

Roberts Elementary PTO Board Meeting

Friday, April 10, 2015

8:10 a.m. Roberts Cafe

In attendance: Ali Pilcher, Arghavan Banan, Aparna Jotwani, Camille Jenman, Catalina Pastore, Chris Johnson, Christine Robins, Denise Metry, Donna Scudder, Devyn Wolens, Dulce Cabanas, Elangovan Krishnan, Eman El Shareif, Emanuela Corradino, Emily Raley, Greg Marshall, Griselda Garcia, Helen Belgrove Jansi Sethuraj, Jenny Beech, Jieun Kim, Julie McFarland Kara Niles, Kelly Wehrer, Lara Frazier, Laura Weiss Lauren Bloomquist, Lucie Tredennick, M Molaei, Maureen Glancy, Megan Stewart, Nam Lau, Paige Castaneda, Phaedra Harbaugh, Pia Weyandt, Renae Holman Murti, Rocio Suayfeta, Sonny Lim, Thanyaporn Phoolpol, Valerie Thurmond, Virginia Camerlo and others

Meeting Called to Order	Kelly Wehrer
School Report	Rita Graves
Approval of Minutes	Kara Niles
Treasurer's Report	Lara Frazier
Auction	Liz Singleton
Auction Parties	Jennifer Thornton
Adjourn	Kelly Wehrer

Meeting Called to Order **Kelly Wehrer**

8:10

Treasurer's Report **Lara Frazier**

Good morning. There are copies of the budget on the tables. We exceeded goals with 100% PTO and the Rice Baseball Bash- thanks Natalie.

There are budget items we need to pay out now. The main things are the Memory Book – which is done and paid for, Community Night. Kindergarten registration is a new item. This year we did roof repairs for school dismissal area. Then, there is regular maintenance, science lab upkeep, etc.

Budget Proposal and Vote Chris Johnson presented the budget:

I'll give you a high level overview – it's become more nuanced. We are in the second year of the Roberts Foundation.

HISD is also giving more to technology, which is changing our original plans.

100% PTO and Auction are main fundraisers for our budget. Our revenue items the same. Hopeful that we'll get the same but there is no guarantee. 100% PTO is more reliable. However, there are more auctions are on the scene, so harder to get items. Carnival is a risky money maker due to weather being a factor. However, we usually we beat revenue targets.

We'll reSpark our Park so we will be looking for support for that from our local businesses. This might also impact our revenue.

This year's special allocations – covered area roof, smart boards in classrooms, upgrade to library.

Some extra money is going into the Roberts Foundation – The Foundation is for big items that we won't be able to raise money for in one year. Big, long-term projects such as the soccer field.

HISD put money into technology this year, replacing all of our laptops in one go. We will need to update those all at once at a future date – a big expense, so we are saving money for when we will need to make that payment.

To put it another way - we can't buy 1/5th of a new field, or part of the computer updates, so that is why we are saving money for it.

Q can't you maintain the computers, yes but this is a different question.

Soccer field – not sure yet how we will move forward. Spark doesn't like money to be spent on drainage and fields, they would rather playground equipment. The district will give us some money. As we get into the design for Spark, we will know more.

Differences this year – technology spending down a little bit. Why? Last year we had a clerical error. We shuffled money around to fix that. Also, we have more students and teachers this year, so all of the supplies have increased.

The money you give through 100% PTO and auction goes directly to the classrooms and to the school.

Graves – we looked at the technology budget and scaled it back slightly – as we know we are looking for money for reSpark, we know some of our community fundraising for the year might go down. We need to raise a lot of money to reSpark.

The Roberts Foundation is a strategic rainy day fund.

All in favor - Aye

Any against - Nae

The Budget passed unanimously.

Presentation of Slate of Nominees for 2015-16 Election and Vote

Helen B on nominating cttee will present

We have

President	Denise Metry	
President-Elect	Camille Jenman	
Past President	Kelly Wehrer	
Corresponding Secretary	Christine Robins (one year of two-year term)	
Recording Secretary	Devyn Wolens	
Historian	Aparna Jotwani (one year term)	
Parliamentarian	Paige Castaneda	aparns@aol.com

Any nominations from the floor – No

All in favor – Aye

Any opposed – Nae

The slate passes unanimously.

School Report

Rita Graves

Approval of Minutes

Kelly Wehrer

Kelly Wehrer, standing in for the Recording Secretary, presented the minutes from the December meeting for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Paige Castaneda and seconded by Denise Metry. A vote was taken and motion passed. All in favor – Aye.

Carnival

Eman El Shareif and Catalina Pastore

Saturday, May 2, 10:00 – 2:00. Second grade submitted designs for the T-shirt, order forms have gone out in the Tuesday folders. Wristband order forms will go next week. Lots of great booths planned, and food trucks. We are accepting donations for a used book, puzzle, and board game sale; anything not

sold at the carnival will be used by a Girl Scout troop with members from Roberts to open a community library in an HPD storefront.

SPARK

Jennifer Thornton, chair

Every 8 years we can apply for SPARK funds to refurbish our playground, provided we remain open to the community when students are not on campus. 8 years ago we did the stage, our play equipment is 16 years old and was planned for 400 students. We asked for input from teachers and kids, including where it is hard to supervise kids. We have Fundraising and a Design team leaders in place; we are looking for volunteers. Fundraising will involve a Fun Run on an early Saturday in November, as well as corporate and door-to-door campaigns. Design will look at safety, space utilization, and art projects. We would also like a Drainage and Landscape committee. Costs are projected at \$100,000 for one play structure (not including installation or removal of existing structures.) We may get \$25,000 from HISD for the field. SPARK gives \$5,000, and support in the form of corporate contacts for fundraising.

Adjourn

Kelly Wehrer

We are adjourned at 8:50.

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY May 1st - See you then!