

MINUTES MARCH 7, 2012 PTO BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Holly Shilstone – President

Frances Davidson – Past President

Paul Heyburn – First Vice President

Liz Palmer – VP – Finance

Margaret Young – VP – Development

Meredith Maierson – VP – Internal Relations

Madhuri Chilakapati – Volunteer Coordinator

Amie Canfield – Volunteer Coordinator

Sandra Ahlhorn – Chair, Budget and Finance

Jennifer McCormick – Teacher Appreciation Director

Aminata Ojore – Faculty Representative

Janann Pitman – Specialist Representative

Dr. Keri Fovargue – Head of School

Sandy Shaw – Kindergarten Rep.

Georgie Silverman - Second Grade Rep.

1. Development Update – Margaret Young and her team proposed a new way to raise PTO funds. After reviewing the past years of binders for the Fall Frenzy and its attendance record of about 300-375 which includes faculty and staff, along with revenue costs and volunteer hour. Rather than having the Fall Frenzy every year, we recommend an annual fund based on parent donations. In the terms of volunteer man hours and overall participation of parents, Fall Frenzy is not as productive as an annual fund. If we are able to get 100% participation in each grade for the fundraiser, we will have the opportunity to solicit foundation money. We will we continue the auction, with the Great Gatherings (for grades, parents and teachers), and school privileges as an on-line auction at an estimated cost as online at \$1500.00 vs. approximately \$6,000.00 a year with Auction Star, overhead for the event with risk (about \$20K), and we will expect greater participation with the entire ROE community able to participate with an online auction vs. Fall Frenzy. We would also like to have coffees/socials/dinners with parents in the same neighborhood to foster the development of an ROE community locally. We would include all parents for inclusiveness at these coffees/socials/dinners as well. Private schools have zip code parties, such as, progressive dinners, that raise a tremendous amount of money for their schools. It was noted that Harvard is a progressive dinner party that raised \$80,000 which is a tremendous amount of money with no risks. We will continue the Carnival and Fun Run as revenue generators as well as have off-site and on-site book fairs as well as continue to build on our corporate underwriting and sponsors.

2. Internal Relations – Meredith Maierson proposed a new arrangement for the appointing of one of our Kinder Reps. In the past, it has been difficult to get kindergarten parents acclimated when our kinder rep. is not appointed until the beginning of the fall semester. The proposal is to pick a parent who is currently at River Oaks Elementary or identify a new parent that has a child accepted to River Oaks Elementary as one of the kinder reps. Meredith also gave a detailed update related to ROE's continued

commitment for a tolerant environment. Specifically, after meetings with both the Head of School, the Assistant Principal, and School Counselor, we believe that the recent changes in staff have reduced instances of bullying. Consistent with IB philosophy, we have created a student lead IB based program called ROE Pals. "ROE Pals" is a group of fourth graders charged with making ROE an inclusive environment. In addition, we will participate in the Anti-Defamation League "Community of Respect" program. Meredith is also wants to assist on any community building projects. Last but not least, Meredith commended the grade reps and room parents for their tremendous on Teacher appreciation as well as their work for the Spring Play Dates. All have had record attendance.

3. Book Fair Report – Sandra Ahlhorn and Maryann Mueller were congratulated and thanked for the successful on-site book store. Next year rather than having it starting on a Saturday and ending on a Wednesday, Sandra proposed starting on a Thursday and end on a Saturday with Wednesday as the day to setup. Board supported this recommendation. The discussion included looking at other book fairs and what distributors they use. Scholastic was noted in providing easy check out with their registers. Board was advised that Scholastic provides 25% return to the school and/or books and this year books will be purchased for the library.

4. Teacher Appreciation – Jennifer McCormick and Terry Gerber were congratulated and for the successful Teacher Appreciation Week.

5. Finance – Liz Palmer noted a significant deficit in the Spirit Store. We will consider having an ROE Store marketed at all public events as well as opening the Spirit Store on Friday mornings to reduce inventory. Discussion includes ways to market the store, problems with binders not of quality, and more visibility to market and sell items in the store. Members were encouraged to email the ROE Store chair and School Life Director with more input as well.

6. Carnival – Max is still looking for sponsors for bouncehouses and booths. Palazzo's will be providing the pizza and Whole Foods has volunteered some salad shakers. Compass Bank is sponsoring a booth to encourage children to save money. Compass is also assisting us with the ability to take credit cards if we can figure out the internet connection issue.

7. Head of Schools Report – Keri was congratulated on her work with facilities management. We will be getting canopies over the carpool as well as over the cover from the 1st/2nd grade hallway to the outside covered PE area. There are new lights in the cafeteria as well as repairs to the cafeteria floor. HISD has removed the dead trees from the nature centers and outdoor lighting has been replaced. Keri is continuing the parent coffees by grade level. Students and teachers are working on improving results on STAAR. Keri is tentatively planning to have a neighborhood round-up for perspective students on April 10, 2012.

8. President's Update – Parents need to contact their trustee regarding HISD's proposed change of the school hours. The current proposal would have ROE start at 7:30am and end 3:00 pm Monday through Friday with no early dismissal on Wednesday. HISD will be having a series of community meetings to discuss this issue. At the Spring General Meeting on April 3, 2012, Keri Fovargue will be presenting on International Baccalaureate PYP and MYP. Our last board meeting of this year will be April 11, 2012 and the slate and budget will be presented. Please make sure attend this meeting. Earth Day is April 21, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.