

**Travis Heights Elementary School
PTA Board meeting November 1, 2016**

Present: Eliza Platts-Mills, President; Julie Ulrich, Vice President; Manuel Garcia, Co-Vice-President; Dave Lamkin, Treasurer; Jill Wiggins, Secretary; Lisa Robertson, Principal; Carrie Turner, Assistant Principal; Lisa Etzel teacher; Colin Clark, Advocacy.

Eliza called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

Principal's report:

Ms. Robertson reported that the coffee chat discussion of STAAR was useful in clarifying how STAAR does and doesn't align with what we do and can lead to further conversations. Some parents have asked that there be no test practice but Ms. Robertson said we are not running away from the test and will continue to practice.

She reported that two teachers are leaving: Ms. Geiger (second) Ms. Morrison (third). Counselor Ms. Walsh has also left. Interviews are ongoing and prospective teachers know up front what we're about, what we do and so forth before they come for the interview.

Treasurer's report:

Dave reported we have \$2,375 left over for teacher supply fund. Lisa E. would like to have the laminator replaced because the current one keeps breaking down. Lisa will work with Kelly to find out what the cost will be and get back to the board. Consensus was to do so. **Eliza moved and Julie Ulrich seconded a motion to allocate money to a mini-grant to buy a laminator. Motion carried.**

We now have 93 members.

Lisa E. said that equipment from the play pad is disappearing she would like a small locked storage space. Ms. Turner said there is an issue of personal responsibility.

Dave requested that there be someone who is not a check signer to review. **Eliza moved to appoint Manuel Garcia to review the monthly bank statement. Julie seconded. Motion passed.**

Bloomerang: fund raising data base. Dave is learning the fundraising database Bloomerang even though he's not the fund raiser. He is also doing the thank-you's for donations until we get a fundraising person.

Dave has not received the bill for the Mission 75 mural. Cost was \$3,000 and we've paid \$1,500. Julie noted there is \$10,000 left in that fund.

Carnival debrief discussion:

Fall carnival grossed \$7,726. Expenses are about \$1,000 so net will be around \$6,600.

Volunteers from St. Ed's were helpful but some events require an adult. Need to work on having the right volunteers in the right places. Someone asked for a costume contest but someone has to organize it and nobody has stepped up to do it and it's pretty complex to run. Now is a good time to recruit for next year.

Julie reported that the blower for the bounce house disappeared. Consensus was to sell the existing one and then rent one in the future or try to make a deal for trading it for future rentals. **Dave moved selling it, Jill seconded and the motion carried.** Rental cost will be in the low hundreds.

Discussion of recruiting families for Pre-K and K classes: Ms. Robertson. said word of mouth is best. Eliza suggested a party/pot luck at the school, but since it's hard for people to prepare we should provide part of the food.

Manuel suggested putting some money aside for future needs, possibly to replace Chromebooks. Colin suggested looking at erosion in Wildman Woods and having an assessment. Ms. Turner knows a parent who does golf course work and will ask for an assessment.

Money not needed for snacks for Prime Time now, but might be needed for tutoring.

Eliza suggested a vote of the general membership on November 17 meeting on budget expenditures. Also breaking into small groups for part of the meeting. Discussion topics might include what do you like and what would you like to be different?

Manuel will contact Daniela about child care and Jill will arrange sound with Kent Hawes. Julie will locate raffle and golden rock tickets. Julie knows where these are. Manuel will get a \$25 HEB gift card.

We will need 10 leaders for the discussion, and second and third-grade parents can be recruited to add to available board and staff members.

Advocacy team report:

Colin reported that management at the Heights is putting the redevelopment on hold. The tax credit was advantageous enough. There will be some renovation. He is also working with residents of another affordable complex Oak Creek Village (Lucero), where people are intimidated and disempowered if they complain, and there are currently mold problems.

PTA housekeeping:

Minutes of October: Colin corrected: Add social media coverage to treasurer's report. Correct spelling of Manuel's name. **Eliza move approval as corrected. Colin seconded. Approved.**

Conflict of interest policy: must have disclosure and fair expenditure. Eliza circulated a policy for everyone to sign.

Eliza and Daniela went to a vertical team meeting at Travis High that included all the schools that feed into Travis High. Discussion of fundraising. Fulmore has 40 refugee students and they have an ambassador program.

Eliza moved adoption of Records Retention Policy, Julie seconded, motion passed.

Calendar review:

Young scientists' day next Thursday, November 10, is organized and covered.

Family fun and fitness for third through fifth grades, Friday, November 18.

Tamalada, Wednesday, November 30. Need volunteers.

Cultural festival Saturday, December 3. Need volunteers.

Ms. Turner maybe has someone for communications for fundraising.

Website update: Julie doesn't know yet when it will be ready.

Yard signs: Colin would like to coordinate making new yard signs. He will get a bid and they could be given away at the PTA meeting on the 17th. "Proud Supporters of Travis Heights Elementary School."

Julie suggested a future cultural festival could end with a meal. Eliza would also like a soccer game. A food celebration around the mural some time in the new year will be discussed at next meeting.

Ms. Robertson noted that the Title I compact needs to be rewritten and recommended an evening event to review and discuss, with food provided.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.