

Roberts Elementary School PTO Meeting
Friday March 4, 2016
8:10 a.m. Roberts Cafe

In attendance: Arghavan Banan, Jenny Beech, Virginia Camerlo, Susan Clark, Emanuela Corradino, Davis-Oran, PJ, Vanessa Engel, Trealla Epps, Laura Frazier, Martha Gau, Renae Holman Murti, Camille Jenman, Felita Joubert, Nam Lau, Dana Levy, Mehrnaz Molaei, Thony Ngumbu, Catalina Pastore, Amanda Reyes, Christine Robins, Juliana Ronderos, Donna Scudder, Lena Smith, Rocio Suayfeta, Dina Taaffe, Ryan Taaffe, Jennifer Thornton, John Thornton, Valerie Tompson, Kelly Wehrer, Pia Weyandt, Liting Ren, Qiao Xue, Devyn Wolens

Meeting Called to Order	Camille Jenman
School Report	Trealla Epps
Treasurer's Report	Lara Frazier
Auction Update	Valerie Tompson/Julie McFarland
Budget Committee Update	Camille Jenman
Rice Baseball Bash	Camille Jenman
Barnes & Noble Book Fair	Camille Jenman
SPARK Park Update	Jennifer Thornton
Campout	John Thornton
Box Tops Recap	Vanessa Engel
Carnival	Vanessa Engel/Jana Wang
Any Other Business	Camille Jenman
Adjourn	Camille Jenman

* Next meeting will be held Friday April 1, 2016

Meeting Called to Order

Camille Jenman

08:10am

School Report

Trealla Epps

Registration for siblings of current Roberts students began this week. Registration for kindergarteners new to the school (without any siblings currently enrolled) who reside within the zone starts next week. Administration will be using HCAD to confirm that residences are within the zone. Intent to Return forms will be mailed out to homes by Friday of next week at latest. Form should be completed and returned to school by March 30th at the latest. Spring break is March 14-18th. Spring holiday occurs the following Friday March 22nd. Report cards will go home on March 29th. First round of testing for 4th & 5th graders math/reading is March 29-30. One day of testing only for 4th grade with only 1 writing sample. May 9-10th is the second round of testing for science. Promotion standards have changed this year only because of late testing. STAAR will not be included as a promotion standard.

2 rounds of GT tests coming up - April 4th week is last round of this year. April 15th is last day to enroll for GT testing. May 6-18th

Principals meeting Wed. \$3800/per pupil allocation now proposing cutting \$79 per pupil (were proposing \$275/per pupil cut). HISD Board has not approved that yet but Ken Hewitt (interim superintendent) is being very transparent about the process.

Treasurer's Report

Lara Frazier

Everything looks great, auction did well. Carnival is the next big budget item.

Auction Update

Valerie Tompson/Julie McFarland

Thank you to everyone who helped with auction. The overwhelming feedback was what a fun night the auction was. Approximately \$60-65k raised. Auction committee chairs will likely be sending a questionnaire to inquire about decreased attendance. PTO Budgeted \$66k to raise for auction so auction did well considering Spark Park funds were also raised this year.

Budget Committee Update

Camille Jenman

The following letter was submitted by Courtney Tardy on behalf of the Roberts PTO Budget Committee:

"Dear PTO Board and parents,

The Budget Committee has met twice this semester to oversee the 2015-2016 budget allocations and to prepare the proposed 2016-2017 PTO budget. We will meet once more next week to set the proposed budget for the next school year.

HISD has a budget shortfall for next year so we expect some cuts to the school's budget. Therefore, we are remaining very conservative with the PTO budget and ask that all committee chairs keep this in mind. Our conservatism should allow us to respond to special needs throughout the school year and provide for special allocations at year end.

Thus far, and for the reasons above, we have not proposed that the 2016-2017 budget differ greatly from this year's budget. If you are a committee chair and you'd like to recommend a change to your committee budget, please let Valerie Tompson or Camille Jenman know ASAP. We need to know all proposed recommendations by next Wednesday, March 8.

