

Roberts Elementary PTO Board Meeting
Friday, Dec 6, 2013
8:15 a.m. Roberts Cafe

In attendance: Ali Pilcher, Aliya Waljii, Alyson Rooney, Arghavan Banan, Camille Jenman, Denise Metry, Elizabeth Grandich, Elizabeth Singleton, Emilie Heo, Esther Pastore, Kara Niles, Kelly Wehrer, Kirsty McCormack, Matt Starr, Maureen Glancy, Meredith Beebe , Paige Castaneda, Paula Zurcher, Prashant Murti, Renae Holman Murti, Stacie Frye, Tom Fowler, Vanessa Engel, and others

Meeting Called to Order – Kelly Wehrer

Kelly Wehrer, President Elect, called the PTO meeting to order at 8:10 am.

Approval of Minutes – Kara Niles

Kara Niles, Recording Secretary, presented the minutes from the November meeting for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ali Pilcher and seconded by Denise Metry. A vote was taken and the motion passed. All in favor – Aye

School Report – Rita Graves

Treasurer’s Report – Alyson Rooney

Please refer to the report in front of you. We are above budget. \$XX is special allocations that were approved by last year’s budget but didn’t get approved until this year. It covers stamps, sales tax, workroom supplies.

We are giving all teachers and staff \$XX – it came out of classroom supplies. Most all teachers have submitted for supplies so that the kids get the most advantage of their purchases.

I go to bank 3 days a week, I cut a lot of checks – about 20 this week. Please fill out a deposit log in its entirety. If a check bounces, I need to mark which income stream the money is from, and where the \$XX charge goes to. Please give me the total (if there are a number of checks) so that I don’t have to add it up.

Other forms – expense reimbursement or check request. Our bylaws require that I have both forms for each disbursement. It helps things go faster and allows us to comply with our bylaws. Please stamp all your checks.

Don't forget your tax exempt forms. I can email electronic forms to you, they are also online the Roberts website.

Booster Club – Ali Pilcher

Berrypop will give 10% back to Roberts for every purchase made. We are creating a Booster club – a local supporters club. We will be doing that with a lot more businesses in the local community so we get long-term sustainable funding for the school. Please bear this in mind – if you frequent a local business please ask them how they would feel about supporting Roberts. 10% per purchase is very easy for us and is free money. We are coming up with a list and ironing out the details.

Book Fair – Denise Metry

It was Nov 19–21 Tues – Thurs, with family night on Thurs. The week went great. The total sales were the highest ever, by a large margin. \$XX total, \$XX donations to library and \$XX from Scholastic – we used that to purchase vouchers for low income kids and for teachers' wish lists for books for classroom.

The move to the cafeteria really upped the event. It was a big ask to move it here, but we all think it made the difference.

Ms Graves did a special reading of bedtime stories in a rocking chair, the kids were mesmerized.

Lots of parents came out to the daytime class visits to library. This also significantly raised sales.

We had Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen, and The Coney Island Cruiser. Thanks to Denise and Emily Gannoway for the hard work .

HISD Liaison – Meredith Beebe

We met director of School support – Hoolihan. It used to be under HR, now it is its own entity. It keeps things stable, school support officers all feedback to him and report to him. They are making sure that when people move on, they are replaced with qualified teachers.

There was a reality check for me – there was a Fondren PTO representative – talking about how they lost 60–70% of their teachers at the school. This brought home to me how lucky we are to be where we are. We should try to be a beacon and example for other schools. We are

very lucky and it might be an idea to reach out to some other programs and see how we can help other schools that are struggling.

Rita Graves- We do some things along those lines. We have teams of teachers come over, principals. In secondary schools you need high content knowledge but less in instructional practice –which elementary teachers have a lot of. So people come and look at our reading program. Professional development is covered. What's not covered is how to develop effective PTOs. Even if they don't have a lot of money, they will have parents who want to be involved.

Meredith –I see Mike Lunceford once month, please email anything you want me to ask him.

Tuesday Folders – Camille Jenman

We don't use red dots this year. We have been making copies for the whole school because we don't have the numbers for the classes. We are going to use one color dot, we are going to change system. Younger siblings will automatically get green dots.

Anyone who elects to be green dots (no paper copies) chooses to see flyers on website.

We will have a form that you can fill out when you are making flyers. You can indicate if you want everyone to get the form. There will also be a check for whether Mrs Graves has approved the form or not. First – Courtney has to approve it if it is coming home.

Mrs Graves – lets' keep options so that people can choose. However, for siblings you don't choose, you only receive one folder.

Comment: Perhaps we should have a meeting to discuss Tuesday folder?

Camille –Good idea. Karen Brisch is in charge of it.

Auction – Liz Singleton

If you've volunteered you will get an email.

If you have a vacation home or know of one, please tell me.

Adjournment – Kelly Wehrer

Special thank you for Denise.

Dec birthday – Alyson

We are adjourned at 8:46.

Next PTO Board meeting
Friday, January 10, 2014 8:10 a.m. at Roberts Cafe