

ROE PTO Board Meeting Minutes for March 2011

Holly Shilstone
Robert Woelfel
Janann Pittman
Sandra Ahlhorn
Amie Canfield
Beth Rivera
Tammy Yum
Ann Guerra
Michele Dahlquist
Liz Palmer

Monique Baumann
Wendy Salvaggi
Marc Sanders
Diane Cimino
Meredith Maierson
David Rose
Becky smith
Melissa Morris
Frances Davidson
Charla Carroll

Meeting Brought to Order @ 6:08 p.m.

President's Report

Sponsor: Frances Davidson

The next HISD Board meeting is on the 10th if you wish to attend.

Our next meeting for our Board is April 13. Meredith and Susan were nice enough to arrange for Dr. Twemlow to return as a guest speaker for the General meeting. The first series he did was an assessment of the school. This will be more of a workshop where he discusses tactics, some take away strategies, etc. That will be at 6:30 pm April 13th. Our meeting will be a short one at 6 p.m. and we'll walk down to the cafeteria to hear Dr. Twemlow.

The budget will be in May which is also when the new board will meet.

Secretary's Report

Sponsor: Charla Carroll

We are still getting input on the minutes and the revised bylaws and they will be sent out by email attachments for a proxy vote.

Frances Davidson: The same for the bylaws, Ryan is still looking over them and confirming a couple of edits, so they will be coming electronically, too. I'd like to introduce Holly Shilstone as President-Elect:

Holly Shilstone: We want to thank Ryan for all his work. Thank you for all the feedback coming in and everyone who wants to be a part of our PTO. We just finished our slate and next I will move on to the committees and everyone who wants to participate. Everyone should have received a copy of the slate and I will answer any questions that you may have.

Next Holly Shilstone briefly went through a review of the slated board members.

Charla Carroll motioned to pass the board as presented and Tammy Yum seconds. All were in favor, the Board for 2011-2012 passes.

Holly Shilstone: We always need more talent, so keep that in mind. If someone you know wants to participate, have them email me. We'd like more development members, technology people, so keep it in mind when you're talking to your friends. Please share that with them. Thank you.

Principals Report

Sponsor: Susan Shenker: I want to start to thank all the parents. I think we should be very proud of our reasonable and levelheaded parents during these difficult times.

There is not yet a definitive number for cuts, but there is a number being tossed around of \$275 per unit allocation by the Board. Things are sounding more positive. We did have to make a call on the Magnet lottery and we will have 6 kinder classes and 6 first grade classes next year. We will be able to put more families into their first choice school and I think this is good news.

Q: Where will they be housed? We have the new spare room, formerly the science lab and the Spanish room may also be considered using for these classes. Letters are going out March 25th.

Q: Will the class size change? No changes to class size are expected. We may or may not have more kinder and first grade teachers, but we could possibly be in a position to be hiring.

I would like to present a short film that is on our website under Exhibition. Sometimes it's hard to articulate what we want our kids to be like as they leave River Oaks and this does an amazing job.

-Film-

It was sent to all the Board members and we got very positive feedback. This is a film that expresses what we want for our kids.

Frances Davidson: Liz and Sandra wanted to give us a brief budget update:

Budget Update:

Sponsors: Sandra Ahlhorn and Liz Palmer

Sandra: Well, we've avoided the catastrophic cuts. We've met with Principal Shenker and gone through worst case scenarios of what would be cut and that's really all we can do. We're in process: as information changes, we're changing.

Frances Davidson: Thanks so much. Is there anything else before we continue to the science lab?

Susan Shenker: There will be a change in how we pay Deyla since she works for HISD now and she's here all day every day until 6. Paige Parker has been moved into a 2nd grade class but is still helping with some counseling.

Q: How much of a loss are we going to face?

Susan Shenker: With current figures, the cuts will mean a reduction of \$275 per unit allocation. We were getting \$3425 per unit but a unit so that would bring it down to \$3180 per unit. The addition of extra students will offset some of the loss.

Charla Carroll motions to adjourn and take a tour. Holly Shilstone seconds. Meeting adjourns at 6:45 p.m.