

**Roberts Elementary School PTO Meeting  
Friday October 2, 2015  
8:10 a.m. Roberts Cafe**

In attendance: Rosa Aguilar, Naureen Alam, Jenny Beech, Helen Belgrove, Virginia Camerlo, Judith Castelio, Emanuela Corradino, PJ Davis-Oran, Vanessa Engel, Trealla Epps, Laura Frazier, Deanna Fuehne, Griselda Garcia, Martha Gau, Maureen Glancy, Renae Holman Murti, Camille Jenman, Kevin Jensen, Chris Jost, Lewis Jost, Aparna Jotwani, Margaret Henry, Jieun Kim, Elangovan Krishnan, Meiyee Ku, Nam, Lau , Amy McCallum, Mehrnaz Molaei, Dina Mohamed, Alton Nash, Kara Niles, Angel Plaza, Amanda Reyes, Christine Robins, Alyson Rooney, Kristin Schuster, Donna Scudder, Jansi Sethuraj, Natalie Smith, Megan Stewart, Ryan Taatle, Jennifer Thornton, John Thornton, Valerie Thurmond, Valerie Thompson, Devyn Wolens, Pia Weyandt, Jansi Sethvooj, Tabatha Wey, Nadalino Blancetres?

Meeting Called to Order	Camille Jenman
School Report	Trealla Epps
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Devyn Wolens
Treasurer's Report	Lara Frazier
Culture of Giving Final Report	Prashant Murti
International Festival	Helen Belgrove
SPARK Update	Jennifer Thornton
SPARK Fun Run	Eman El Shareif
Camp Out	John Thornton
Box Top/Amazon Reward Program	Vanessa Engel
HISD Liaison Update	Deanna Fuehne
Book Fair	Natalie Smith
Any Other Business	Camille Jenman
Adjourn	Camille Jenman

\* Next meeting will be held Friday November 13th

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Meeting Called to Order                      Camille Jenman

8:15am

School Report                                      Trealla Epps

Update re: temp buildings for 4th grade. Contractors are done, Ms. Epps received keys yesterday. On schedule to move in first week in Nov. Will be soliciting help to move teacher's items into these classrooms Magnet status. Roberts had 15% magnet student population last year. This year we did not take any new magnet students. We did not meet 20% (of total student body) magnet status requirement last year or this year (we are at 13% now) HISD will not commit to when we will lose funding. If we keep enrollment same we should be fine for funding continued arts & music programs despite losing magnet funding. In the past, HISD

magnet funding was lowered by 50% initially, then gradually more until completely removed when magnet status was lost.

School of choice tours are continuing but Roberts Administration will be stressing that if families touring live in the zone they will get in to Roberts. Roberts will not offer a magnet transfer; however, for students here at Roberts on magnet transfer with entering kinder siblings Ms. Epps will offer a "principal's agreement". This would be a verbal agreement to families with magnet students currently enrolled at Roberts that Ms. Epps will do her best to enable these student's siblings to enter Kindergarten at Roberts. Ms. Epps has expressed to Mark Shenker that this agreement is important to her.

Q: Is Roberts at capacity for class size according to state ratio since waivers will not be applied for this school year?

A: We have space in all of our classrooms - Roberts is not at capacity for K-4 (ratio is 22 students: 1 teacher) and there is no ratio for 5th grade

Q: Could Roberts reapply for magnet status once it is lost provided our population changes?

A: Magnet status is not a likely possibility for reinstatement once we lose it.

We won't ever have enough physical capacity to take an additional 20% students outside of zone. ASL, Art, Music & Spanish classes are all supported by magnet funding. Ms. Epps has moved Spanish budget out of magnet into regular budget.

Q: Can unused funds be rolled over from one school year to the next?

A: All funding is use it or lose it. You lose 40% of funds if you roll it over into next year.

Q: How much of Roberts' total budget does Magnet funding comprise?

A: Magnet funding is about 15% of total budget for Roberts.

Ms. Epps will have her first meeting next week with a group of HISD members to identify grants & other partnerships in the community that may provide Roberts the opportunity to offer fine arts in a more comprehensive way beyond ancillary instruction.

Dismissal process brainstorming meeting next Friday here in cafe after drop-off. Take all info in then Ms. Epps has an idea she wants to unveil & see if it matches our vision. It will be a working session. Bring solutions, every single person will not be 100% happy, but Ms. Epps hopes to find a goal that makes people more comfortable. Also going to discuss arrival & where kids sit upon arrival. Estimate meeting will take an hour.

Community night was a success.

Field day is Nov 6th - will be combined with Spark Park Fun Run

Approval of Minutes

Devyn Wolens

Devyn Wolens, Recording Secretary, presented the minutes from the May PTO meeting and September PTO meeting for approval. A motion to approve the May and September meeting minutes was made by Alyson Rooney and seconded by Jen Thornton. A vote was taken and motion passed. All in favor - "Aye".

