

Roberts Elementary PTO Board Meeting

Friday, February 7, 2014

8:10 a.m. Roberts Cafe

Meeting Called to Order	Courtney Tardy
School Report	Rita Graves
Approval of Minutes	Kara Niles
Treasurer's Report	Kelly Wehrer
Auction	Liz Singleton & Esther Pastore
Adjourn	Courtney Tardy

In attendance: , Aliya Waljii, Anjum Khan, Amy McCallum, Anna Kaplan, Camille Jenman, Courtney Tardy, Dan Easley, Denise Metry, Elizabeth Singleton, Esther Pastore, Jaquie Cormen, Jennifer Thornton, Julie McFarland, Kara Niles, Kelly Wehrer, Kirsty McCormack, Lara Frasier, Lauren Bloomquist, Lori Bullwinkle, Lauren Bloomquist, Marthe Anderson, Maureen Glancy, Meredith Beebe , Paige Castaneda, Prashant Murti, Vanessa Engel Irby, Vera Peneva, and others

Meeting Called to Order –Courtney Tardy

Courtney Tardy, PTO President, called the PTO meeting to order at 8:10 am.

Approval of Minutes – Kara Niles

Kara Niles, Recording Secretary, presented the minutes from the January meeting for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Camille Jenman and seconded by Amy McCallum. A vote was taken and the motion passed. All in favor – Aye.

School Report – Rita Graves

We have a new family of 5 children, one is being treated at MD Anderson. They are in need of clothing, as mother is not able to wash clothes as she is always at the hospital. Please don't share this information with your child. Please

consider adopting one child and providing 2 outfits, socks, underwear and a light coat.

With Valentine's Day around the corner, we will have our Peace Rally on Monday at 2:30 to start our Peace Week.. We have invited first grade to be in the parade, they have made a banner and a poem. Each day there is something to do in the class to focus on being peaceful and kind, there will also be the pledge of respect.

The parties are between 1-3pm. For room parents, the teachers will generally tell you what they want to do, and how long the party will last.

Due to snow days, April 18th Good Friday makeup day for school. If you are unable to attend for religious observance you must inform the school in writing in order to avoid an unexcused absence. If it is not a day of religious observance, we want your kids to be here. May 26th will be the second make up Snow Day. If you miss that day, it will be counted as an absence.

On the schedule: March 14th will be Field Day, this is the day before Spring Break.

Please note the 4th grade trip to Austin same day as third grade show. If you want to go, you need to ride the bus. You can't call and meet up with them there. For the third grade show, for the members of chorus we need men's button down shirts from your closet, value village, or goodwill. We need 60-80 shirts.

Q Can we donate some?

A We would love you to. It can be a kids' size shirt, but we are going to make it look like an orphan costume so oversized is our preference. Neutral colors are first preference.

The 5th grade show is now coming together. Sign-up sheets went out, we got a lot of responses back. We're doing Aladdin. Kids loved the idea - there will be a smoke machine. It will be at Hamman Hall on Rice Campus. With the third and fourth grade shows, the chorus is on risers. At Hammond, the chorus will also have stage presence. The reality is that a show somewhere else will cost quite a bit of money. All of this is made possible by Greg Marshall who got us connected and got us a great discount.

5th graders will walk over to Hamman Hall, it will be good exercise and keep them entertained in last weeks of school when they are ready to graduate.

The tickets will be \$5 each. We'll sell to fifth grade parents first and then open it up. The date is May 22d. We will auction off front row, center seats at Auction.

Comment – Greg Marshall also helps us with the venue for the Roberts Auction. Thanks again to Greg Marshall!

Treasurer’s Report – Kelly Wehrer

Kelly – Alyson has a sick child today, you can refer to the budget in front of you.

Courtney reviews budget – all is going according to plan

Auction – Liz Singleton & Esther Pastore

Liz – Did everyone get a invitation? A: Yes, thanks.

We are looking for volunteers – week of, day of, night of. We need people to help decorate, organize the items with price tags and sign-up sheets. If you’d like to help, please use one of the sign-up sheets. It will also come out in the newsletter.

The class baskets – the class usually supplies about \$XX to create the basket. Then we try to sell for \$XX. Some of the baskets will come out well, some won’t. We are just trying it out in a new format this year. We’ve tried many different formats – class level baskets, the painted cow.

Anna went around to shops in Rice Village and got gift certificates to put in her basket.

Julie McFarland –The basket team will make it pretty – you don’t have to do that part.

Jennifer – there is also an online catalog that will list all of the items available at auction. We need to get that up as soon as possible.

Liz – if you are thinking of doing a party or donating an item, please let us know about that as soon as possible so we can add it to the catalog. Ideas: Cinco de Mayo, Crawfish party, etc. Find some friends and throw a party.

Underwriting is different this year, to reflect changes in projected income streams.

Adjournment – Courtney Tardy

Housekeeping items – we need also to turn our attention to next year. The various Board Chair roles are going up soon. Think about what you might like to do. We have a nominating committee working on this.

We'll have several two-year term offices opening. Treasurer – it's a day a week and the person needs to know quickbooks. Corresponding Secretary, Parliamentarian, Historian positions are also open.

If you have already finished your job, get your binders ready so that you can hand it over to the next person by the end of the year. We can take them anytime, they will go to Cheryl Sorak, Historian until we need them.

Please sign up to help at Auction. It's a great way to meet people. There will be friendly faces, you will be fed and you will come back at night and see everyone – it's fun.

Also new at Auction – presenting PTO Volunteer of the Year Award. The Executive Committee has proposed the following guidelines on how to choose:

The Year will be chosen by utilizing the following guidelines:

- 1) The PTO Volunteer of the Year is chosen by the Executive Committee of the Robert PTO, in consultation with the Principal of the school.
- 2) The cost of the trophy will be shared by the Executive Committee (not to exceed \$XX total)
- 3) The PTO Board may proposed nominees to the Executive Committee.
- 4) The process is confidential within the Executive Committee.
- 5) Please note that Exec Committee members are not eligible to win.

We are adjourned at 8:45.

Next PTO Board meeting

Friday, March 7, 2014 8:10 a.m. at Roberts Cafe