

**Roberts Elementary PTO Board Meeting**  
**Friday, March 1, 2013**  
**8:15 a.m. Roberts Cafe**

**ATTENDANCE:** Ali Pilcher, Aliya Walji, Alyson Rooney, An'jum Khan, Courtney Tardy, Elizabeth Singleton, Ester Pastore, Isabel, Khan, Jennifer Thornton, John Thornton, Kara Niles, Kelly Wehrer, Lara Frazier, Lana Boutwell, Laura Weiss, Paula Zurcher, Sherri Walsh, Christine Robins, Elizabeth Grandich (19 people)

President, Jennifer Thornton called the meeting to order at 8:14am.

**School Report by Rita Graves** – The auction was incredible, thank you Lara, Sherri, and Paula for all the hard work and time you put into planning. So many people came up to me and told me how they loved the event, the theme, the band, the layout everything was a hit. Our preliminary numbers look amazing.

I expect to have our HISD school budget numbers just before spring break. We expect some cuts in funding but we don't know how much or from which area. It is my understanding that they are waiting on what the federal government is going to do. Since a small percentage of our budget comes from the federal funds, I don't expect that to hurt us unless HISD distributes the cuts across the district.

Our intent to return notices will go out within the next week or so and it is really important that we have a good sense on how many students will be coming back next year so we can make an informed decision on our magnet numbers. The kindergarten lottery will be done at the Hattie Mae White building. We will use the same process as we have used in the past, the only change will be the location. We expect to have 25 students coming into kinder, and since some of our current kinder students are overflow from Mark Twain, they will be returning which will open some spots in first grade.

The district has purchased a new web hosting service. Kirsty McCormick has spent a large amount for time preparing the information for migrating over. Our website will have all the same content and look the same. After spring break you will get an email with your new user name and a new password. We need to get as many parents as possible to make the switch, so please pass the word around. We hope the new website will be live by March 29<sup>th</sup>.

This week we held a STAAR meeting to help parents understand the scores from last year and this year. I will probably host another meeting in the spring since we get new information on a regular basis. Some of the information I presented last night was "proposed information" provided by TEA; we expect that to be finalized within the next few weeks. In general our scores from last year are much stronger than the district and the state averages. The passing rate is based on a phase in level and our scores looked really well. If you look at the final phase in the schedule our scores don't look as strong, but are still ahead of District and State averages. We have work to do.

We had a visit from our HISD Board Member, Mike Lunsford. He gave a recap of the Boards current working topics.

### **Committee Reports**

**Nominating committee by Jennifer Thornton** - On March 7<sup>th</sup> our nominating committee will meet to discuss recommendations for our two open, President Elect and Record Secretary. If you know of anyone whom might be interested in either of these positions or if you have someone in mind to nominate, please see Courtney Tardy. We also have several committee chairperson positions available in the coming year.

**Treasurer's Report by Alyson Rooney** – The only thing to report from this month's is regarding auctions. We have preliminary numbers with the final numbers for auction will come in next few weeks.

**Budget Report by John Thornton** – This week I will be sending out emails to all committee Chairs with a request for information about next years budget. The biggest thing we need to know is if you have too much money or do you need additional money? Other helpful information will be regarding any major changes to your committee? I would appreciate receiving this information before we get out for spring break. Once Rita gets the HISD budget for next year, she and I will get together to discuss ways the PTO can contribute more to the school budget.

**Auction by Paula Zurcher** – We have spent the last year preparing for last Saturday night. We had 371 people attend, including 40 teacher and staff. We had a total of 418 items donated in addition to all of the parties and the 12 big board items. The class projects were a big hit this year. Of the 35 cows decorated, 33 sold that night for a total of [REDACTED] Ms. Wilson and Ms. Kwasny cows were left and will be made available for sale at the garage sale today. A great big thank you to all the parents who worked on them. We would also like to thank Ester Pastore for all of the amazing hand made decorations, everything looked amazing! We took a great risk with buying the food this year and we even raised the ticket price to offset the price. But that was one risk that paid off. Thank you to the Somera's and Lola's Catering. We would also like to thank Terlato Wines, the Tardy family and St. Arnolds Brewery for the beer. Lastly we would like to thank all of the parents who helped with everything from decorations, bid packets, talking to businesses, and so much more.

At this time our preliminary numbers put our net profit in the area of [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] more than last year. We still have some profit to come in and some expenses to come out, but this preliminary number should be very close to our final number.

As we begin to think about next year's event, please send us an e-mail with your suggestions and comments to [auction@robertselementary.org](mailto:auction@robertselementary.org).

**Community Night by Esther Pastore** – Community night is coming up, so mark your calendars for Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be watching Madagascar 3. Face painting and crafts will be available from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. We will provide popcorn, lemon-aid and pasta for free. Pizza, soft drinks and candy will be sold by our 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We are preparing the flyer to send home in the Tuesday folder.

**Carnival by Courtney Tardy** – Carnival is coming up. The theme this year is “Rock and Roll” and date is May 4<sup>th</sup>. Our second graders will be working on the artwork in the coming weeks. We are currently looking for volunteers to oversee different tasks for the carnival in May. Be looking for a flyer in an upcoming Tuesday folder. I would love to have a co-chair to work with, please let me know if you are interested. I am currently taking care of the underwriting. Matt Starr has stepped up to manager our recycling effort. Emanuela Corradino is taking on the ordering and sales of the t-shirt. What we are in need of is coordinators to handle: volunteers, food & beverages, wristbands and tickets, and accounting, wristband and tickets coordinator. Currently publicity is done, and we won’t need any decorations. Again, we will have karaoke throughout the day and Zoe and Dave Tompson donated photo booth, which will make a flip photo book. After some discussion, Karen Brisch has agreed to oversee the carnival game area.

President, Jennifer Thornton adjourned the meeting at 9:25. The next PTO Board meeting will be on Friday, April 5, 2013 at 8:15 a.m. in the Roberts Café.