

## **Travis Heights Elementary School**

PTA Board minutes, Tuesday, December 6, 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; Jonna Ball, Fundraising; Amy Cooper, Historian; Cesar Benavides; Betty Weed, visitor.

Eliza called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Betty Weed, former PTA president and parent of a former student, requested a four-way stop at Live Oak and Alta Vista. More than 100 kids come from Travis Park apartments, and crossing is becoming more difficult as lanes have changed. She asked the city to look into it and they put in traffic counters, but they had problems with the counters. Councilmember Kathie Tovo's office responded to a request and helped push it forward. She requested that the Board send a letter in support to Kathie Tovo's office, to SRCC (via Betty), and the city transportation division. Dave moved and Jill seconded the **motion to write the letter. Motion carried.**

There has also been discussion for a better crossing on Oltorf near the bus stop, and the board will work with SRCC to support that.

### **Principal's Report:**

Ms. Robertson reported on the Coffee Chat discussion on Special Education Programs the previous Friday. She said there was a good turnout and discussion with parents sharing their experiences.

She talked about the district long-range planning for facilities, instruction and innovating for the entire district. We are grouped with Linder, Becker and Dawson. Our campus has been pretty well taken care of and has had construction every year for five years. Ms. Turner noted that we need to be people's school of choice, and the social advocacy school. There is a possibility of making Travis High School the new LASA, which would eliminate THS as a neighborhood school. Zip code 78704 has the largest number of students at LASA. We are still one of the most diverse schools in Austin.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave Lamkin reported that everything against the Mission 75 account has been charged and there is \$9,200 still unspent. Colin recommended keeping some in reserve for maintaining the mural. Jonna suggested sealing it. Eliza will ask Raymond to ask the artist to do a permanent seal.

If we wish to reallocate that money for another item, we can wait till next general membership meeting for approval.

Fundraising: \$1,036. in-kind donations from El Milagro, Polvos, Ace Market, Leopoldo Montolvo, Gueros. Dave has been working on a Bloomerang site—software that tracks fundraising. \$800+ will go to 5<sup>th</sup> grade Camp Champion (\$160 per student, with student's share \$95). Balance is \$8,011. Those who receive scholarships are asked to do some volunteer work.

There have been two minigrant requests: calculators, training and speakers, which Ms. Robertson approved. Eliza moved and Colin seconded **motion to approve. After discussion motion approved.**

### **Advocacy Team Report**

Colin reported that Oak Creek Village tenants' association is trying to take on management and need support with child care, passing out flyers, research, and how to work with APD. Some parents and Wildflower Church are helping.

Travis Park is having serious mold problems, making some students miss days of school.

### **PTA Board Housekeeping**

Eliza moved and Dave seconded a motion to **approve the minutes from the November 1 meeting.**

Lisa Etzel reported on the purchase of a laminator. The best package for warranty, services and supplies is \$1,795. This was already approved out of teacher supplies.

The committee welcomed new Fundraising Chair Jonna Ball.

Debrief PTA Membership Meeting/Discussion Groups from Nov. 17 meeting (comments were attached with agenda).

### **Calendar Review for Upcoming Events**

Potluck and celebration of the new mural set for Sunday, January 8, 1-3 p.m. South Austin Flying Pizza will donate 30-40 pizzas. Eliza will confirm with Raymond for the artist to be there. Carrie and Kelly will do a flyer for the Wednesday folder. This year will honor the artist but after that it can be the annual new year celebration. Carrie and Kelly will come up with a name like Winter Open House.

Discussion of parent/child soccer game afterwards in the park (weather permitting) or volleyball in the gym.

Strategic Planning Retreat, Sat, Feb. 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to review our charter and talk about the progress we've made with our four pillars and areas that we want to focus on going forward; create a five-year plan for the school). Wildflower is available for that date. To be included: Thunderboard, PTA board, teachers, leaders. Thunderboard and Kim O'Driscoll are taking the lead on this.

Other upcoming events:

- Science Fair – January 16 (no PTA meeting that night)
- PTA Membership Meeting for 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Performance Night
- February PTA Fundraising Week

### **Debrief Recent PTA Events**

Tamalada and Cultural Festival

Daniela Licon, Parent Support Specialist, has reported that the tamalada was great. Participants were asked if they wanted to do something less labor-intensive but the consensus was no, it needs to be the tamalada. Comments: parents who want it need to own it rather than rely on the Parent Support Specialist, because it's a huge amount of work that impacted about 30 people, and the tamales have to be cooked separately from when they're made. There needs to be a dedicated leader and a team, and it needs to be set up by March.

Ms. Turner said items should not be put on the calendar unless there is a point person to run the event.

The PSS also is helping to identify families that need help at Thanksgiving and for the holidays.

Discussion of Recruiting Needs for Next Year's Pre-K and K classes

Carrie and Colin have a flier to recruit. Good tours in November, people enthusiastic. More K but also some pre-K.

### **Open Volunteer Positions for each of us to continue thinking about:**

- Fundraising Team to work with Jonna
- Communications Chair
- Carnival Co-Chair to Work with Manuel

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

**Next PTA Board Meeting: Tues, January 10, 4:30 to 6 p.m.**