



T. H. ROGERS SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION
VANGUARD · PDHH · PSI/MI

PTO Meeting Minutes, Thursday, September 8, 2016

Attendees: Annette Botas-Rock, Susan Skipton, David Tang, Eric Grandich, Kim Woodruff, Kerry Ann Faro, Grace Ye, Eunice Chang, Vanessa Lin, Jasmine Galal, Soracha Kiatamnuay, Zhen Lin, Rajapriya, Jigna Shah, Jennifer Cable, Jennifer Radcliffe, Brooke Primomo, Veronique Vaillancourt, Sonia Huerta, Stefanee Davis, Rea Summers, Michelle Bahrami, Charie Procter, Jennifer Nguyen, Wendy Chung, Brenda Oliveira, Mustafa Ebrahim, Sadaf Ebrahim

I. Call to Order at 7:50am

II. Request for Funds by Brenda Oliveira.

A. Library Books -\$5792.82. Ms. Hatley, the librarian is requesting funds for books as budget cuts have made it very difficult. She asked Ms. Winn who said there are \$1,000 school funds. This fund is requested for both the MS and ES. The librarian in years past seldom uses the funds allocated to library or made requests as she's very resourceful and careful with library budget. Susan Skipton made motion for passing request, seconded by Jennifer Nguyen, passed by majority.

B. Uniform Jackets for Middle School Athletes- approx. \$3000. This money would buy MS athletic jackets that are issued to students in different sports. This item was reviewed last spring. Jackets would be lent out and collected at end of the sport's season. One jacket per athlete, regardless of how many sports he/she participates in. Jackets will be numbered to better keep track of them and makes it cool for student. Be worked on design and quotes. Brenda commented that an option to buy the jacket available but not mandatory. Veronique Sitton asked if sponsors/business could be asked to cover the costs. Brenda explained that HISD has restrictions on this and that business sponsorships are better used for Spaghetti Supper, etc. The jackets would be used for 3 years or longer. Coach Munoz kept up with the swim shirt last year and will do the same for jackets. Motion made, seconded and passed to fund \$3000 for athletic jackets.

III. Principals' Reports

Magnet Program – Kristen Chen. The magnet application process begins Friday, September 30, and goes til December 9th. The deadline was moved up to accommodate processing the paper applications. Previously there was one large open house for the district's School Choice programs. Last year there were five Saturdays with open houses held at different high schools, which will be continued this year. The first will be September 17th at Westbury HS. This year only five applications will be allowed per student, versus last year's ten applications. This may cause parents to strategize their choices and decrease the number of applications per school. The vanguard acceptance list is constantly changing, until the end of the lottery day. Ms. Chen also expressed her honor and privilege to serve at T.H.Rogers and is leaving to work at the district level Advanced Academic Department of HISD. This position will enable her to help influence more students and bring more vision to district with her vanguard and classroom experience. Her departure is sad but will be a benefit for THR's as she understands the needs for a special campus and will have the power to aid at the higher level. Interviews for her position will begin next week.

Donald Lam, Assistant Principal, Middle School (report attached)

Christian Winn, Assistant Principal, Elementary (report attached)

Dave Muzyka, Principal. District 7 representative Harvin Moore presented good talk at Open House about recapture of funds by TX Legislators. Muzyka has short video (7 minutes) to show at end of meeting. Like to encourage the community at large to gather and educate before November's election.

This Sunday the Signing Choir will perform at Market Square. One vacancy for a TA in deaf classroom and Ms. Chen's position of which there are four applications already submitted. The Safety Update and School Improvement plan is progressing. The SDMC's goal is 70% RDSPD passing STAAR. Last year one third of the students were new to THR (due to expansion) and the testing went well. He will look into the UIL for ES. There will be an honorarium for the church (WMU) as they allow us to use their space for our Donuts with Dad/Mom. Early Dismissal days will be used as Cultural Awareness Day, which parents are welcome to attend.

I. Select Committee Reports

- A. Fundraising. On behalf of Shazia Sheikh, Brenda Oliveira said the sponsorships are being worked on for Carnival and Spaghetti Supper.
- B. Membership. Jennifer Radcliffe / Jennifer Cable / Wendy Chung. \$18K has been raised presently. Deadline was moved up to September 30th to avoid dragging. Please join PTO. Deadline will be extended if necessary. There will be parties for the ES and MS for 100% participation in homerooms. Suggested to create a pie chart of the homerooms' participation rate.
- C. Carnival. On behalf of Essence Briggs / Alexandra Erkal, Brenda said the plans are going well with the theme being Pokémon, though no lures. There will be a costume contest. Many volunteers will be needed. Most kids will be roaming around, allowing parents to volunteer easily.
- D. Volunteers. Brenda Oliveira said Carnival will need lots of volunteers. ES homerooms will be each hosting a booth (needing volunteers) and then needing additional volunteers for general carnival tasks.
- E. SDMC (Shared Decision-Making Committee). Brenda Oliveira/ Mustafa Ebrahim. Mustafa spoke about the Recapture. HISD is being required to return \$160 million to state. This vote is being put on the November ballot with language sounding very innocent but author's intent is for \$160 million this year and for the future. Vote NO. A message will send to TX legislators that a solution must be found for educational funding (which has been an issue ignored for many years.) The state has the power to claim commercial land and claim the tax revenue for another district. THR's HISD board member Harvin Moore is resigning one year early so as to have the position voted on in busy election. Candidate John Luman is the most similar to Moore regarding vanguard school needs. Stress put on parents to go VOTE on November 8th.
- F. Community Building. Annette Botas-Rock mentioned that this Saturday is the George Observatory PTO event for all the students, rain or shine. Great opportunity for our kids as we're a commuter school.
- G. Muzyka's Video shown

V. **Adjourn** by 9:10 am

Upcoming PTO Events & Meetings:

1. George Observatory @ Brazos Bend State Park: Saturday, September 10, 2016
2. Fall Gardening Day: Saturday, September 17, 2016, 9:00am-12:00pm
3. Donuts with Dad: Friday, September 23, 2016, 7:15am-8:00 am
4. Kindergarten Parent Coffee: Saturday, September 24, 2016, 9:00am-10:30am
5. Donuts with Mom: Friday, October 7, 2016, 7:15am-8:00am
6. Fall Carnival: Saturday, October 10, 2016, 11:00am - 3:00 pm
7. PTO Meeting: Thursday, October 13, 2016, 7:45 am
8. Bat Watching at Waugh Bridge: Friday, October 14, 2016, 7:00pm