After the Budget Committee has set the proposed budget for next year, it will be posted in the school for public comment. A notice will be posted in the Front Page. It will be on the agenda for approval at the April PTO meeting.

In other business, the Budget Committee has approved the spending of this year's technology budget of \$35,000 and \$46,000 of money from previous years' unused technology funds to cover our current technology need of 68 computers.

Thank you to Budget Committee members Trealla Epps, Camille Jenman, Valerie Tompson, Lara Frazier, Vanessa Engel, Elangovan Krishan, Prashant Murti, Heather Peterson, and Alyson Rooney.

We all thank the Roberts community for being so generous with their financial support, which allows the PTO to fund critical needs within the classroom.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Tardy"

Rice Baseball Bash

Camille Jenman

This Friday evening at Rice's Reckling Park is the Rice Baseball Bash. There are only a few more hours to buy tickets (before noon today). The bash starts at 6pm. There will be a Roberts Booth to pick up tickets. Cost is \$5 to enter the bounce house. Andrew Thornton will be throwing out the first pitch.

Bounce house - volunteers are still needed to monitor bounce house on shifts (1 parent per 30- minute shift) beginning at 6:30pm & ending at 9pm. The bounce house will be located just outside of the Roost where lots of parents hang out so volunteers will still be

around lots of other adults. Responsible middle and high school students that need service hours are welcome to help monitor the bounce house as well.

Contact nemgesmith@gmail.com

Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Camille Jenman

To be held May 5th at W. Holcombe location. Online and in store sale percentage goes to school. Violin & piano students to perform. Chic-Fil-A spirit night same date from 4:30-8 or 08:30pm

SPARK Park Update

Jennifer Thornton

Art tiles in front hall. Kinder, 1st & 2nd will be covering the sitting walls. Grades 3,4,5 are sketching out their designs

\$750 raised from Rice Basketball bash. \$5 per every ticket sold we gain. Same as baseball bash. Another effort in fall with Houston Dynamo & Dash - up to 30 students on field.

Roberts Day at Jerry Built March 22nd: School receives 20% back from sales that day.

Fundraising \$497,000 raised to date for Spark Park

Happy New Year card was mailed to the neighborhood with message to continue your giving. Gained \$60k from that mailing.

There are still underwriting opportunities.

\$75k in Spark budget left from Ms. Graves - will be kept for field. Field won't be started until after playground is done next year. Playground will be done over the summer

Campout

John Thornton

Scheduled (rescheduled from last fall) for twice rained out in fall. Friday April 8th.

Dinner, movie, arts & crafts, breakfast next day. Not advertising again but there will be a few spots to register with t-shirts. Attendance is capped at 500 for safety reasons.

Registration is at 460 now. Email dads. Need 20-30 volunteers. Email Thorntonjj@

Box Tops Recap

Vanessa Engel

Spring Campaign ended last week. 7764 box tops collected - more than last fall. Hold on to box tops for next campaign in October

Carnival

Vanessa Engel/Jana Wang

Scheduled for April 30th. Looking for henna painter! Send email to Vanessa or Jana.

Any high school volunteers for beauty shop & face painting - parents for the assigned class will volunteer with students to help. Complete volunteer form circulating
Any Other Business Camille Jenman

Kelly Wehrer: Traffic meeting with Ms. Epps, Ellen Cohen & staff, people from City of Houston, and Greg Cohen from rice. State minimum for stop signs only looks at vehicle traffic volume, and the intersections under review don't currently meet the minimum volume for stop sign placement even at Addison where there is currently a stop sign. Plan is to install speed bumps on Montclair & Swift as well as crosswalk signage/paint.

Crossing guard: Roberts is "maxed-out" on securing more crossing guards, but there is a possibility of moving a guard from another less busy Roberts location. Too much liability for parents to "man" the traffic crossings.

Finnegan counseling session begins today at 09:00am on helping kids through life transitions.

Adjourned

Camille Jenman

Meeting adjourned at 08:49am