

Roberts Elementary School PTO Meeting
Friday January 8, 2016
8:18 a.m. Roberts Cafe

In attendance: Arghavan Banan, Jenny Beech, Virginia Camerlo, Jaime Cnosen, Emanuela Corradino, Davis-Oran, PJ, Liz Ehrhart, Vanessa Engel, Trealla Epps, Dina Fayed, Laura Frazier, Martha Gau, Julian He, Margaret Henry, Renae Holman Murti, Camille Jenman, Aparna Jotwani, Elangovan Krishnan, Greg Marshall, Amy McCallum, Denise Metry, Meiyee Ku, Nam Lau, Dana Levy, Mehrnaz Molaei, Alton Nash, Kara Niles, Catalina Pastore, Amanda Reyes, Christine Robins, Juliana Ronderos, Alyson Rooney, Kristin Schuster, Donna Scudder, Jansi Sethuraj, Elizabeth Singleton, Lena Smith, Megan Stewart, Rocio Suayfeta, Dina Taaffe, Ryan Taatle, Jennifer Thornton, Valerie Thurmond, Valerie Thompson, Wendy McKay, Matthew Hedley, Rebecca Burton, Kelly Wehrer, Lena Smith, Catherine Lawrence, Juliana Ronderos, Pia Weyandt, Liting Ren, Qiao Xue, Devyn Wolens, Bill Sanderford

Meeting Called to Order	Camille Jenman
School Report	Trealla Epps
Treasurer's Report	Lara Frazier
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Devyn Wolens
Southgate Traffic Committee Report	Bill Sanderfork
Auction	Valerie Thompson/Julie McFarland
SPARK Update	Jennifer Thornton
Rice Basketball Bash	Natalie Smith
Coat Drive Final Report	Kristin Schuster
Any Other Business	Camille Jenman
Adjourn	Camille Jenman

* Next meeting will be held Friday February 5, 2016

Meeting Called to Order	Camille Jenman
8:18am	
School Report	Trealla Epps

Optional camp meeting for 5th grade parents on Thursday Jan 14th 8:15
Spelling bee held yesterday was success. Winners were 2 fourth graders?
1st grade musical Thursday January 28, 6:30pm in cafe
3rd grade performance??

Open carry law – initial proposal states that, one can come all the way to the front door of the school with a weapon. HISD has come up with a revised proposal - cannot come on grounds during school hours and or events, but can sit in parking lot. Ms. Epps is requesting additional input/guidelines specifically for "open" schools with spark parks like ours. Also need official signage provided by district. Ms. Epps is following Dallas ISD's robust plan with not as many grey areas. Ms. Epps will post all info for parents to see once clarification is received.

Ms. Epps has to send something on our school letterhead to the city with our requests regarding traffic safety. Ms. Epps thinks we need to include all Roberts families to be fair. Ms. Epps & Camille will discuss & plan after this meeting Margaret & Natalie will address the specific Montclair parking issue since this committee only addresses vehicular traffic flow not parking

Treasurer's Report

Lara Frazier

Not too much to report. The PTO gave a holiday gift of \$50 to each teacher.
Teacher ? moved into the science lab so her budget requests are arriving.
Roberts made \$2k more than expected from this year's book fair.

Approval of PTO Meeting Minutes.

Devyn Wolens

Devyn Wolens, Recording Secretary, presented the minutes from the November 2015 PTO meeting and December 2015 PTO meeting for approval. A motion to approve the November and December meeting minutes was made by Valerie Thompson and seconded by Liz Singleton. A vote was taken and motion passed. All in favor - "Aye".

Neighborhood Traffic Report

Bill Sanderford

Neighborhood Traffic Committee has met several times over the past 3 years. The Committee met with the City of Houston this past week to discuss our neighborhood's proposals. Mr. Sanderford is here soliciting input from Roberts parents. He is the Chairman of the Neighborhood Traffic Committee - 12 people on committee. Goal is to eliminate speed & traffic issues in neighborhood. Mr. Sanderford met with Ms. Epps after meeting with the city. Focus on area of Roberts. 25% of concerns of committee were related to Roberts & concerns of safety. Adding 4 way stops at Swift & Watts at Montclair - alternative solution will be speed bump between Goldsmith & Watts. 2 Speedbumps on Swift – 1 in front of Roberts results in 5-8 mile slowdown.

More than 1400 vehicles in front of school per day vs. rest of Southgate 200-400 vehicles per day. City proposed one speed bump - does PTO & principal support additional steps to control traffic such as other speedbumps, stop signs, etc... 5-600ft between speedbumps. 200ft from major thoroughfare such as Greenbriar. Swift & Montclair stop sign. 1200 cars using Montclair per day. City proposed moving stop sign from Addison. Meeting attendees are requesting an additional stop sign at Swift. Southgate & Montclair additional stop sign is in the current proposal. City has accepted 60% of Southgate's proposals.

Q: Margaret requesting stop sign at Watts & Montclair to stop as opposed to slowing traffic.

A: Not enough supporting data to warrant a stop sign at Watts and Swift.

We would have to remove a Speedbump in order to have more four way stops.

Q Kristin: Did city do the count? Did counts include foot traffic?

A: City contracted a company that did the counts. It was only vehicle not pedestrian data collected

Martha: request to move stop sign from Addison to Watts, move Speedbump between Watts & Swift

Q: Natalie asked about slowing traffic between Holcombe & MacArthur.

A: City proposed single Speedbump between Holcombe & MacArthur.

Q: Liz asked if parking on Montclair was discussed or was that data evaluated?

A: Parking was not included in the proposal. That is street/block driven matter.

Q: Donna. This may be a school issue but wouldn't crossing guard at Watts & Montclair improve presence.

A: This is not a committee driven matter.

Our deadline for comments would ideally be today but Mr. Sanderford stated that he can wait until early next week. He states that the committee only needs fine tuning; it has already got 60% of what is needed to provide the city.

Auction/Gala

Valerie Thompson

Feb 20th 7pm at Rice with theme "Roberts Prom 2016"

Parties up for auction: Liz is heading them up. We need lots of adult & kid party hosts. Ideally there would be a Happy hour auction item for every grade as well as a swim party for each class. Parties are the biggest money maker of the gala.

SPARK Update

Jennifer Thornton

December was quiet. Tuesday Folder will next week include an update to everyone. Spark Committee is sending postcards to everyone in the neighborhood this week. After January, donations received will go towards the renovating/turfing the field. Prior to that, funding received goes towards the playground. There will be several requests for parents to help in the art room with glazing the tiles for the walls of the Spark Park. Each tile needs 3-4 layers of glaze so it is a lot of work.

Rice Basketball Bash

Natalie Smith

Family event at Tudor field Saturday January 30th at 7pm. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids. \$5 from each ticket goes towards spark park. Tickets will be picked up at will call. At the end of game kids can go shoot a free throw on the court.

Holiday Coat Drive

Kristin Schuster

Mrs. Epps and several parents delivered over 150 coats in a huge array of sizes to Shearn Elementary. The recipients were very appreciative & our community should be proud.

Any Other Business

Camille Jenman

All students have classrooms now in the temporary buildings. Windows have been installed on one side of the temporary buildings as well.

Volunteer positions are open for carnival to co-chair with Vanessa Engel - see Camille or Vanessa if interested.

Information services committee also has an opening 3-4 hours/week updating Roberts's calendar & websites. This work can be done from work or home.

Finnegan counseling will offer a free session after the next PTO meeting on the topic of social media

Next meeting scheduled for Friday February 5th.

Adjourned

Camille Jenman

Meeting adjourned at 09:05