

Roberts Elementary PTO Board Meeting
Friday, April 5, 2013
8:10 a.m. Roberts Cafe

ATTENDANCE: Ali Pilcher, Aliya Walji, Alyson Rooney, An'jum Khan, Anna Kaplan, Cheryl Sorak, Courtney Tardy, Dana Walker, Elizabeth Singleton, Emanuela Corradino, Ester Pastore, Jennifer Thornton, John Thornton, Julie McFarland, Kara Niles, Kelly Wehrer, Lana Boutwell, Lara Frazier, Natalie Smith, Paula Zurcher, Renae Holman Murti, Sephanie Walton, Susie Wormser, Tayyba Kanwal, Tom Fowler, Angelica Castillo, Chris Robins, Kristy McCormack, Pauline Ward, Maureen Glancy, Karen Brisch, Valerie Tompson (32 people)

President, Jennifer Thornton called the meeting to order at 8:11 am.

Approval of Minutes by Lana Boutwell – Lana Boutwell, Recording Secretary, presented the minutes from the February and March meetings for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Alyson Rooney and seconded by Kelly Wehrer. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

School Report by Rita Graves – At this time we have one unfilled vacancy for next year. We will be making an offer today for one teacher from another school. We have a few current teachers who are still deciding about their plans for next year, luckily we have some very strong candidates waiting in the wings. I will attend a recruiting event at The University of Texas and Texas A&M in the coming weeks. We have a good relationship with the University of Houston and have had much success with the teachers we get from them. Recruiting events are a nice way to get quality teachers.

STAAR testing went very well this week. We have more STAAR testing on April 23rd and 24th. We have to be very careful during the administration of these tests, so as a method of security, we will not allow any visitors in the hallway during testing.

Our teachers will be moving into structured IB planning in next few days. They won't be out of classroom all day, but they will be out some. They will be assisting us with finishing up our self-study, which is due June 1st.

We are about to engage in library overhaul. Each year we do a study of our collection and spend [REDACTED] on new books. As our selection has gotten larger and older, we need to take some books out. We will use State of Texas guidelines as a exemplary library, keeping 20 books per child, and work toward meeting the standard for an average book age of 11 years. We far exceed the "per child" number but the average age of collection is too old. In the next couple of weeks we will have librarians coming in to assist us. We will start with non-fiction. We will give them away to students, then parents, then teachers, and plan to cull about 3000 books. The second part of the plan is for us to have a company come in and do analysis of our collection. They will help

identify what kind of books to buy. We currently have [REDACTED] budgeted to buy books. Hopefully you will see an improvement.

We can expect the results from the 5th grade STAAR reading and math tests in late April. We will be administrating the final section, Science for 5th grade, along with 3rd and 4th grade reading and math on April 23rd and 24th.

2013-2014 PTO Officer Vote by Liz Singleton – Liz Singleton, Parliamentarian, presented the slate of officers for the 2013-2014 school year for approval. Voting was done by verbal vote, no written ballot was requested.

Thank you to the nominating committee for all their hard work and commitment to the process as outlined in the PTO By-laws.

The first position presented was President and after a vote, Courtney Tardy was elected.

The next position presented was President Elect and after a vote, Kelly Wehrer, was elected.

The next position presented was Treasurer and after a vote, Alyson Rooney was reelected.

The next position presented was Corresponding Secretary and after a vote, Natalie Smith was reelected.

The next position presented was Recording Secretary and after a vote, Kara Niles was elected.

The next position presented was Historian and after a vote, Cheryl Sorak was reelected. The final position presented was Parliamentarian and after a vote, Liz Singleton was reelected.

Budget Delay by Jennifer Thornton – The state and district were late with finalizing their budget and even though our bylaws say our budget needs to be approved by April, will need to delay this vote until May, a verbal vote was taken and the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Budget Report by Jennifer Thornton – We realized our budget was missing business partners. The idea is rather than ask the same businesses over and over throughout the school year for support, we will ask them once at the beginning of the school year. They will receive benefits based on their giving amount. This will help us understand our numbers early in the school year as well as help our committee chairs focus on the event they are running. We are currently looking for a Corporate Sponsor committee chairperson.

Treasurer's Report by Alyson Rooney – Since the last meeting there has been nothing of significance to note. We have cleaned up the budget and moved some items around. I recently sent out an email to people with un-cleared checks, we are working on cleaning everything up. Our fiscal year ends on June 30th, so please spend your money now and turn in your receipts for reimbursement. You may notice that technology hasn't spent any of their money, but computer purchases will be made in May for the following year.

Carnival by Courtney Tardy – Carnival is less than a month away. Second grader, Baron Dichoso, has designed our logo. We are currently asking for sponsorships now and will be sending home additional information in the coming Tuesday folder. Chris Robbins is processing all of our ticket presale orders. As in past years, each class will have an activity. We are working on the list and it will be available after the 15th. We will need men to help set up and tear down, so please mark their calendars. Again, we are having a book sale with the focus being children books. Any books left over after carnival will be donated to Crespo Elementary.

Community Night by Esther Pastore – Our weather should be very nice on Saturday and all of our activities will start at 6:30. We will be providing pasta with meat sauce, salad, bread, and lemonade at no charge. I could use some help setting up and serving, volunteers should be here at 5:30. We will only serve for about 2 hours. We will have pizza for sale for \$1.00 per slice or \$8.00 for a whole pizza. The 5th grader class will be selling candy and soft drinks and our PTO will be selling Roberts logo camp chairs for \$25.00 each or \$40.00 for two. Next year is my last year at Roberts, so I am looking for someone to work with so we can keep this tradition going.

Historian by Cheryl Sorak – Every year, you are supposed to begin your job with information from the previous year. So this year, we have decided to create binders for each committee. We are looking to have a uniform set of information for each committee to pass on. I will email everyone the template and an example. Let me know if you have any questions. Please have yours completed by the May PTO meeting. Binders should be turned in to the workroom. These will stay in the workroom above the die cut supplies. We will add the budget information and have it available for new chairs. Please pick up your binders before you leave.

President, Jennifer Thornton adjourned the meeting at 8:44. The next PTO Board meeting will be on Friday, May 3, 2013 at 8:10 a.m. in the Roberts Café.