

**ROE PTO Board Meeting
Minutes for September 7, 2010
Meeting was brought to order at 6:06**

1. Frances Moore-Jones
2. Diane Cimino
3. Holly Shilstone
4. Charla Carroll
5. Sandra Alhorn
6. Ann Guerra
7. Melissa Morris
8. Sara Bloome
9. Amie Canfield
10. Terri Gerber
11. Robert Woelfel
12. Tammy Yum
13. Marc Sanders
14. Jeri Gates
15. Michele Dahlquist
16. Katherine Hensey
17. Michael Rodriquez
18. Christine Rodriguez
19. Cassandra McZeal
20. Vicky Estrera
21. Tina Salem
22. Ann Hester
23. Vernon Pontes
24. Max Shilstone
25. Sally Lechin
26. Maria Onufrow
27. Caroline Sterner
28. Clare Richards
29. Monica Muller Delgado
30. Janann Pittman

TOPIC: Presidents Report

SPONSOR: Frances Moore-Jones

Frances welcomed everyone back from the summer break. Frances thanked Holly Shilstone and Ann Guerra for all their hard work over the summer, as well as the Volunteer Coordinators for organizing. She is grateful to the 1st grade reps for the handbooks, the Grade Reps for their commitment. Thank you to Sandra for closing the books and working out the budget. Meredith Maierson has worked hard bringing people together and started the carpool initiative and other new projects. Thank you to Charla Carroll for providing all the backup for this meeting.

Issue: Kindergarten Representatives: Paul Heyburn and Kari Gonzales were presented as candidates for the positions of Kinder Rep.

- Frances Moore Jones nominated them, Janann seconded.
- Motion Carried.

Frances shared some housekeeping information:

- General emails are a good way to keep it simple
- The PTO key is at the front desk in the office.
- September 13th is picture day

- PTO meetings will be the 2nd Wednesday of the month, except for February when it will be the 3rd Wednesday because of Book Fair.

TOPIC: Principals Report 2010-2011 Goals, Technology, Safety Update

SPONSOR: Susan Shenker

- We have lately received lots of good news: ROE was named to the Texas Business and Education Coalition's (TBEC) 2010 Honor Roll, something that only 5% of public schools in Texas achieve. These schools have the highest percentage of students performing at the "Commended" level on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). It was a really high bar and we made it.
- New website is online as of today (9/7/10). It looks great but will be developed even more as we learn more about it. Pictures are welcome!
- We currently have the highest enrollment that ROE has ever had; a total of 682 students. Neighborhood enrollment is at 252 or about 37%.

Q: Why does one class have 25 students and another 22? Principal Shenker explained that it is in order to comply with district requirements regarding class waivers.

Technology

- We have a laptop cart on its way with 32 computers and we have a bid out for an I-Touch Cart!

Instructional Goals

- Continued performance is the minimum expectation.
- We have some really high math performers now we want to back it up with content, pulling in resources to bench mark indicators as to college readiness.
- K-2 Literacy Studies indicates that kids that do well can not only read, they can read *very quickly*.
- But kids come in at different levels and we have to be able to work with students wherever they come in.

Housekeeping

- Carpool today was down to 24 minutes and 146 cars!
- There should be no parking on EITHER side of Avalon.
- Discussion was brought up surrounding dropping off kids at 7:10 to do nothing until school starts when the playground is off-limits and now the

kids are being told they need to whisper in the cafeteria while they wait. Ms. Shenker said she will look into the kids being told they must whisper.

Frances Moore Jones asks that we hear Fall Frenzy Chair Sally Lechin out of order since she must leave.

- Sally Lechin is looking for a co-chair, someone who can shadow her. This committee is losing a lot of the great people that have participated in organizing this event as their children go to middle school.

TOPIC: School Life Chair Report

SPONSOR: Melissa Morris

Melissa pointed out the committees that fall under the School Life umbrella:

- She reported that the Hospitality Team was doing a great job and pointed out terrific '1st Day Coffee' and 'Meet and Greet'.
- Other activities Tina Salem is heading up the Teacher Appreciation Committee. During the meeting she handed out the Teacher Appreciation Calendar and welcomes questions, help and ideas.
- Tailgate Day is on Friday (9/9/10) to show our teachers how much we appreciate them.
- Spirit Store is off to a good start, making \$3,000 at the 'Meet and Greet' and about \$500 online so far.

