

Roberts PTO General Meeting 9/9/2016 Minutes

Friday, September 09, 2016

8:10 a.m.

In attendance: See PTO Sign-In Sheet attached hereto as Exhibit A

Meeting Called to Order - Valerie Tompson

Meeting Minutes Approval for April and May – Devyn Wolens

- Motion to approve the April and May 2016 minutes by Devyn
- Seconded by Margaret Henry
- A vote taken and motion passed

Treasurer's Report - Devyn Wolens

- Treasurer has nothing new to report
- If anyone has any questions about treasury process contact her

School Report - Trealla Epps

- New Assistant Principal introduced
 - ◆ Mrs. Van Pelt
 - ◆ Comes from Briar Grove Elementary where she was the IB coordinator
- Enrollment at 772
 - ◆ Space available in K and 4th
 - ◆ 22:1 ratio currently
 - ◆ 5th grade class size at 28 and 29 (typical size for this grade)
 - Hoping it levels off
 - No physical room for additional class
 - ◆ District views enrollment daily and determines caps and where overfull students to be sent
 - ◆ When is space available at Roberts students from full schools (i.e., Poe) may be transferred to Roberts or other schools with openings
 - These students return to home school after 1 year
 - ◆ Last week of October Roberts will get funding based on its enrollment
 - Roberts typically gets huge spike in enrollment in October
 - ◆ Ms. E sending reminder emails to District about this pattern

- Spanish Program
 - ◆ Ms. Brandon resigned in July 2016
 - ◆ Not many applicants to choose from
 - ◆ Unique skill set: teaching Spanish as a 2nd language
 - ◆ Did not find good candidate
 - ◆ Not going to fill position to simply fill it
 - ◆ Position not posted on-line (not visible to public) at this time so person not assigned to campus w/o Ms. Epps' input
 - Will reopen posting in October
 - Anticipates fresh set of applicants in 4th quarter of 2016
 - Send recommendations Ms. Epps
 - ◆ Library time is in lieu of Spanish

- HISD Recapture
 - ◆ District to pay back money to state (\$162M proposed) b/c HISD characterized as "wealthy" district
 - ◆ However, HISD serves many who are disadvantaged
 - ◆ \$287K out of Roberts budget had to be given back in order to reconcile with recapture
 - ◆ Double whammy for Roberts b/c had to give back magnet funds too
 - ◆ Next year could be more severe
 - ◆ Recapture number will increase every year
 - Schools will be impacted
 - ◆ A vote "no" may at least delay budget cuts

- Music Program
 - ◆ Music program for every grade level
 - ◆ 4th and 5th grade musicals to be co-produced (not separate productions)
 - ◆ Each cost \$15K
 - ◆ Ms. Epps applied for matching grants
 - ◆ Practice will be after school
 - ◆ Production at Pershing
 - ◆ Will not be a Disney production due to licensing issues
 - ◆ Spring show; rehearsals begin the fall

HISD Report - Jenny Beech

- Attended HISD meeting on 9/8
- Recapture issue discussed
- Superintendent begins Monday

SPARK Park- Jennifer Thornton

- Playground 22 years old
- Provides background on park planning and fundraising
- Happy with amount raised
- 2 phases: i) playground; ii) field
- Project timing taking much longer than anticipated
 - ◆ Complex drainage issues impacted permitting
- Equipment has been purchased
- Contractor revising bid based on revised drainage
- Installation 60-90 days depending on weather
- To begin in early October
- No trees to be removed; 15 trees to be added
- New benches, tables, trash cans
- Field/track improvements to be planned
- Fun Run set for November
- Contractor has been background checked
- Big thank you to Jennifer's continued efforts!

Box Tops and Rewards - Vanessa Engel

- Go to PTO website site for fundraising opportunities that are shopping related
- Two box top campaigns during school year
 - ◆ Please collect box tops
 - ◆ Prize for class with most box tops
 - ◆ Ten cents for every box top
 - ◆ Raised \$1500 last school year
 - ◆ Funds to be used at school's discretion

Room Parents - Margaret Henry

- Every room has a room parent
- On-line sign ups a bit challenging; information posted on website
- Expect communication from the room parents

Tuesday Folders - Arghavan Banan

- Tuesday folder parents needed for 4 rooms
- More folder stuffing time slots available on Tuesdays for the volunteers

Fun Run - Margaret Henry

- Kicks off 10/24/16
- Run is set for 11/4/16
- No special t-shirts
 - ◆ Kids to wear red Roberts t-shirt
- Money for field and other school needed in light of cuts
- Fun Run great opportunity to solicit funds from family and friends
 - ◆ 82% of last year's funds came from non-parents
 - ◆ \$80K raised
- Program gift incentives still included because using same company

Culture of Giving - Donna Scudder

- 2nd week of fundraising
- One more week
- 40% of families have participated

Library - Donna Scudder

- Great opportunity to volunteer

Directory - Vaibhavi Shanbhogue

- Deadline is 9/16
- Working to get people to sign up
- Soliciting sponsors
- Spread the word!

International Festival - Helen Belgrove & Isabel Khan

- Friday, October 21st, 3-6 p.m.
- Look for sign-up sheets
- Theme: Wonders of the World
- Looking for co-chairs for next year
- Committee meetings on Fridays

Other business

- Virginia Camerlo has spent lots of time setting up school and PTO website
- Don't forget to sign up VIPS
- Need to approve the Audit Committee
 - ◆ Motion to vote to suspend rules on voting of the Audit Committee, and take a vote to approve Jeremy Smith, Lauren Bloomquist and Chris Robins as audit committee for the audit of the financials for 2015-2016 school year
 - Seconded by Liz Ehrhart
 - A vote taken and motion passed

Meeting adjourned 9:10 a.m.

Next meeting is October 7th, 2016

Exhibit A

PTO Sign-In Sheet

[attached]