Treasurer's Report

Lara Frazier

Budgets vs. actuals listed on handouts provided Roberts made \$11k more than planned in budget for last month Classroom supplies & community night incurred minor spending

## Culture of Giving Final Report

Prashant Murti

Wrap up/thanks to everyone who gave  
\$73,028 total collected/received to date  
\$4296 corporate matching donations  
71% of families at Roberts contributed  
82% of kids represented at Roberts (siblings included)  
19 matching donations - we could do better here like from MDA. We should increase our push for this from corporate foundations.  
Kinder classes did well. 5th grade improved over last year Wish to raise minimum donation amount from \$1 to slightly higher minimum barrier. Maybe change the incentive prize. First time online payment helped with bookkeeping All oil & gas, drilling companies have matching foundations. Most hospitals do not with exception of MDA. Email your HR rep. and ask for corporate match

## International Festival

Helen Belgrove

To be held Oct 16th 3-6pm  
30 countries represented  
On day of festival parade at 8:30am we need help putting up tents right after the parade  
2 grades in parade - 1st & 2nd grade

## SPARK Update

Jennifer Thornton

Most donations have come from neighborhood thus far Block captains will be walking door to door to ask for support Talk to your neighbors Other request - we need additional help with business/corporate collections Committee sent out 20 grants last week Working on another 20 grants now Would love help writing grants especially from attorneys or others who are effective and persuasive at writing concisely.

## SPARK Fun Run

Eman El Shareif

Fun run - Nov 6th tied in with field day Need donations now b/c of funding deadlines of Dec  
Every child participates in the run  
9 day event starts with a pep rally oct 26th through nov 6th Not a timed race. Kids will be running laps. Booster-thon will count the laps Kids will collect pledges per lap Sponsors will be listed on the event t-shirt We need volunteers for the week before/during Big world recess - different IB characteristics with different theme each day. Whole class will do a physical activity during morning announcements. Learning how to be healthy is the goal Most of work done by kids. Whole family invited to cheer on - this is the students' chance to raise money for their playground Distribute shirts & pledge books Competition by classes to see who gets most pledges/Max laps run is 30 - each class max is 30 laps per child per class Roberts earns a bonus if we collect a donation from every state Need volunteers to enter funds after the run is completed Email capacity to send video to out of town families/grandparents/friends Spark park table will be set-up at International Festival for collections Roberts.runningclub.com email for questions

## Camp Out

Jon Thornton

Fri Oct 30th

Padres organizes it

Same format as in years past - 530 attendees last year between kids/parents Capping attendance at 500 this year currently at 212 registered to date Bracelets/check-in/security Scavenger hunt, arts & crafts, dinner, movie, popcorn, breakfast - kids get a t-shirt.

Not a fundraiser but we do raise money to fund father-daughter dance.

Organizers cannot let people check-in until 5:30. No access to school/fields until then. No tent set up before then b/c after school programs still going on Could use volunteers Incentives on early tent set-up at auction - get to pick spot if you buy at auction or volunteer at Camp Out

## Box Top & Rewards

Vanessa Engel

Last day for collections Oct 22

Amazon smiles [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) - to donate to charity of your choice. We get a 1/2% per spend. Must be logged in thru smile amazon.

Recurring subscriptions not eligible

Listed under Oran Roberts

Any student who brings in at least 30 box tops will be entered into a raffle

brings x number of box tops will be

entered into this drawing for a prize

The school earns \$.10 per boxtop submitted

## HISD Liaison Update

Deanna Fuehne

HISD liaison meets with Sam Sarrabia & Mike Lunceford regularly to discuss whether local graduates are prepared to go into college or workforce, whether more testing is needed re: reading/writing readiness, etc... If you are interested in attending/being involved contact Deanna

## Book Fair

Natalie Smith

Nov 16-19th

James Coney island food truck

5:30-7:30 family night

Theme - Monsters/Monster High

Looking for decorations if anyone has some to donate Teacher sign-up to help (need volunteers) when kids go to library to shop Front page & Tuesday folder will have more info

## Any Other Business

Camille Jenman

Reminders. Dismissal brainstorming meeting next Friday Oct 9th 08:10am Thanks to Murtis & Heikkinens for Culture of Giving Campaign Thanks to Eman & Catalina For Community night Finnegan counseling session at 9am to follow this PTO meeting

Dr. Élan wants to recommend a chess club - he will find funding/sponsors He will write a proposal but would like other parent input Organizational meeting will be listed in front page Formal plan by next PTO meeting Asking principal if chess club can be held at school

Adjourned

Camille Jenman

Meeting adjourned at 0908