

Minutes
October 10, 2012
PTO Board Meeting
ROE Library – 6 p.m.

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the River Oaks Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization (the "PTO") met on the 10th day of October, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in the Library of River Oaks Elementary School. The following officers and members of the Board of Directors were present, thus constituting a quorum:

Paul Heyburn - President
Liz Palmer – First VP
Meredith Maierson – VP Internal Relations
Ryan Dolibois - VP Development
Kara Richardson - Secretary
Holly Shilstone - Past-President
Lisa Thompson – Budget & Finance
Teri Gerber - Teacher Appreciation
Maria Onufrow - 5th grade Representative
Sandy Shaw – 5th grade Representative
Tina Salem - 4th grade Representative
Case Noles - 3rd grade Representative
Madhuri Chilakapati – 2nd grade Representative
Sean Patterson-2nd grade Representative
Tiffany Hawkins – 1st grade Representative
Jeannie Beebe – Kindergarten Representative
Stephanie Slobin – Specialist Representative
Christine Rodriguez – Ways and Means
Anna Taylor – Faculty Representative
Ruth Beery – Faculty Representative
Becca Pfeifer – Faculty Representative
Keri Fovargue – Head of School
Dottie Lawrence – Assistant Head of School

Various members of the PTO including parents/guardians of ROE students, ROE faculty and ROE staff (collectively, “PTO Members”) were also present for the meeting.

Call to Order

Paul Heyburn, President of the Board, called the meeting to order.

Update

Dr. Fovargue next addressed the Board regarding anti-bullying efforts at ROE. She stated that Ms. Lawrence is leading the effort, and that Ms. Lawrence and Ms. Heike, along with Kef Wilson and Meredith Maierson in their capacity as PTO representatives,

met with a small group of parents and teachers on September 27th to hear and address various bullying concerns and to spotlight the efforts being taken by ROE faculty and administration inside and outside of the classroom to combat bullying. Holly Shilstone inquired as to any feedback Ms. Lawrence has received from the meeting, and Ms. Lawrence stated that she has received a lot of positive feedback from the meeting, with parents noting that they were very pleased to have such an open and honest dialogue with ROE faculty. Holly Shilstone encouraged Ms. Lawrence to communicate this information to the greater ROE community. Georgi Silverman commented that she attended the meeting and that the flow of information was very open and positive. She stated that she and other parents who attended the meeting felt that the meeting was very productive and are very pleased with the outcome of the meeting.

Ms. Pfeifer next discussed the Code of Integrity that has been implemented by ROE this year as well as the project being prepared by the Mini-U.N. for World Kindness Day.

Ms. Lawrence reported that Ms. Heike visited each classroom this month to discuss character traits with the students, and that she plans to visit each class in October to discuss bullying since October is “anti-bullying month.” Ms. Lawrence next noted that there are several anti-bullying programs available for purchase by schools, but that most require the purchase of an expensive logo and may not necessarily be tailored to the specific needs of ROE. She explained that her goal is to assess the specific needs of ROE students with respect to anti-bullying efforts and to pull from various resources to implement procedures and classroom instruction that fit the specific needs of the ROE student community. She next discussed the Girls Inc. program and explained that female students were given information to take home regarding participation in the program. She noted that she is exploring the idea of approaching the Dad’s club to organize similar activities for male students.

Holly Shilstone next stated that concerns regarding bullying issues at ROE should be addressed directly to ROE faculty and administration rather than to other parents to protect the privacy of the children involved. Ms. Lawrence agreed and noted that protecting student privacy is a priority.

Dr. Fovargue next announced that ROE’s new website has been launched and discussed various new features offered on the website including the Student Showcase section which is outlet to showcase students’ work and accomplishments.

Lastly, Dr. Fovargue thanked the PTO for the October teacher appreciation luncheon and encouraged the PTO to vote on the bond measure in the upcoming election.

Bylaws

Kara Richardson, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, next reported that the committee met last week and will hopefully have some recommendations to share with the Board within the next couple of months.

HISD Bond

Paul Heyburn next discussed the upcoming HISD bond election and encouraged the Members to encourage friends, neighbors and colleagues to get out and vote on the proposition.

