

# PTO Meeting Minutes

## Thursday, May 4, 2017

Attendees: Annette Botas-Rock, Be Petrosky, Jennifer Radcliffe, Jennifer Cable, Sadaf Ebrahim, Brenda Oliveira, Lauren Aldag, Jasmine Galal, Nicole Reese, Kerry Faro, Wendy Teoh-Chung, Eric Munsayac, Sonja Gillette, Faida Ngumbu, Rea Summers, Chevi Schindler, Naaman Weiss, Mansi Arora, Eunice Chang, Cristina Etchells, Charlene Tsang-Kao, Evie Kao

### I. Call to Order Bê Petrosky/ Shazia Sheikh

II. Treasurer's Report / Vote for Proposed Budget. Faida Ngumbu reviewed the (attached) Budget Proposal 2017-2018. New line items mentioned: Art, Snow Day, Special Olympics, Orchestra, Academic, and MS Sports. Student Art Income is Square1Art. Silent Auction \$1K expense is accurate. New PTO website will have a lower credit card fee being >3%. Request for description of Teacher Appreciation budget \$9K. Mansi Arora offered to assist with future Volunteer Appreciation event. This year's Volunteer Appreciation event, May 11<sup>th</sup>, cancelled due to lack of parent interest. Financial statements will be updated (up to April 2017) and uploaded on PTO website. Move to approve budget, seconded and passed.

### III. Request for Funds –

A. Girl Scouts - Evie Kao plans to do a community service project at THR. She and her volunteers (NJHS) would like to redo the Teacher's Lounge next to the upstairs library. Currently this is not a pleasant room, used more as a storage room. The cost of the project would be \$4,500 - \$5,000. They are requesting \$3,500 - \$4,000. They will lead a volunteer group this summer to surprise the staff for next fall. The goal is for all the teachers to use and enjoy this space. They will inquire for donations regarding furniture (The Gallery Furniture/Jim McIngvale) and for recommendations by interior designers. Request for high quality coffee machine or beverage dispenser. Long term goal to redo all three teacher

lounges at THR. Request approved to allocate \$4,000 for this project.

- B. Special Olympics – The students celebrate the end of the year with a fieldtrip to Kemah. Request for \$851 for help fund this event. Motion approved and passed.
- C. Video Production – MS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade History Teacher Doke requests funds to buy two portable battery light packs and Adobe Creative Suite Software package. Doke showed a video that 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders participated in, filming, producing and editing by themselves. School has a professional level Media Room inside of MS library that is not getting much use but has great potential. This new software allows students to learn, expand, and develop their skills with the same software as they go on to other schools (HS or professional environment.) Includes I-pad drawing. This video opportunity also bridges the communication gap between Vanguard and Deaf students. The battery packs allow video to take place through out campus. Video can be made with translations for deaf students channeling more info to that student body. Lam commented that Doke brings his own professional equipment to school. Since it's difficult for school to pay for extras, Doke was referred to the PTO. Request approved and passed to fund \$1,200.
- D. Orchestra Stands – Mr. Muzyka mentioned special acoustic stands used at Johnston MS that would benefit our THR Orchestra. He will do more investigation before making formal request for funds.

#### **IV. Principals' Reports.**

**David Muzyka, Principal** – Vacancies. First interview for 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher (Ms. Garfield is retiring) went well. Mr. Waters is retiring (after 42 years) and his position will be filled by John Dixon, who's been assisting Mr. Waters in the past. Mr. Dixon's position needs to be filled and interviewed for. This position requires a lot of administrative work. HISD removed the monetary incentive to retire early in school year, thus harder to begin interviewing in the spring,

and running into summer with vacancies. Budget Meeting was cancelled as many as 1,000 parents acted to stop plans for HISD's budget cut meeting (announced on short notice to public) where major cuts were/are planned at the last minute. School has found out about these impromptu meetings via media alert and not from HISD.

Important that upper management in HISD see the work that takes place at THR and other Vanguard schools, and understand where the schools are spending their money. It's important to vote this Saturday on Prop 1. *HISD Parent Advocate* on twitter is a worthwhile site to follow. Need SDMC parent reps for 2017-2018; last meeting is this Tuesday. This summer our school will be open Monday-Friday's while HISD administration is closed on Fridays during summer. This extra day at THR is important for PSI and Deaf student and family population. Our campus will be closed on Fridays in July. Musings creative writing presentation will take place next week.

**Donald Lam, Assistant Principal, Middle School** – School is buying 60 Chrome books (laptops) with 30 going to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 30 to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Additional report attached.

**Christian Winn, Assistant Principal, Elementary School** – Magnet Funding (budget cuts) meeting at HISD was cancelled at the last minute. GT funds will stay as status quo. GT funds help pay for Theatre/Debate position. There's been a small decrease of \$1K for operations in the Magnet fund. \$42,500 Magnet funds held, which pays for 6 positions; continue as planned for next year. Professional Development funding for teachers, with summer opportunities in Houston and at Harvard. There's an Autism Conference in Houston in August, which THR will send teachers.

## V. Select Committee Reports

A. School Supplies Will Radcliffe

B. Teacher Appreciation Annette Botas-Rock. Teachers and Staff are very pleased and appreciative of this event that is one week long and really creates a warm atmosphere within the staff community.

B. SDMC Mustafa Ebrahim/ Brenda Oliveira – Matters were already discussed by Mr. Muzyka.

C. Buck Store. Wendy Chung reported event was successful.

D. Spaghetti Supper. Kerry Faro reported planning was going well.

VI. Garden Club/Committee Bê Petrosky. Ms. Osburne (4<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher) and Ms. Stein (7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher) would like to create a committee of parents, students, and teacher that would bring the “Recipe for Success” nonprofit program to THR. This program encourages healthy eating and nutrition through education and gardening. They’d like to have their initial meeting in May.

VI. 9.00 am Adjourn

Upcoming PTO Events & Meetings:

1. Spaghetti Supper: Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-8:30pm
2. Tentative- PTO Year End Party: Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:30 location TBD – Cancelled