

Minutes
September 21, 2011
PTO Board Meeting

Board Members in Attendance:

Holly Shilstone-President
Paul Heyburn-First VP
Liz Palmer-VP Finance
Margaret Young-VP Development
Meredith Maierson-VP Internal Relations
Kef Wilson-VP Public Relations
Tina Salem-Secretary
Frances Davidson-Past-President
Sandra Ahlhorn-Chair, Budget and Finance
Christine Rodriguez-Director, Ways and Means
Ann Guerra-School Life Director
Janann Pittman-Specialist Relations
Amie Canfield-Volunteer Coordinator
Madhuri Chilakapati-Volunteer Coordinator
Jennifer McCormick-Teacher Appreciation Director
Linda Elmer-5th grade Representative
Christine Tabrizi-4th grade Representative
Colleen Morris-3rd grade Representative
Laura Fertak-3rd grade Representative
Nicole Andrews-2nd grade Representative
Stephanie Slobin-1st grade Representative
Aminata Ojore-Faculty Representative
Alex Thornton-Faculty Representative
Kristi McCurley-Faculty Representative
Dr. Keri Fovargue-Head of School-Ex-Officio Member

PTO Members in Attendance:

Maria Onufrow-Directory Team
Debra Kenna
Diane Cimino

1. Meeting called to order by Holly Shilstone, President, at 6pm. Welcome to Dr. Fovargue, Head of School and Ms. Mandy Gutierrez, Assistant Principal, who could not be here tonight due to another HISD meeting. Reminder to register for VIPS and/or update your information with the ROE office to be approved for volunteer service. If there are items to be placed on the meeting agenda, please forward to Tina the week before the Board meeting.

2. Approval of the May Minutes-Motion by Tina Salem, Secretary, seconded by Liz Palmer, all in favor, motion passes and minutes are approved.
3. Approval of Kinder Grade Representatives-Meredith Maierson. Kathryn Hensey and Sandra Shaw have been nominated as the kinder grade reps. Motion by Meredith for the approval of both nominees, seconded by Janann Pittman, all in favor and motion passes with approval.
4. Holly Shilstone asked everyone in attendance to please go round the room and introduce ourselves with our Board position for Dr. Fovargue.
5. Updates by the Vice-Presidents:
 - a. Finance-Liz Palmer-passed out check request forms and sales tax forms-checks will be done on Wednesdays. Original tax forms are not required.
 - b. Development-Margaret Young-We already have a paddle sponsor and a back cover sponsor for our fall frenzy fundraiser, which is great at this stage of our fundraising. The Great Gatherings are coming in-and all looks good. We are working with Dr. Fovargue the needs for raise the paddle and at this time there is no decision yet we are looking at various concepts such as IB. Yet needs are being assessed and will be determined soon. Question about auction committee structure-tried to simplify this year-wanted to streamline and have everyone work together on projects so no separate titles. Holly said we have a team of approximately 8 working on donations-and everyone welcome. There was concern about communication about getting volunteers and this is going to be going out through the grade reps to parents. Question about email communication and there will also be communication in the ROE News. Holly said a notice will be sent in the green folders through the ROE news. There is a new venue at the Junior League of Houston. It will be a casual evening in hopes of being more inclusive and drawing more attendance. Margaret advised we are looking at outside foundations to help with donations. Question about Fun Run-Margaret advised it is coming together-Greenwood-King made a generous donation as our main sponsor. Holly said Greenwood King made a \$3000 donation and Natalie was doing a great job chairing this event. The event is Oct. 15th with 8:30am registration and 9am start.
 - c. Internal Relations-Meredith Maierson-Movie Night is Sept. 30th at 7pm arrival, 7:30pm showtime, popcorn and drinks are donated. We did not have security guard last year and no security guard hired this year. Grade reps are fantastic! All attended the meeting where plans for the year and continued community building were discussed. Grade reps will meet with room parents and lead teachers will help make class parties more consistent. Teacher Appreciation Director Jennifer McCormick advised that they attended the meeting and hopes to make teacher gifts more consistent as well.

- d. Public Relations-Kef Wilson-deferred to Maria Onufrow for the directory update. Ad sales are up approximately \$1000. The data is mostly updated and working on layout. We will do call out for volunteers for proofing when ready. Kef said yearbook sales going well. Elaine Britt and Carolyn Foug are our yearbook reps. The goal is to sell 450 books of which we have approximately 200 sold already-theme is How do we Express Ourselves or How Does our ROE world work. Carolyn needs help from room parents/grade reps to get photos of classes, events, etc. Question about where we ended up last year on budget. Kef advised that all books were sold. Discussion about pushing production to the end of the year to get as many events as possible and getting yearbook in summer or fall. Regarding the website, work is ongoing. Right now, please send all web updates to Kef and we need help with web content. If you use Google calendar, you can add ROE & PTO calendar to google. Some discussion about having 2 calendars.
6. Update by Dr. Keri Fovargue-1)STARR is replacing TAKS. The prediction is that scores will be lower. We are working hard at looking at Texas and National Standards. Right now the word is that STARR will be more difficult than TAKS so making sure basics are not overlooked. The 7:45am school start time is now being enforced fully. There is more stringent review with budget and HISD policy issues. There must protect instructional time to preserve our waiver for the Wednesday early dismissal; 3) IB total program recertification/evaluation will be in Fall 2012. We have to be aligned with IB and TX standards and want to focus on how PYP can lead to MYP and IB diploma. The IB diploma is valuable in many ways, i.e. may begin college at UT as a sophomore.

Update was requested from the Traffic and Safety committee-we have had some car windows broken and purses stolen. We are in touch with community associations and law enforcement agencies-traffic/safety committee exploring issues such as lighting/cameras.

Update re: ASP and its security afterschool- Dr. Fovargue was recently advised that she oversees ASP and that ASP is a school responsibility. She is currently working on it-Mandy Gutierrez, Assistant Principal who will serve in role previously held by Paige Parker.

Members were asked to please contact Mandy Gutierrez or Dr. Keri Fovargue anytime via email, twitter, or make appointment through Barbarita. Parents will be notified to contact them as well for any questions and/or concerns.

STARR-Exemplary status is frozen for 2 years-Paul went to a HISD meeting and advised of discussions as follows: expect that the former commendable status is going to be satisfactory, and goal is for TX students to be top of US. Dr. Fovargue has had training from an HISD consultant-for teachers and will update once the State of Texas provides more of information to HISD.

Rosetta Stone will no longer be used. This decision made due to IB focus, native speaker teacher, carts do not meet the needs for instructional time. Dr. Fovargue gave the timing and example and that would leave only a short time of instructional once setup for instruction begins. We are very fortunate to have a full time Spanish teacher on staff. Dr. Fovargue encouraged parents to visit with Mrs. Vasquez and learn more from her about the Spanish instructional curriculum. We also have Mandy Gutierrez on staff as our Assistant Principal who has Spanish as her native language. Mrs. Gutierrez is working with Mrs. Vasquez on the Spanish Curriculum as well.

Head of School-This title follows IB and this information and explanation is posted on the ROE school website.

Paper-Supplies are available through administration process and teachers are aware of this process.

MOTION TO ADJOURN-Seconded-Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.