felty, our GoPlaySave Chair for several years of her time and effort. Croc Mile was great success and proven to be our most engaging and successful fundraisers, bringing in donations totaling \$40,582 after expenses. Thank you to co-chairs Kelli Knutsen and Jasmine Lauer for hard work and commitment to this. Spirit Nights have raised about \$560 total this year-our most popular at Goodberry's with \$234. Your attendance is a wonderful way to support our local businesses and give back to the school. Thank you Jasmine Lauer for organizing these events. Upcoming Spirit Night dates are posted on our social media outlets as well as Mrs. Brunson's Monday Message.

The croc shop has been brought back to life by our spirit wear and croc shop chair Kristen Chickering, who has also kept our spiritwear fresh and updated. So far the Croc shop has provided an income of \$2163 and spirit wear \$1535 minus expenses. Thank you Kristen for your time and effort with this year round commitment.

For our upcoming big events, the Book Fair will be held from February 8-17. Family night will be held on February 15th in conjunction with Literacy Night. Details to come on those dates. The Global Festival celebrating cultures from around the world will be held second semester. Our chairs Nicole Lui, Andrea Marino and Mohammed Jallow are working with the leadership team on this event that you won't want to miss. Please look for an email coming from your teachers seeking participants. A silent auction will be included at this time. If you have any goods or services you would like to provide for auction please contact me at president@scspta.com.

The 5th grade moving up ceremonies have been determined. Track 1 will celebrate on June 2nd and Tracks 3 and 4 will celebrate on June 28th. 5th grade fun day will take place the day prior.

Other important dates coming up. The winter spirit wear pre-order including long sleeve shirts and hoodies is currently open on memberhub but will close on December 3rd. We hope to receive orders by December 21st. For any questions please contact Kristen Chickering at store@scspta.com.

If you are participating in the Holiday Cheer Program this year remember that your unwrapped gifts need to be in a bag/box labeled with the student code and dropped off in the front office by Friday, December 9th. If you have any questions contact Mrs. LeRoy or Mr. Gordon.

The beautification committee's next campus clean up day will be December 10th. If you would like to participate please arrive at 10am. This is also a great opportunity for students looking for

community service hours. Thank you Nick DiColandrea for leading and to all volunteers for spending their Saturdays taking care of our school grounds.

Our winter service project with Note in the Pocket runs will run until December 16th. Donations of new socks, underwear and long sleeve shirts can be dropped in the bin across from the front office. Thank you Devin Shulman for spearheading this project.

There will not further opportunities to order class t-shirts, which is the shirt you ordered at the beginning of the year for children to wear during croc mile, super crocs day and field trips. New students can contact your teacher to see if we have any extras in your class color.

Please take a look at the lost and found located outside the cafeteria. There has been a huge influx of coats and sweatshirts. Anything unclaimed by December break will be donated.

Congratulations to our yearbook cover art winners: Elliott Becker and Bailey Hampton. And thank you to all students that submitted artwork. You are all so talented!

The yearbook committee needs your help. Mrs. Brunson's Monday messages have included several links separated by grade and a separate link for Croc Mile to upload your pictures. Please use these links to include your candid photos in this years yearbook. If you have any questions contact our chairs Megan Long and Kristen Dewey at yearbook@scespta.com.

Finally I would like to discuss the very important topic of volunteers. When we look at how incredible our school is, not only that our teachers, administration and staff are the best of the best but also the extra programs, updates, celebrating, events, etc that the PTA provides set us apart from all of the other schools. But in reality we are seeing the same faces volunteer. This school cannot continue to be able to provide the rich amount of things we do without new faces and more volunteers. We have been asked by many why we aren't having a spring carnival. It is simply because no one wanted to chair it. I would like to challenge everyone here to lean into your discomfort and please say yes when an opportunity arises to volunteer for something here at SCES. There is something for all schedules and levels of commitment. This March our nominating committee will be looking to fill open PTA Board positions and committee chairs for the 2023-2024 school year. Please consider the possibility and opportunity to take on a more active role in your child's school community.

The entire PTA Board of Directors would like to thank you for coming out tonight. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out at anytime.

Meeting concluded at 5:25pm