

## Roberts Elementary PTO Board Meeting

Friday, February 6, 2015

8:10 a.m. Roberts Cafe

In attendance: Ali Pilcher, Aparna Jotwani, Amy McCallum, Amy Stahl, Aubrey Pettit, Carmen Pratt, Denise Metry, Devyn Wolens, Donna Scudder, Dulce Cabanas, Elangovan Krishnan, Elizabeth Singleton, Elizabeth Grandich, Felita Joubert, Jacque Corman, Jana Wang, Jenny Beech, Jennifer Thornton, Judith Castelio, Kara Niles, Kelly Wehrer, Kirsty McCormack, Laurie Weiss, Mercedes de Alvear, Megan Stewart, Melunaz Molari, Paige Castaneda, Phaedra Harbaugh, Rocio Suayfeta, Ryan Taatle, Sonny Lim, Todd Litton, Tom Fowler, Valerie Tompson, Vanessa Engel Irby, WanChun Yang, Ying Wang, and others.

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

---

**Meeting Called to Order** Kelly Wehrer

8:10

**Approval of Minutes** Kara Niles

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

**Treasurer's Report** Lara Frazier

There's nothing going on. We're doing well Reports are on the table on year-to-date figures. We are doing well, over \$xx.

## School Report

Rita Graves

Fifth grade Girls Scouts make a presentation: "We are trying to get a fruit and veggie lunch bar. We need an increase of at least 52 lunches per day. It won't increase the cost to the school but we'll need to ask you to have your kids eat tray lunch a few times per week. This will help us as Girl Scouts earn our Bronze award. We've placed posters around the school to encourage kids to try it.

The trial period will be for about 2 weeks. There is no cost to buy the fruit and veggies. The kid just picks it up with their tray lunch. You can just get fruit and veggies, but you will need to pay for the lunch.

We have some pictures on our posters of what the offerings are. There are cherry tomatoes, bell peppers, apples, oranges, cauliflower. The program starts Monday."

Ms Graves:

We just had our 100th day of school.

101 Dalmations is coming up. Third graders look great. Theater Guild is doing a wonderful job. If you have time to help, please call Ms Ballard.

We just sent out forms for 5th graders for Shrek. It will be held once again at Hammond Hall at Rice. Their stage is great, so we get a really nice production. My husband works at the Grace School, they are doing Shrek in March, so they are offering us sets and costumes. We are looking for volunteers on Sat March 14th – in order to pick up sets etc.

Our enrollment is down. Our high point was 830 but we are now down to 808 students. We've been working with the City on the Greenbriar construction plans. The proposal is to expand the street by two feet. There are requirements about how many trees to preserve. If you have thoughts on that, write it on the map in the entrance hall, or email it to Cheryl Sorak. They will meet with me on the 13th at drop off and we will look at the problems we have with safety, to see what we need re: turn radius on Greenbriar. We will also look at the lights at the crosswalk.

We just got some new library books – \$xx in hardback books and ebooks.

The school is doing a much better job on tardies, it's a great improvement. Our teachers are working on the new state math objectives. The requirements for math have increased incredibly. They are trying to help prepare them for the new expectations. You and I did not learn mathematics this way. We are helping the kids to think about math concepts. We are deciding what they do at school and at home. There is no longer one way to solve a problem. If you get math homework at home that you are not comfortable with, you need to send it back to your teacher and say "we are not able to do this."

The most common time we see confusion is with nontraditional algorithms for multiplication and division. Send a note back on it and say you are unable to do it. Your teacher will thank you for it!

There will be partial quotient problems. For example, they will be asked on the test – where is the error in the partial quotient algorithm?

Parent comments – difficulty in doing math problems. Some parents going online to figure it out.

We have to be very prescriptive about every minute that we have with our mathematics teaching.

Q About Greenbriar- are they really listening to us?

A They will allow me to sit on the technical review committee. Also, one neighborhood civic association representative. So yes, I think they are being responsive. Greenbriar is officially classified as a main thoroughfare, ie 4 lanes wide. However, they are not pushing for that. They are OK with the 3 lanes in our neighborhood.

Q What's up with the temporary buildings?

A I have no reason to believe our requests to HISD will not be approved. On Thursday Feb 19, the district is hosting a community meeting to discuss overcrowding. It will be held at Pershing Middle School. They will be sharing plans and getting feedback from you. My understanding is that they are not considering rezoning as a solution. Our plan for next year to build 2 classrooms should be adequate for our needs.

Q What's the Rice School?

A It's a choice school K -8 with a STEM Magnet Program.

Q How do you enrol in afterschool care?

A If you are on a waitlist you get called as space becomes available. You won't know anything before June.

Q Some specialities, like Chess, are hard to get in and kids can get discouraged if they miss a semester. Is there something we can do?

A Perhaps we can look at getting another instructor.

## **Auction**

**Liz Singleton**

Thank you for helping, turning in party forms, turning in items. You need to turn in your forms for parties now. The sooner you can turn it in, the better as it really helps us.

We need a lot of volunteers for stuffing envelopes, the day of auction, the night before auction. The PADRES help night before and morning of. It takes a lot of work. Please come to the party, it's a lot of fun. There will be the Teacher of the Year Award. If you can't make the evening, the day is also fun.

Neighbors are also welcome. Please write me or talk to me after the meeting.

## **School Store/Supplies**

**Jennifer Thornton**

Looking for help with school store as my kid is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade this year, it will be my last year. We do school supplies before the school year begins, and then we have the store open 2 days a week.

Parties for Auction: Example – mother-son kickball game. A few parents host it and cover the costs, people buy tickets for it at the auction, all ticket price revenue goes directly to the school.

In the past we have had block parties, an Italian dinner party, etc.

The teachers work on ‘teacher perks’ – the teachers host a party – for example, the third graders host a putt-putt golf game.

**AOB**

Kelly Wehrer

There’s a petition about Greenbriar, in case you have not seen it, please ask me. Also, you can email your comments to:

Cheryl Sorak [csorak@yahoo.com](mailto:csorak@yahoo.com). Email your comments directly to her or right them on the board.

Nominating committee – will put together a slate of candidates for the positions – Recording Secretary and President- Elect will be the open offices.

After the meeting – Finnegan Counseling to talk about grief and loss.

Box tops Feb 27<sup>th</sup> – the spring collection is usually lower than the fall collection. We will do some kind of reward program, although we haven’t thought that through yet.

**Adjourn**

Kelly Wehrer

We are adjourned at 8:50.

**NEXT MEETING FRIDAY March 6th - See you then!**