TOPIC: Ways and Means Report - Upcoming Activities

SPONSOR: Ann Guerra

- The upcoming Picture day brings in about \$6,000 and we're doing it only once this year instead of the usual twice. We need volunteers.
- Fun Run – T-shirts, water bottles and moonwalks have all been underwritten already. This event should bring in about \$2,000. We're looking for good contacts to provide food at the event itself.
- The Book Fair brings in about \$6,000.
- The Carnival has a \$5,000 goal this year.
- The Directory update still needs ads. Check your information to make sure it is correct. Meredith Maierson asked why we give each child a directory giving multiple copies to a family. It was proposed that only one copy go home and people could buy additional copies.

TOPIC: Secretary's report

SPONSOR: Charla Carroll

- The minutes from the May Board Meeting were presented and requested to be approved. Sandra Alhorn seconded. All were in favor.
- The updated contact list was distributed.

TOPIC: Internals School Relations - Upcoming Activities

SPONSOR: Meredith Maierson

- School wide carpool is getting started and Bettina is helping.
- We will be having our first ever Family Movie Night on Friday, October 8 and we will show Horton Hears a Who.
- October 20th is the Anti-Bullying workshop from 5:30 -7:30.
- Two well-respected experts, Dr.'s Sharp and Twemlow will be addressing parents and teachers and debunking myths etc.
- They are also looking into the data from the audit conducted in the spring.

Q: Will there be any more "No Place for Hate" meetings? Probably not, but a new elective called the Tolerance Team has been offered to the 4&5th graders and they will act as mentors.

TOPIC: Treasurer & Budget Report – Expense Forms, Budget Approval Items

SPONSOR: Sandra Alhorn

- The check request form has changed.
- Frances Moore Jones brought up another Budget item: in the interest of safety with the carpool issues we have been having, we're investigating hiring an officer for a 40-45 minute window each day. She estimates it could cost up to \$400 per week.
- Holly Shilstone advised PTO members that other PTO at various schools have had to support officers at drop-off and pickup with PTO funds. Mark Twain PTO funds \$5100 of officer support in collaboration with their neighborhood association, Briargrove PTO funds an officer at a five figure number (\$24), West U PTO have their West U at all times available at no cost to PTO due to their community relationship. Avalon Place Assn is only 253 houses and we are not able to utilize their constables. River Oaks (ROPO) Patrol are not able to assist due to their homeowner's deed

restrictions. HISD will not fund an elementary school officer. ROE is at one of the busiest intersections in Houston and we have had too many complaints and near accidents at our school. The complaints from the parents are that they want an officer at our school and do not want to see our Principal or any staff in the street directing traffic as seen last year and this year. Also, the inappropriate confrontation by parents - at times in the presence of children- towards our Principal or staff need to end. We have also received too many complaints from the neighborhood regarding blocked driveways, damage to their property and safety issues on their streets. Mrs. Shenker also advised PTO that with the latest accident of an HISD staff being hit when directing traffic at another school - that there will probably be a directive from HISD that no staff may be participate in directing traffic.

- Tina Salem said she will look into how much Harris Co. Sherriff's would charge for doing the work.
- Discussion at length by other PTO members
- Diane Cimino asked Principal Shenker how many officers it will take to get the job done. Principal Shenker said one officer a.m. and p.m. would be enough.
- Diane Cimino motioned the use of \$5,000 out of reserves to support the officer and that this would be deferred to the Traffic and Safety committee for further review and will allocate the use of these funds for officer support. The Traffic and Safety Committee will be forth to PTO if additional funding is needed.

- FrancesMoore-Jones seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Principal Shenker mentions that First Class Breakfast was set for 9/15 but there has been no communication thus far. There will be opt-out options and kiosks with breakfast on them for early arrival.

Frances Moore-Jones motioned to close the meeting. Diane Cimino seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.