

ROE PTO Board Meeting Minutes  
Minutes for January 12, 2011  
Meeting was brought to order at 6:07 p.m.

In attendance:

Charla Carroll  
Holly Shilstone  
Robert Woelfel  
Paul Heyburn  
Jeri Gates  
Bendi Woodruff  
Amie Canfield  
Debra Kenna  
Ana Bencomo  
Teri Gerber  
Tammy Yum  
Sandra Ahlhorn  
Meredith Meyerson  
Ann Guerra  
Michele Dahlquist  
Becky Smith  
Susan Shenker  
Leslie Gisi  
Diane Cimino  
Liz Palmner  
Colleen Morris  
Janann Pittman  
MaryAnn Mueller

**Topic: Secretary's Report**

**Sponsor: Charla Carroll**

Charla Carroll motioned to pass the December minutes for approval. Holly Shilstone seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Topic: President's Report**

**Sponsor: Frances Moore-Jones**

I have some dates for the calendar:

Katie Morgan will be having a reading/spelling session on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. in the cafeteria. If you are interested in learning more about those programs, I encourage you to go. I think there is sometimes some confusion about the programs at the lower levels, so Paul if you would encourage all the Kindergarten parents to attend I think that would be a good thing.

Our March meeting would have been Wednesday but that conflicts with Ash Wednesday. We considered moving it to earlier, but it still conflicts. So were going to move that meeting. There are some conflicts on the previous Wednesday and then obviously on Spring Break is after that so we'll just keep you informed. Really at that meeting we'd like to unveil the Science Lab in whatever form that it is in. It may still be under construction but there will be enough done to go and see it. We may be able to invite everyone to come and see it. Then in April will be our General Meeting and Holly and I are working on a speaker and the time of day, so that will be flexible as well.

With that I turn the floor over to Holly and Stephanie for the development Report.

**Topic: Development Report**

**Sponsor: Holly Shilstone and Stephanie Moll**

Well, we can not do this without a great team, so I'm going to thank Stephanie, Margaret, and Misty and Frances for helping us. I'm so excited to report that we have \$104,000 that has come through underwriting. That's at various levels and that is such a nice amount. And we just received a \$5,000 donation to underwrite the Carnival and that is going to be Compass Bank which is so exciting. Max is traveling but things are coming together from various avenues, alumni, friends and now we need to do one for the Book Fair if any of have an interested party please let me know. We will be putting something in the ROE news. Maryann is here and is Chair for this event.

We are building a Development team for next year and we'll be adding some people so if you're interested in development or pursuing that, please let us know.

Any Questions/Comments?

**Stephanie Moll:** Great job to Holly and Max for getting Compass bank to underwrite the Carnival.

**Topic: Ways and Means Report****Sponsor: Ann Guerra, Colleen Morris, Maryann Mueller and/or Mary Chang**

**Ann Guerra:** I will just start with Box Tops: we raised \$ 1,051 so keep saving those little pieces of paper, they really do add up!

**Colleen Morris:** Sally Foster results raised close to 11K so thank you to everyone who volunteered and bought the products and for all your help. I actually have a breakout of the financials (attached) compared to last year when we raised 20K. So in that respect, the feedback on Sally Foster was not well received this year. We may have some Sally Foster fatigue in this school. Wendy Salvaggi is going to help Colleen next year with the fundraiser and Laura Fertak has a friend who has a new product that may be an idea – printed products, napkins, guest towels, paper pads. The printed products were a huge success at another school.

Their margins vary between 25% and 40% on the different products where the Sally Foster is pretty much a standard 40%, so if we could get a mix it might be good.

One thing to consider: They may not offer prizes for the kids like Sally Foster. The Board supported moving to the new product of printed items as shown for fundraising this Fall and not going with Sally Foster.

**Book Fair**

**MaryAnn Mueller** Mary Chang and I are the co-chairs for the Book Fair. We went to see what Richardson Books was like, but once we saw what was out there we got more profit with Scholastic. I would like \$50,000 from the book fair this year. Of course you only get a quarter of that from Scholastic, but then they give a 25% in “Scholastic Dollars” so that is above and beyond. Last year we used it to help everyone get a book at our fair. All I want is for everybody to read, so Scholastic helps us reach that goal by giving us this fund.

