

THES PTA Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 4:30 to 6pm in Library

Attending: Lisa Etzel, Manuel Garcia-Collins, Dave Lamkin, Lisa Robertson, Julie Ulrich, Daniela Licon, Eliza Platts-Mills, Amy Cooper, Colin Clark

Review and Approve Prior January Meeting Minutes- Dave Lamkin asked that the sentence containing the information about the Austin Interfaith payment be changed to say that the board approved a \$750 **pledge** instead of payment. Dave motioned to approve minutes with this change, Eliza seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's Report – Dave reported 3 mini- grant requests:

1. Guinea pig food/hay- \$150
2. Cameras for the photo journalism team- \$120
3. Breathing balls for all the classrooms (part of the cost will be reimbursed through the remaining SEL budget) \$436.45

Dave motioned and Eliza seconded, all mini-grants were approved.

The Vacuum cleaners were \$908.55 which is \$122.98 higher than the amount remaining in the budget. Dave moved and Julie seconded to use money from the teacher supplies budget to pay the difference.

Laminator update- has arrived and will be set up once the old one runs out of film. Lisa reported they are trying to see if the company will trade the remaining rolls of film we have for the old laminator for ones that will fit the new one. If not they will use the old ones up first.

Colin has ordered the Yard Signs- Discussion on whether to sell or give these away. Idea to sell during the fundraiser for \$5 which will cover the costs. Primary purpose is to have them around the neighborhood to build support for the school. Dave will reimburse North Loop signs for the cost of \$770.00.

Principal's Report– 4th & 5th grade Middle of the Year assessments looked good. Third grade needs more work. Lisa is helping with a 3rd grade Math camp and Carrie has recruited volunteers to assist daily during 3rd grade Math.

The district received city funding and will pay the second ½ of our Parent Support Specialist. This will free up \$17,000 which will be used for teacher training, planning days and tutoring. The \$17,000 needs to be spent by June 30th.

Thunderboard Report – no meeting this month due to Planning Retreat

Advocacy Team Report– Eliza attended the SRCC meeting where an affordable housing proposal was voted on and approved. Development will be by a for-profit developer with a reputation for quality either on Woodland just west of I-35 or north of Walmart. The Woodland property seems more promising. Question: will the PTA

support? Attendees agree to support. Eliza will write a letter in support of affordable housing options that contain long term contracts, stable management, family friendly options (2 & 3 bedrooms) and family supports (child care, etc.).

The land at the headwaters of Blunn creek is for sale by AISD. There are two offers, one by a developer, and the second by the city to keep the land as a preserve. Eliza will write a letter on behalf of the PTA in support of the city option so that the creek by the school will be preserved.

Maile and Daniela have arranged for Folder Sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays in February 8-9:30. At these sessions undocumented families will be supported in putting together legal documents that would be necessary in the case of detention.

A Tenant's Rights Training will be held 3/8 at 6pm. Flyers will be distributed to all families living in the surrounding apartments. Julie gave a reminder to be sure that the flyers clearly state who is hosting the training and that it not focus on a single complex as there were problems with the one last year.

Daniela is also working on a Know Your Rights Immigration session. Date to be announced.

Follow up on Action Items from last meeting and New Items

- Arrival/Dismissal procedures- no update
- Crisis protocols- assigned to counselors
- Communications position plan (paid staff person plus volunteer)- have not had time to meet yet
- Spanish classes- tabled since Jonna was not present to report
- Safe Routes to School (update from meeting with Bike Austin)- Meg Solley and Trey Spaw meet with representative from Bike Austin to learn about money available to develop safe routes to school. They will survey parents from around the extended neighborhood who walk or bike to THES to gather areas of need and will work to prioritize them. This is on the agenda for February's PTA meeting also. Suggestions were made to look at walk from Oak Creek Village/Lucero on Wilson Street and also to improve the sidewalks on Live Oak.

Event Debriefs

- Young Writers Workshop- Successful and smoothly run
- Retreat- Successful planning session and review of 4 pillars. Colin asked about next steps. This is a Thunderboard project and when Kim returns Julie will share ideas with her about how to take information from the retreat and make a plan for moving forward and gaining input from other areas of the school community.

Upcoming Events Check-In/Planning

- 2/13-2/17 -- I Heart THES Fundraiser- Jonna's report has the fundraiser on track. Home Slice Pizza Day is Monday 2/13.
- 2/16 PTA Meeting Planning--Test Anxiety, Safe routes to school, Special Ed Students Transition to Middle School -- Manuel will handle logistics for meeting

- 2/25 - Spring Beautification Day – Ben Appl to lead
- 2/27 - Rally Day at the Capitol – Gretchen Otto is helping organize. Colin reported that the state PTA is less concerned about having the Austin area members meet with legislators as most are supportive of the PTA priorities. Focus is on getting numbers to the rally on the steps mid-day.
- Plan for next year's T-shirts- Amy related difficulties with last year's T-shirt sales and suggested moving to a standard design for shirts and instead using the student art to make a sticker. Also suggested moving the student art contest earlier in the year to allow time to order merchandise before the end of the year.
 - General support expressed for idea of having merchandise with a standard design. But concerns were expressed about eliminating the student shirt as it is popular with the students. Julie reported that Deb Lykins had offered to help with the design/ordering portion- she will confirm with her again. Also need to identify a volunteer to run merchandise sales. Regardless of final decision on student shirts the art contest should occur before Spring Break.

Open Volunteer Positions- Need to fill by April

Discussion that the best way to fill open positions will be if everyone can help by reaching out and building relationships. Julie indicated we would like to have leadership confirmed prior to placing events on the calendar. Lisa R. suggested using the meeting the night of the K/1st performance to have people break into groups based on interest and start trying to identify future leaders or team members. PTA VP and some other roles will have to be filled prior to that meeting since that is the day of the election.

Current

- Fundraising Team Members- What additional help is needed? (Business sponsor team, In-kind donations team, Database & other support roles?)
- Communications Chair & Team (E-folder, Wednesday Folders, Social Media, Web Content/updates)

For Next year

- Carnival Co-chair to work with Manuel & Captains (Set up/Clean up, Volunteers, Marketing, Sponsorship, etc.)
- PTA Vice President(s)
- Tamalada leader and planning team
- Cultural Festival Planning team (Performers, Cultural Tables, Mercado, Decorations)
- Workshop Hospitality Coordinator in-training (Delia would like it to be her last year)
- Welcome Coffee leader
- T-shirts/Merchandise

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.