

**Roberts Elementary PTO Board Meeting**  
**Friday, May 3, 2013**  
**8:10 a.m. Roberts Café**

**ATTENDANCE:** Ali Pilcher, Alyson Rooney, An'jum Khan, Anna Kaplan, Courtney Tardy, Elizabeth Singleton, Emanuela Corradino, Jennifer Thornton, Kara Niles, Kelly Wehrer, Lana Boutwell, Lara Frazier, Lauren Bloomquist, Natalie Smith, Paula Zurcher, Renae Holman Murti, Sheryl Barrett, Chris Robins, Maureen Glancy, Kristy McCormack, Karen Brisch, Anjelica Castillo, Pauleen Ward, Aliya Walji (24 people)

President, Jennifer Thornton called the meeting to order at 8:13 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 Alyson Rooney and seconded by Kelly Wehrer. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

**School Report by Rita Graves** – The Barnes & Noble Book Fair was incredible! Our preliminary number show that the nightly receipts total around [REDACTED] we will received a percentage of those sales based on a sliding scale. We had more than 100 performers from all grades at the school. It is always so exciting to see those kids take that risk.

Our campus survey closed last night, with 218 responses, that is about same as last year. The district survey opened on Wednesday, and was included in the Tuesday folders. Elementary school surveys went home with the oldest child while Middle and High School surveys will come in the mail. The surveys are tied to each school that your child attends. Please fill out all of the surveys you receive. HISD has a private company conducting this survey, so it is completely anonymous.

You should have recently received a performance schedule. Even with the medical absence of Ms. Sauer, we are still doing grade level performances. The Kindergarten and Fifth grade will have their performances at their respective promotion ceremony. The Fourth grade performance will be at fine arts night. First and Third grades have already completed their performances. If you didn't get my email with the calendar, you can find it on the Roberts website.

Two years ago, our budget was cut by over \$200,000.00, which is a substantial amount for our school. We had to eliminate four full time teaching positions. During that time our choices were clear as to what to cut. We decided to cut some of our "extra" classes and find new ways to bring in the things we cut out. We moved from a full time Librarian to parent volunteers and relocated one of our office staff members to oversee the library. For each full time teacher we cut, we saved \$52,000.00. As you know we cut our Spanish teacher and moved to Rosetta Stone. Our dance teacher had already decided to retire, so rather than replacing her we brought in a teacher assistant and added a second PE teacher at \$20,000.00 a year, and offered dance afterschool

through extended day. Ballet, tap and hip-hop were the only ones to do well. We are currently looking at changing our fine arts program for next year by offering afterschool magnet enrichment for free. Nothing has been scheduled yet as we are still in the planning stages. What we are trying to do is enrich our magnet program, without increasing the cost. As we move forward, the PTO funding becomes incredibly important. We do not expect to get any money back from the district. The PTO funds provide for our IB annual expenses which include approximately \$30,000.00 for professional development, \$8,000.00 for our annual fee and \$4,000.00 for next years required evaluation visit.

Some of our curriculum enrichments funded by PTO include grade levels artist in residence from young audiences. In First grade our focus is story telling, Second focuses on advertising, Third is information writing, Fourth is ancient art, and Fifth is revolution soldiers. PTO funds all of these opportunities.

Next year we will not be offering a Pre-Kindergarten class. Our plan at this time is to move Ms. Rivers, our reading specialist into that space. We are also watching the number of returning fourth graders and if necessary may need to add another 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. Another situation we are considering is moving iStation into the classroom with Ms. Rivers.

Stanford testing will be going on from Monday - Thursday with any necessary make-ups on Friday. If you need to schedule any appointments, please do so in the afternoon since most testing will be completed by lunch. Also, due to testing the Library will be closed.

**Budget 2013-2014 Vote by Jennifer Thornton** - Jennifer Thornton presented the budget, for the 2013-2014 school year, for approval. A motion to approve the budget was made by Sheryl Barrett and seconded by Kara Niles. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report by Alyson Rooney** – Everything for this school year needs to be wrapped up by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please turn in your expenses as soon as possible so we can have good numbers for our special allocations.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Carnival by Courtney Tardy** – Well the carnival is tomorrow and I would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped so far. The signs in the neighborhood look great, and hopefully will bring in more families. We pre-sold over [REDACTED] in wristbands and tickets and are currently on tract to meet our budget numbers. We will be doing some set up today at 3:30, and then we will start again at 8:00 am on Saturday. We will be providing breakfast for our morning volunteers and your kids are welcome to come with you. We also have a lot of middle school volunteers.

**Unfinished Business by Jennifer Thornton** – Thank you to everyone who has turned in his or her committee binders. If you have not done so, please turn them in as soon as possible. During our next meeting we will vote on our committee chairs.

Answering a question regarding teacher who are leaving, Mrs. Graves announced that so far our 5<sup>th</sup> grade team is set in place with Mrs. Cartes and Mrs. Audi returning, Mr. Sharahari will be coming back and we have hired Ms. Barb McClintock from Poe. Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade team will lose Ms. Wilson to retirement; we have hired Ms. Brittany Felder, a seasoned 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from Pilgrim Elementary to take that position. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team will lose Mr. Freilich but we have hired Ms. Kayla Proch from Oates Elementary to move into his place. Ms. May is moving to Kindergarten and Ms. Barnes will move to first since Ms. Aylmer is retiring this year.

President, Jennifer Thornton adjourned the meeting at 8:55. The next PTO Board meeting will be on Friday, May 31, 2013 at 8:10 a.m. in the Roberts Café.