

Roberts Elementary PTO Board Meeting
Friday May 31, 2013
8:10 am Library

In Attendance: Ali Pilcher, Aliya Walji, Alyson Rooney, Anna Kaplan, Elizabeth Singleton, Emanuela Corradino, Jennifer Thornton, Lana Boutwell, Lara Frazier, Nathan Somera, Paula Zurcher, Renae Holman-Murti, Sheryl Barrett, Lisa Somera, Kirsty McCormack, Maureen Glancy, Elizabeth Grandich, Sherry Walsh, Debra Balthazar, Denise Metry (20 people)

Jennifer Thornton, President, called the meeting to order at 8:10 am.

Approval of Minutes by **Lana Boutwell** – Lana Boutwell, Recording Secretary, presented the minutes from the April meeting for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ali Pilcher and seconded by Emanuela Corradino. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

5th Grade by **Lana Boutwell** – A survey of all 5th grade students was made to determine which middle school our students will be attending next year. The current breakdown is 30% to Pin Oak, 24% to Lanier, 13% to Pershing, 10 % leaving town, 9% to a private school, 7% to T.H. Rogers, 5% to an other public school.

School Report by **Rita Graves** – The STAAR scores are back and we are really pleased with our 3rd & 4th grade reading and science scores. We also had great improvements in our 5th grade math scores, which increased from 46% to 56% percent in advanced level performance. When we look at last years 3rd grade score and compare them to this years 4th grade scores as well as last years 4th grade score to this years 5th grade score we show improvement in the “advanced” scores. Overall the district scores are down from last year. Over summer, we will be comparing our current scores to the Phase 2 numbers to see what our kids might be lacking in.

We have our IB self study due today. Right now we are about 200 pages into the document, which will be summarizing our accomplishments over last four years. We will have more information to submit in the fall and expect to have our IB visit in October.

We have hired teachers for most of our open positions. Our new teachers coming in have between one – fifteen years experience. We will have two first year teachers from A&M who were at the top of their class. We have the following teachers changes; Ms. May is moving from Pre-K to Kinder, Ms. Aylmer is retiring, Ms. Barnes is moving to 1st grade, our second grade team will lose Ms. Servos to third grade and Mr. Hunger to St. John's. New teachers for second grade are Kacie Britton and Elizabeth Medbery. From our 3rd grade team, we are losing Ms. Silverman, Ms. Webster, Mr. Freilich, and Ms. Rovnovsky. Our new 3rd grade teachers are Elizabeth Engen, Kayla Proch, and Allison Schoenberger. From our 4th grade team, Ms. Wilson is retiring and we have hired Brittany Felder to fill that spot. And from our 5th grade team we are losing Ms. Ruff to motherhood and Mr. Finklestein. To complete our fifth grade team, Mr. Shahriari is returning from teaching a year at Lanier and we have hired Ms. Barb McClintock from Poe. We will also lose Coach Orozco and have hired Jason Poon to work with Mr. Lytton. Ms. Chase-Hopkins is retiring and we have hired Angela Nobles as our new social worker.

We raised an additional \$XX for library books. Therefore, we have ordered \$XX in new books as identified necessary from first analysis. We plan to have our second analysis to be done soon. We are also looking at an e-book vendor to get digital books. We will launch that slowly, after we have enough titles. We will partner our e-book topics with IB planners. All of the books we have ordered

have to be in our computer system by June 28th, please be on the look for e-mails to come and help. We plan to order additional books in July.

2013-2014 Committee Chairs by Courtney Tardy & Jennifer Thornton- We have begun to plan for next years 100% PTO campaign. All of the details are still being nailed down. We have several big fundraising events, which still need a chair. Some of these include Auction, Directory and Library. We have several people who have agreed to be committee members, but no leader. Thank you to Denise Metry who has agreed to chair Book Fair and Jenny Johnson who has agreed to chair Carnival. Chris Johnson will take over the Budget & Finance committee and Ester Pastore and Paula Zurcher will manage Community Nights. Our Padres will be in the very capable hands of Prashant Murti, Nathan Somera and John Thornton. Julie McFarland, Ester Pastore and Liz Singleton will head up the 5th grade activities, Tom Fowler will continue to handle the Front Page, Meredith Beebe will be our HISD Liaison. Natalie Besnard will chair Hospitality; Kristy McCormack will take the lead on technology. Emanuela Corradino and Anna Kaplan will chair the International Festival. Pauleen Ward and Renae Holman-Murti will continue to look after the Garden. Camille Jenman will head the Lunch Room Volunteers as well as the Workroom. Zoe Thompson has agreed to continue as our Middle school Liaison. Natalie Smith will take over the Rice Baseball Bash. Karen Lawson will chair the School Store. Jennifer Thornton, Past President, will take on the Staff Appreciation Committee as well as the Welcome Committee. Kelly Wehrer, President Elect, will also continue to oversee our Room Parents.

We are trying to break out auction into sub-committees and will be working on that during the summer. Paula Zurcher has agreed to will help us as a guide. March 8, 2014 has been booked at Rice University so be sure to mark your calendar.

We have added a new committee: Community Membership and Ali Pilcher has agreed to take that on.

This list of PTO Board positions for the 2013-2014 school year was presented for approval. A motion to approve the board was made by Sherry Walsh and seconded by Renae Holman-Murti. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Treasurer Report by Alyson Rooney – If you have any transactions, please get those to me as soon as possible, we need everything for the current school year to clear by June 30th.

Budget and Finance by John Thornton – We have had a successful year in fundraising, and are currently working on our special allocations. The Budget Committee met yesterday, and we are still getting final bids for some of our proposed projects. Please be looking for an e-mail next month with details. We will vote per your responses to the e-mail.

Audit committee by Jennifer Thornton – We will close our accounting books in June and Julie McFarland and Valerie Thompson have agreed to take on the process of running an internal audit. We will also need one board member and two general PTO members, whom are not on budget committee. We expect to have our audit report at the beginning of the new school year. A motion to approve the Audit Committee was made by Lara Frazier and seconded by Denise Metry. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Wrap up Jennifer Thornton – I would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped make this a great year. I would especially like to thank my husband and my boys for all of their support an

understanding. I appreciate all your support and I know that it's not just me making a difference. I realize how difficult it could be if we didn't have such a great team. Thank you.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 am. Next PTO Meeting will be held Friday, September 6, 2013 8:10 in the Café.

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