

Minutes
February 8, 2012
PTO Board Meeting

Board members in attendance:

Holly Shilstone-President
Paul Heyburn-First VP
Liz Palmer-VP Finance
Kef Wilson-VP Public Relations
Meredith Maierson-VP Internal Relations
Frances Davidson-Past President
Ann Guerra-School Life Director
Madhuri Chilakapati-Volunteer Coordinator
Amie Canfield-Volunteer Coordinator
Sandra Ahlhorn-Chair, Budget and Finance
Jennifer McCormick-Teacher Appreciation Director
Teri Gerber- Teacher Appreciation Director
Laura Fertak-3rd grade representative
Liz Daniel-1st grade representative
Nicole Andrews-2nd grade representative
Linda Elmer-5th grade representative
Kathryn Hensey-Kinder grade representative
Aminata Ojore-Faculty representative
Alex Thornton-Faculty representative
Janann Pitman-Specialist Representative
Mandy Gutierrez-Assistant Principal
Dr. Keri Fovargue-Head of School

PTO Members in attendance:

Maria Onufrow-Directory

1. Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Holly Shilstone. We will wait for voting items when we have quorum and book fair chair present. Please move to agenda item for Teacher Appreciation Director update.
2. Teacher Appreciation Week update—Teri Gerber and Jennifer McCormick—Teacher Appreciation Week is February 20-24. Information to be distributed via email. Theme: “Rolling out the Red Carpet.” Lots of activities, food, and gifts planned, stressing equality among different teachers. Each day will feature a different movie theme. Staff will also be included.
3. Book Fair update—Sandra Ahlhorn—begins on Saturday, February 11, with Fabulous Friends Day—not sure how many people to expect—volunteers needed, not just for the cash register. M/T/W—students will visit the book fair with their classes. Dr. Fovargue

will email the plan to the teachers. Family Night on Wednesday, February 15—no food this year, but Corona Ice truck will be outside.

4. Quorum now present and motion to amend agenda made by Christine Tabrizi seconded by Liz Palmer—motion passed.

5. Approval of the December and January Minutes. Motion by Liz Palmer. Frances Davidson second. Motion passed.

6. Reallocation of Funds. Liz Palmer discussed the request to reallocate \$3000 from Internal Relations/anti-bullying programs to Website to cover contract work by consultant and subscription to Constant Contact. Questions/discussion about bullying programming and e.g. No Place for Hate. Dr. Fovargue explained that the School has added an Assistant Principal and Counselor and that they and the teachers are working proactively through the IB program to head off bullying; no need for outside programs. Surveys conducted the past two years show low percentage. It was mentioned that parents would benefit from some education so they can support the School's message and use the same language. Dr. Fovargue offered to ask Ms. Heitke to put together a program for parents; this will also help make parents more aware of her role. Dr. Fovargue also stressed the importance of reporting concerns about bullying to her and/or Ms. Gutierrez. Liz made the motion to reallocate \$3000 from Internal Relation/Anti-bullying program to Website line item. Meredith Maierson seconded the motion. Motion passed with one opposed.

7. Liz Palmer explain the need to close Activity Center Account, which contains funds restricted for PE-related activity, and transfer any remaining money to another money market account to avoid fees. Liz made the motion. Sandra Ahlhorn seconded. Motion passed.

8. Update from Kef Wilson, VP-Public Relations—Kef announced that kinder parent Lynne Renshaw had taken over as ROE News editor and was in the process of transitioning from Word/PDF to Constant Contact. Kef and Keri both explain how we are moving forward to paperless/electronic communication and will continue to keep copies at the front copies for those who would like a hardcopy.

9. Budget Update by Liz Palmer, VP-Finance—budget is on track with a \$9000 surplus in fund-raising. Please visit the Spirit Store and buy stuff as we need to move our inventory surplus.

10. Update from Holly Shilstone, President—Holly has enjoyed her year as PTO president. Paul Heyburn will take over as President next year. Holly attended Nature Center committee meeting with Joe Blanton. Nature Center has not been getting much use by our students. Dr. Fovargue explained that new science standards and curricular realignment had forced the School to put activities on hold. On March 21 and 28, all teachers will get a standards-driven lesson with Joe Blanton in the Nature Center. This Saturday from 3-5 p.m. is planting for Earth Day with Joe Blanton.

11. Update from Paul Heyburn, First VP—Paul has been in discussion with HISD leaders about expanding ROE to become a K-8 school. Lots of support and excitement and positive feedback. No major concerns so far. Possibility of getting bond passed in November to fund expansion. Dr. Fovargue explained that she announced this to faculty and SDMC earlier today and that she is eager to hear feedback, including concerns. Discussion of concerns and benefits ensued.

12. Update from Dr. Fovargue—

- risk assessment was done on Sand Lake—not a significant risk—will be raked and filled with sand
- School is exploring moving towards a web-based digital portfolio system; a group of teachers will be conducting a pilot project using managebac.com, which will require \$1500/year from PTO funds raised for IB. A portfolio is intended to be a “celebration of an active mind.” The students will choose the work they include.
- Dr. Fovargue would like to create some student appreciation activities on STAAR test days—asked for help from Teacher Appreciation chairs.
- At April 3rd PTO General Spring meeting, Dr. Fovargue will speak on the topic IB for Primary Years and Middle Schools.
- Next PTO Board meeting March 7th.

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.