

## **Roberts Elementary PTO Board Meeting**

**Friday, January 10, 2014**

**8:10 a.m. Roberts Cafe**

In attendance: , Aliya Waljii, Anjum Khan, Anna Kaplan, Camille Jenman, Dan Easley, Denise Metry, Elizabeth Singleton, Esther Pastore, Jaquie Cormen, Jennifer Thornton, Kara Niles, Kelly Wehrer, Lauren Bloomquist, Lori Bullwinkle, Lauren Bloomquist, Meredith Beebe , Vanessa Engel Irby, 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 December meeting for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Elizabeth Singleton and seconded by Aliya Waljii. A vote was taken and the motion passed. All in favor – Aye.

### **School Report – Rita Graves**

We'll now show you a video of this year's fifth grade exhibition to give you an overview of what they did. This year the research process improved greatly. They are using the IIM process which is a great tool for helping them to manage the research and stay focused on the topic throughout the process. It's a tremendous commitment from the kids and from the teachers. We are very proud of their results. They stretched themselves as learners.

–Jan 29th teacher conferences: Teachers will meet with parents. There will be sign-up lists.

–4th graders will have a trip to Austin. If you want to go, make sure you are approved in the VIPS process.

–5th graders are going to camp in February, the papers will be in Tuesday folder. How camp works: The teacher goes along but does not really interact with kids. The camp counselors are doing the activities and supervision. The kids love it. The teacher is there just to be a familiar, friendly face. They'll be away four days – Tues thru Fri. A portion of the students will go to Camp Forest Glen, the other portion to Camp Olympia.

### **Treasurer's Report –Kelly Wehrer**

Nothing new to report. Budget is in front of you for your review.

### **Auction – Liz Singleton & Jennifer Thornton**

Liz – It's rolling along. Thank you for volunteering. Acquisitions are coming in. Take one of our letters and a form and go to some of the businesses in Rice Village, let them know we are looking for donations, and that their business has donated in the past. Please come up afterwards and get a few names of businesses from me.

Jennifer – parties and socials – I have forms for parties. We make between \$XX in parties alone. I will contact some of you directly. We need to get kindergarten and first grade families involved.

Any questions about throwing a party, ask Jen for information.

Trips donated – Costa Rica, house in Acapulco that sleeps ten, house in Wimberly, apartment in Rome, fishing trip to Galveston. Get your passports ready.

### **HISD Liaison – Meredith Beebe**

Last HISD meeting we talked about teacher bonuses and how they are rewarded. I made a copy of this for all the tables, so you can have a look.

Biggest change made was due to pushback, 70–80% of teachers get a bonus – this removes the incentive for people to work hard. So they took it down to about 38% this year. The award is higher (avg \$3300 dollars). Max award is based on what type of teacher you are.

Changes will be coming in the future but this is what they are using now.

All software is being switched to Windows 7, which means many computers will not be compatible. Lunceford brought it up as the numbers for replacement in the report to the Board Meeting was not correct. The report read that we have 92 computers, we have over 400, and we have over 300 that cannot support the Windows 7 upgrade. Since then, district reps have come by to verify our numbers.

This helps our PTO budget tremendously. However, if they replace 300 computers at the same time, it means that 300 computers will need to be replaced at some point in the future at the same time.

Q –Is there a vision for HISD about laptops, i-pads, computers etc?

A – Rita Graves –ipads turn on instantly and have long battery life – however we can't print from them due to security issues. That work has to be done with laptops. Perhaps in future we will phase out laptops but that's not now.

I am looking for an answer by mid-semester so that we know what we will do with the money in our technology budget. Even if we get approved, I am assuming that we will not be high up on the list as Title 1 schools will go first.

Beebe – He briefly mentioned Pershing money that was stolen from the activity fund.

Graves – An activity fund is when band sells something to raise money for uniforms for band. For example, picture day – Roberts gets a percentage of this funding. So it's not a centrally processed HISD account, its managed on the campus and then audited each year. At most campuses there is a business manager or finance clerk who keeps track of the accounts. I do not know the final finding, or if one has been reached.

### **Community partnerships – Kelly Wehrer**

Ali is ramping up community partnerships. If you have any ideas for her, please let her know. She will be happy to reach out to them either with you, or on her own.

### **Budget – Chris Johnson**

Committee chairs – I'll be asking you how you are doing this year and what you think your committee's budget should be for the upcoming year.

Enhancing classrooms and education is our primary focus on how we spend our money.

Esther Pastore – Example of feedback of your passionate case – Community night comment: This year 550 portions of nachos – do we cap it or do we charge. We only paid \$XX for the food supplies ( we got a lot of donations)

### **Adjournment – Kelly Wehrer**

Note from Beth Brown – thanks for remembering me during the holidays, I really appreciated the gift.

We are adjourned at 8:47.

**Next PTO Board meeting**

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

