

THES PTA Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 4:00 p.m.
THES Library

Present: Eliza Platts-Mills, President; Regan Ellmer, Vice President; Dave Lamkin, Treasurer; Gretchen Otto, Secretary; Jonna Ball, Fundraising; Jennifer Cheatham, PSS; Carrie Freeman, Vice Principal; Colin Clark, Advocacy Team; Melissa Bowman, parent rep and lover of volunteering and new play areas; Lisa Etzel, 2nd grade teacher; Cesar Benavides, DB

Eliza called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Introductions.

Principal's report: Sidebar about enrollment, we have ~300 families. We are at full capacity with over 500 students! Still will be an issue for future years though. There is an expo for schools that we could join in future to keep our enrollment up. Current K and Pre-K classes are low.

Leveling is over, we have all our teachers in place. Some Pre-K moved to Kinder to help with class sizes. Two Harvey kids are still here, probably only one will stay. Teachers are doing data collection, then will have better idea of needs. Pre-identifying needs, beginning tutoring programs. Meg is managing tutoring volunteers and is looking for a few more folks. St. Eds teacher trainees helping. Also Travis High students helping. Time for parent/teacher conferences!

Treasurer's Report: Insurance renewal, standard coverages. We are at 79 PTA memberships. 80% of our dues go to Texas PTA. We pay \$50 in dues to ACPTA. \$2,015 paid in teacher reimbursements. 5 mini-grant applications: 1. Andee Cooper, Letterland, \$345.99; 2. Erika Villanueva, books for 4th grade novel studies, \$515.20; 3. SEL items for 3rd grade, \$300 max; 4. 3rd grade special sensory input chairs/boards, \$363.07.

Dave moved and Jonna seconded 4 motions to approve each mini-grant. All 4 motions carried.

Advocacy Team report: Had a September team meeting. Documentation of families at risk for detainment continuing (lull over summer but will be starting back up). BASTA is going to help us with organizing Travis Park residents. Meeting at THES being planned for October for Travis Park families. Lucero (Oak Creek Village) has new management, hoping that will improve things. Plan to invite new AISD Trustee, Geronimo Rodriguez, to visit THES and hear our story. Bond being voted on this November. (Travis High vertical team meeting Friday the 6th 9:30-11am will talk about bond.) Next meeting for Advocacy Oct. 11 5:30pm in library. Please invite anyone you think would be interested in getting involved!

Thunderboard Report: See minutes. BIC was a success. Discussion of teacher training: we need to follow up on how we can help finance remaining training needs.

Eliza moved and Jonna seconded motions to approve the minutes of the May and August board meetings. Both motions carried.

Dave moved and Jonna seconded a motion to confirm Regan as PTA Vice President. Motion carried.

Event Planning:

Review of best practices for communications and event planning. How can we improve? Regularly meeting in person with admin is best. Divide up events to have point person for each event since we don't have a communications chair. Need to start planning November 16 PTA general meeting. Need to plan ahead for childcare for ALL events. Ask for childcare 6 weeks in advance. Problem of timing—harder to find people when it's later in the evening. Another problem: too many events in the year. Will try to avoid adding any additional events. Meeting scheduled for Friday morning at 8:30 to discuss planning for the year (Carrie, Eliza, Regan, all others welcome).

Back to School Night debrief: Slightly higher turnout than before. Still a contingent of parents who never show up. Not sure how to involve them. More children than anticipated so child care was a problem—too much to handle. But childcare is clearly important—very low turnout for DL meeting.

Upcoming Events Check-In/Planning: Oct Carnival, Nov. 16 PTA meeting. December: Tamalada, Cultural Festival.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes by Gretchen Otto, Secretary

Approved 12/5/2017