

South Grafton PTO Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm via Zoom. Members of the board present were Robin Callahan, Tisia Ciesluk, Becky Miner, Mary Lou Butler, Allison LeMay and Kristin Pliakas. There were 2 staff members and 10 parents present.

Secretary's Report: The report and minutes from March 11, 2020 were reviewed and approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: The report from March 1 to May 30, 2020 was reviewed and approved as written.

Principal's Report for SGES:

Well, a lot has happened since we were together last. We were able to hold our Kindergarten Parent Orientation virtually, Art with Amy continued, along with Music with Ms. Jen. Both women were very happy to provide us with "classes" virtually.

Our school days looked different; however, students were able to continue to "meet" with their teachers and classmates often. They had a daily Morning Meeting, a daily lesson created to review or continue with grade level skills, daily work to practice and many additional resources provided, along with read alouds. Students met with their teachers and classmates on Zoom. Many also utilized See Saw as a means of communication with parents and students, a means to share work and skills, read alouds, and sharing of pictures. Others used a daily newsletter to keep students up to date.

Many of our assistants helped their classroom teacher and other teachers providing read alouds, experiments, saying hello and checking in with students along with a teacher. Virtual trainings were also offered to our assistants during the closure.

From the "office," Facebook turned out to be a much utilized means of communication, along with weekly emails to families. We did, purposely, try to limit those emails as we knew families were on overload with information and things to do at home! It is our hope that those emails provided you with what you needed at the time while keeping you up to date on an ever changing educational landscape.

We also began the use of virtual Golden Tickets to motivate our students to keep up their good work and being helpful and respectful at home. I had many a virtual lunch with many of our Kindergarten and First Grade students. It was a great way to see them and catch up on all that was going on at home.

We were able to send out parent input sheets electronically for students entering Kindergarten, First and Second Grade. (A reminder that class placements will go home some time in August.) We have also sent out Summer Reading information for incoming classes, as well.

To keep everyone going, we also created and sent out three videos from staff to families to show our support for our families and to let them know how much we missed our students! We had a very successful pick up day and reverse parade, as well, to allow for some closure for both students and staff members.

While this has been a very unusual school year, we did get through it together, as a team! I am very proud of our staff, students and families for all they did to make it as successful as possible.

Principal's Report for MSES:

- Thank you to all students and families for your participation in remote learning. I believe our teachers did an excellent job providing lessons and instruction during this time, as did our students and families with their engagement and positive support of what was certainly uncharted territory for all of us.

-We held a Farewell Drive-by for our sixth graders on the last day of school. It was a bittersweet experience. Approximately 50+ staff members lined the school drive while practicing safe social distancing to cheer and wave to our sixth graders as they drove past. Each sixth grader was given a sixth-grade class shirt and yearbook as a parting gift. Thank you SG-PTO for your sponsorship of these gifts.

-As you know MA DESE released guidelines for the reopening of the schools on June 25th. This full document can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vrpqULu350dAmPPh1U1WT--0rWbSgM0m/view?usp=sharing>
We anticipate additional guidelines will be issued over the summer as we move closer to the re-opening.

- The district will be forming sub-committees for the re-opening to work through the various logistical aspects of a re-opening. More information on these sub-committees will come from the Superintendent's office.
- Today Dr. Cummings sent out a parent survey via email. Information collected from this survey, as well as others that may be sent out over the summer months, are essential for our planning and reopening of schools. The survey will be open until July 3rd and can also be accessed here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5huh4DOh-2JxmWDRSWACK5qEYPTbuVPGvCsAwpR6Z9j8r3g/viewform?usp=sf_link
- MSES staff thanks the PTO for their continued support of Teacher Allocation/Reimbursements. It is greatly appreciated that the SG-PTO recognizes the out of pocket expenses that come along with teaching!
- 2019 - 2020 Yearbooks are available for sale or pickup (pre-paid) in the MSES office during the summer.
- Summer office hours will be M-F from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm with some flexibility for holidays and vacation days. It is advised to call the office (508) 838 – 0757 ahead of time. Please enjoy the summer months!

SGPTO Updates:

Coriann Stinson is the new Assistant Treasurer for the SGPTO board. Melissa Fleming is the new Assistant Secretary for the SGPTO board. Since both positions are uncontested there does not need to be a vote. Some board members will continue to serve on the board during this upcoming pandemic year.

The SGPTO by-laws have been updated to accommodate the pandemic. All updates made were reviewed by the members present. A motion was made to accept the new SGPTO by-laws and was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Our next meeting is TBD.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kristin Pliakas, Co-Secretary