Last year our theme was ROE DINER, this year it is a CARNIVAL theme. And it is really cute. They have decided we can make as much money in three days as five and not aggravate the teachers. Book Fair is Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 7-9. We will still have our Grandparents Night and our Family Night. The classes will have a chance to come on Monday and we think it will be great. Everyone is already working we did a lot during the break but we will be loosening the apron strings on the cash register. Liza Dubinski has stepped up to do Grandparent’s day. We have a new decoration team. Since the science lab under construction in the room we used last year, today I asked Ms. Hicks for the music room. She agreed. It is huge with two doors. FMJ would the choir sing on Family night? Yes, maybe! We will have so many great things.

The kids come through with their classes and make lists on little clipboards. Tuesday will have grandparents and special friends coming with coffee and pastry in am and pm. We may a special photographer to make special keepsakes for the event. Then Wednesday will be our big push. But Kids want to come all day long. Tina Salem had a giant bag of change so we could contribute money to them if they ran short. We have plenty of opportunity to volunteer, all kinds of positions.

**Holly Shilstone:** Do we need extra volunteers for kids who may not have a special friend on Grandparents/Special Friends day? I asked if there has been sensitivity in the classroom if a student does not have a Grandparent or Special Friend attend this day event. Michele Dalquist will provide feedback from the teachers re: this matter this year.

**MaryAnn Mueller:** That has not happened in the past. But if so we could call Amie Canfield and she could tap our volunteer list for “Special Pals”

**Topic: Carnival Report**

**Sponsor: Holly Shilstone on behalf of Max Shilstone**

Max is excited and busy going to all the different carnivals and seeing what works best. It is called the ROE Family Carnival and it is going to be a Family Affair. We are going to reach out to our community, to our family, to everyone and so flyers will be coming out. The main sponsor has been done by Compass Bank. The t-shirt order, ticket order and underwriting form have been posted on the ROE store site by Lillian Wannall and awaiting for Paul to put this on the PTO Website.

After the book fair, PR will start for the Carnival and we have already started trying to secure a \$2500 donor for the Food Court. I'll let you know how that goes.

If you're interested in joining the carnival team, please contact Max as committees are being formed.. If you have some ideas, we are working on in-kind donations for the food. It is going to hamburgers and hotdogs and right now we're not sure if it's going to be the Dads flipping the hamburgers and the hotdogs or is it going to be a donor. It could be a donor. So we'll see! Save the Date: April the 9<sup>th</sup> 11-3 p.m. Rain or Shine! We'll be meeting with our principal on a backup rain plan just so we'll be prepared. We do have some of the Lanier Middle school kids who need community Service hours so we will be working with a variety of those schools to help out as volunteers.

**Topic: Principal's Report**

**Sponsor: Susan Shenker**

On Spanish Lab the laptop cart is in all of the headphones and microphones are in. We already have the Licensing agreements. We should be online soon. Training for the teacher starts next Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup>. It is an all-day training for David Vialard, Michele, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Eastman and Katie Morgan our literacy coach because we can use it for ESL. The kids will be able to access it very soon.

**Diane Cimino:** Will it be progressive learning if they're using it at home? Can they move forward from home? Can we track their progress?

**Susan Shenker:** We are working those things out. We will be purchasing additional training material as well because we don't want it to be exclusively computer training. Half the class will

work with SRA Vasquez and switch off. So we're definitely still working on it. You want them learning about Spanish cultures not just computer learning.

One of our Instructional Goals was to infuse the 6<sup>th</sup> grade math assessment into our 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders scored 12% higher on the math assessment than HISD's middle-schoolers. We have THE best teaching team in the district. We just did a middle of the year math assessment so based on the middle of the year; our kids outscored several prominent middle schools. A number of students who were 80-plus percent correct. It was NOT an easy test this was harder than TAKS, the wording was tricky, they had to be very careful. We're very excited about the possibilities. The next one test will be at the end of the year. You can see the copies of scores, just ask your classroom teacher.

Another update: The I-Touch. We are all just sort of stunned by it. Particularly the kindergarten classes. It was so arduous before just to get the Kinders online but this is just amazing for them. Peek in if you're ever up here. I'm very excited about the stuff we're starting to play with.

