

**Roberts Elementary School PTO Meeting**  
**Friday February 5, 2016**  
**8:10a.m. Roberts Café**

In Attendance: Rosa Aguilar, Jenny Beech, Lauren Bloomquist, Rebecca Buxton, Jaime Cnossen, P.J. Davis-Oran, Vanessa Engel, Liz Ehrhart, Lara Frazier, Martha Gau, Maureen Glancy, Kristen Hawkins, Margaret Henry, Camille Jenman, Aparna Jotwani, Dana Kelly, Nam Lau, Catherine Lawrence, Lauren Montesi, Mehrhaz Molaei, Renae Holman Murti, Thanyaporn Phoolpol, Andrea Ramero, Amanda Reyes, Jennifer Schlaich, Megan Stewart, Rocio Suayfeta Saenz, Lena Suell, Dina Taafe, Courtney Tardy, Valerie Tompson, Pia Weyandt, Stephanie Walton, Jana Wang, Luanne Carter.

**Agenda:**

Meeting Call to Order	Camille Jenman
Approval of October Meeting Minutes	Aparna Jotwani for Devyn Wolens
Treasurer's Report	Lara Frazier
School Report	Stephanie Walton for Trealla Epps
Young Audiences/Special event	Luanne Carter
Auction/Gala	Valerie Tompson
Standing Committee Chairs	Valerie Tompson
SPARK/Fun Run Update	Margaret Henry for Jen Thornton
Spring Box Tops	Vanessa Engel
Carnival	Vanessa Engel & Jana Wang
Any Other Business	

**\*Next meeting will be Friday, March 4th.**

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8:15 am

Meeting Called to Order: Camille Jenman

- I. Approval of January Minutes: Aparna Jotwani, Recording Secretary, presented the minutes from the January 2016 PTO meeting for approval. A motion to approve the January 2016 meeting minutes was made by Margaret Henry and seconded by Lara Frazier. A vote was taken and motion passed. All in favor - "Aye".
- II. Treasurer's Report: Lara Frazier  
An up to date attached budget was reviewed. There were no acute changes since the last meeting.
- III. School Report: Stephanie Walton (as Trealla Epps was absent)
  - The next budget meeting for the school is scheduled for Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Roberts elementary is no longer subsidized as it was in the past, so we can expect to see changes in the HISD budget in upcoming years. If we want more

up to date information, we can follow Erica Mellon's column in the Houston Chronicle.

- There are two upcoming field trips; the Third graders will be going on a double decker bus tour and the Fourth graders will be going to Austin. The Third grade musical is also coming up in February.
- We have passed our 100 day of school mark, so the administration is starting to plan now for the next school year.
- With that, the Intent-to-Return forms with the list of required paperwork will be mailed out shortly. Sibling registration is coming up Thursday March 3, 2016. Kindergarten registration is set for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 all as walk in, no appointments. Other than kindergarten registration, the rest of the grades registrations will be due by April. The exact dates are online on the Roberts website.
- There was a question regarding magnet transfers, and while the policy is not changed, the parent and community are advised to speak with Ms. Epps directly so that decisions can be made on a case by case basis.
- There was also a question regarding standardized testing. It was reviewed that there is no longer the Iowa or Stanford standardized testing to be administered, at least this year. The state STAAR testing will still be completed. This should be expected towards the end of March/ and in May.
- The last day of school is May 25<sup>th</sup> 2016.
- Another update that was reviewed was that the GT Testing policy with HISD has changed. Retesting to apply to Middle school is no longer needed. The policy is that once a child qualifies for G/T, the designation will last through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Testing will still be automatically done in Kindergarten and 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

IV. Young Audiences- Re: A special event for Roberts

Luanne Carter, a representative from Young Audiences, came to speak at the meeting as Roberts is being recognized with their Arts Empowerment Award to be given at their Annual Gala. Young Audiences is a group started in 1956 that supports 53 School Districts and works with greater than 200,000 children. They work/ help with our school musicals. An information letter regarding their gala/ tickets is attached.

V. Auction- Valerie Tompson

The Roberts Elementary Auction is coming up February 27<sup>th</sup> 2016. There have been questions as to what to wear- and the answer is anything! Whatever you like is fine, but please encourage parents to attend. This is an adults-only event. Babysitting is available through the Gymnast Factory. Help is still needed the day and night of the event.

VI. Standing Committee Chairs for 2016-2017- Valerie Tompson

The nominating committee will be meeting in 2 weeks. Please let Valerie know if you want to continue as the current Committee Chair if you are one, and the PTO is looking for a Treasurer in addition to other board members/ chairs.

- VII. Spark Park Update- Margaret Henry  
A thank you to the whole committee for the support of the SPARK Park so far. The donations are going to cover an excellent park, but there is not enough to redo the field. We will plan to redo the field next/ hopefully in the near future. There is a consideration to AstroTurf the field area as well. This is not decided and will be discussed as fundraising for the field starts later. At the present, plans to begin the SPARK Park are for mid-May (immediately after school is out) and no trees will be cut down in the process.
- VIII. Spring Box Tops- Vanessa Engel  
This drive will end early, February 25<sup>th</sup> 2016. There is a raffle for each child who enters more than 20 box tops for a prize from every grade.
- IX. Carnival- Vanessa Engel and Jana Wang  
The Roberts Carnival is coming up April 30<sup>th</sup>. There is no other "theme" this year, just a fun carnival. It will be from 10am-2pm and help is welcome.
- X. Any Other Business
- Please submit budget changes if needed asap
  - Kristen Hawkins, a Roberts parent/ PTO member wanted to announce that she is running for an office/ judge in the upcoming March 1<sup>st</sup> election.
  - A parent wanted to ask if it would be possible to use an HISD Middle School for some of the Roberts performances, given the crowding. Given the performance practices, this was discussed to be potentially difficult. The Fifth grade does do this currently, but no other grades.
- XI. Meeting Adjourned at 08:35am.

**Next Meeting will be Friday March 4, 2016.**