Update by the Chairs, Vice Presidents and/or Directors

- a. Development – Ryan Dolibois stated that materials have been sent home with students soliciting hosts for Great Gatherings. He also noted that he has a list of people who hosted Great Gatherings last year and that Heather Reardon and Adrienne Murry, the online auction chairs, will be contacting those people to see if they would like to host again this year as well as sending out information on any deficiencies in Great Gathering events. He updated the Board on the status of the online auction and stated that it will include certain bid-up items like the parking spot, marquee privileges, and preferred seating at certain school functions and fixed-price items such as teacher socials, adult parties, and Great Gatherings. Ryan next noted that Kara Richardson and Liz Daniel have offered to chair the spring party and that he met with them last week to initiate the planning. He next reported on the Annual Fund and noted that he plans to make a big Annual Fund push after the auction, and that acknowledgement letters will be send later this month to those who have already donated to the Annual Fund.

Minute Approval

Paul Heyburn next presented for approval the minutes from the September 12, 2012, Board meeting. Holly Shilstone made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ruth Beery seconded said motion which carried unanimously.

Update by the Chairs, Vice Presidents and/or Directors

- b. Finance – Lisa Thompson reported that Charles Koerth was unable to attend the meeting this month, but that there were no out-of-the-ordinary expenditures during the month.
- c. Internal Relations – Meredith Maierson next reported on the meeting held by Ms. Lawrence with ROE parents and faculty regarding bullying issues which was discussed previously in the meeting by Ms. Lawrence. She stated that the grade reps have been doing a great job and she has been working on scheduling meetings with room parents within each grade. She noted that ROE movie night was a great success and that she is currently working on scheduling fall play dates. The Board next briefly discussed Halloween activities, the upcoming Book

Fair scheduled for November 16-17 and the Veterans Day celebration scheduled for November 12.

- d. School Life – Liz Daniel was not present, but Holly Shilstone reported that spirit store sales have been very successful.
- e. Directory – Maria Onufrow reported on the status of the ROE Directory and noted that business ad sales totaled approximately \$5500 and other ad sales totaled approximately \$10,000. She stated that the directories should be ready for delivery in a couple of weeks.

Other Business

Amie Canfield reported on the Fun Run and showed the Board the t-shirt design for this year's Fun Run. She noted that that Fun Run registration sales total \$7764 to date and that they have sold 741 t-shirts for the event. She gave a brief overview of the schedule and activities planned for the upcoming Fun Run scheduled for October 13th.

Teri Gerber stated that they would be holding the Spooky Spectacular Treats event for ROE faculty again this year.

Maria Onufrow next suggested that the Board include an item on the agenda for the Fall General PTO Meeting to discuss the integration of Differentiated Instruction in the classroom and how that works with the Vanguard and IB curricula. Holly Shilstone noted that, in the past, ROE has held grade-level parent meetings after drop-off to discuss curriculum implementation and that a similar approach might be more appropriate than having such discussion a PTO meeting.

Maria Marini next asked Dr. Fovargue if parents could volunteer to give tours of the ROE campus to prospective parents. Dr. Fovargue stated that she likes to give the majority of the tours because, in her experience, parents appreciate the principal taking the time to personally interact with them.

Holly Shilstone asked Dr. Fovargue if she would be willing to make a separate IB presentation again in the fall. Dr. Fovargue said she was open to that, but also noted that information on the IB program was available on the new website and that parents could utilize the website to send her any comments or questions they have related to IB or school other matters.

Georgi Silverman thanked Dr. Fovargue for the new website and the idea of the Student Showcase, but stated that she would prefer that such ideas be implemented on ROE campus rather on the website because ROE needs to focus on having more on-campus activities in efforts to bring the ROE community together as a whole. Dr. Fovargue explained that the website merely provides an additional means of communication and outreach with ROE families and that it is not intended to be used as a replacement forum for the many community activities commonly held at the school.

Various members of the Board noted that ROE holds many all-inclusive events at the school such as ROE Movie Night, the Fun Run, the Carnival, the Veteran's Day Parade, parent coffees, Magnet Awareness Events, and various school performances/presentations/lunches, etc., and Dr. Fovargue noted that capacity and scheduling issues make it difficult to accommodate additional campus activities without interfering with classroom instruction. Dr. Fovargue next noted that Middle School Madness is scheduled to be held by HISD at ROE on the afternoon of October 17th. Maria Marini suggested that ROE should hold more on-campus meetings to teach parents about classroom activities and that perhaps ROE could do away with some of the other PTO/ROE sponsored activities such as the Fun Run and/or Carnival to accommodate such meetings. The Board next discussed parent-teacher communication issues and how teachers might improve communication with parents regarding day-to-day curriculum. Ms. Taylor noted that she would communicate the concerns to the ROE faculty.

Other Business

There being no other business to bring before the Board, Holly Shilstone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Thompson seconded said motion, which unanimously carried.