#### **Other Business:**

Ms. Leiber has an idea about an art installation. She wants to cover a wall with tiles made by 5<sup>th</sup> graders with names on these leaves. Her idea was that she has followed these kids since they were acorns. She had some money and instead of the buying things she wanted to have an art installation. It will be on the wall as you leave the building toward the Kinder hall toward the parking lot. The plan is to start with one section and continue it each year. The problem is we need an installer. It could be donated; otherwise it may cost \$600. The kids are using a stamp to make the leaf and then they're glazing.

**Debra Kenna:** The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class may sponsor that they're always looking for a project. That may be an idea.

**Frances Moore Jones:** Do we have any other questions?

**Paul Heyburn:** Do we have a coordinated response to magnet study?

**Susan Shenker:** As background: a magnet report was released on Friday, since that time there have already been a number of meetings. A Private company called Magnet Schools of America came in and evaluated the magnet programs. Bottom line for ROE is that Magnet Schools of America concluded that Vanguard is not a magnet focus so should not be designated Magnet.

No designation means no funds. That means a loss of 240K which equates to 4 positions, 3 instructional and one administrative. There is a little left over that we use for buses, the science camp out but mostly positions.

In meeting with Mr. Grier this morning he explained the process as is the study is conducted, HISD reviews study, considers it, makes a proposal to the Board and it's up to the school Board to make a determination.

Dr. Grier said two things: he said he would not recommend pulling Vanguard from the Magnet programs; the report said that, but he would not recommend that.

Secondly he said he did not anticipate significant changes in the next school year.

So the reality is that the state's shortfall is huge. I think it will be impossible to keep everything the same. The state is trying to figure out what budgets will be for next year. What I am encouraging everyone to do is participate. We will need to look at equity in funding but we want to maintain our instructional program. My recommendation is to participate in community meetings,

**Paul Heyburn:** So what's our process to get feedback? I heard there is a tentative meeting scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> at Lamar.

**Susan Shenker:** I was at an SDMC meeting where they asked us "Are there concerns from your school? "What is your school's evaluation? Was it supportive of your program "

I started to formulate that response today. The tweeters are already in full force and are being very vocal. Question was asked to define – SDMC means the Shared Decision Making Committee made up of representatives from the teachers, parents, PTO Board, community, staff and business.

**Q:** What percentage of our budget is 240K?

**Susan Shenker:** 7% sounds about right

**Holly Shilstone:** We are fortunate to have Harvin Moore in our board member, alumni and an ROE parent. We are lucky to have Susan Shenker leading our school through these discussions.

**FMJ** I think what Paul is saying is why we don't have a 12 pt bullet list of talking points that make our point.

**MaryAnn Mueller:** It is bodies, too.

**Holly Shilstone:** I think Paul would be a great representative.

**Susan Shenker:** I think it's important to keep kids focused and teachers focused and looking forward. We need to keep reminding the kids that these are adult conversations and they need to stay focused on their education.

**MaryAnn Mueller:** My middle-schooler is already a buzz: "They're cutting our magnet programs? Who are these people?" These are pretty bright kids and it will be difficult to hide that.

**Susan Shenker:** That's true, but we need to make conscious decisions and not to bring it up too much.

### **Questions:**

Where are we on SMART boards for Grades one and two? They are here. They will be installed on MLK holiday day.

**Frances Moore Jones:** If you want to help Paul with our formulated response, talk to him or email him, he's the Kinder rep.

**Ann Guerra:** Where are we on the Science Lab?

**Janann Pittman:** What do you want to know? We're so close.

**Susan Shenker:** When people asked me anything I say "Have you talked to my architect?"

**Janann:** We want to do it right. Eye washing stations, under counter lights.

**Frances:** Underwriting is still rolling in for the Science Lab. We just had a 2,000 check come in today. If anyone says they'd like to write a check to the school it would go there. David Rose is working on a wish list.

**Paul Heyburn :** Is there a Target Capital goal for the Science Lab?

**Janann:** Not really. We're looking at basics: Electrical, cabinets all around the room, a demo table - infrastructure stuff. A display area. We're trying to balance that with making sure we have equipment too. We're going to have 3 sinks, a safety cabinet an eyewash station. It's pretty great.

**FMJ:** We will have a list of specific needs in the future so that if someone wants to buy a microscope we'll have a list of what we need.

**Janann:** It seems complicated, but it's because we have more money than originally planned for, so we can do more. We just have to be methodical about keeping it balanced.

We just had an animal habitat come up on the list.

Charla Carroll made a motion to close the meeting. Holly Shilstone seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.