

**Roberts Elementary School
PTO Board Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2005**

Attending: Rochelle Platt, Deirdre Hawkins, Nora Rojano, Jenny Sommer, Beth Brown, Donna Moran Hodges, Karen Wagner, Carol Tindall, Denise Snyder, Pat LaPadula, Stephanie Walton, Sam Sarabia, Dana Donovan, Kathi Fletcher, Kelly Teague, Annie Flanders, Wendy Bonnell, Bob Brown, Delia Smith

Recording Secretary: Carol Tindall.

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the PTO Board. In case of errors or updates, please contact me at tindallsix@sbcglobal.net. If you do not hear back from me within three days, please call me to make sure that I received you email.

Next PTO Board Meeting: Monday, January 9, 2006

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1. Meeting Called To Order (Nora Rojano)

Nora called the meeting to order. .

2. Approval of Minutes

Sam Sarabia had a correction to the minutes and the correction was made. Bob Brown made a motion to approve the corrected minutes. Kelly Teague seconded it.

3. School Report (Sam Sarabia)

Conferences/Training - Pat and Sam went to the Texas Association for Gifted and Talented conference. Lots of schools around the state are waiting for IB approval visits. Throughout the visits that Sam and Pat have made the overwhelming comments are about Roberts are on how great our Fine Arts/Magnet Program is. HISD is going to look at each magnet school separately this year that so that hopefully our program will not receive any more budget cuts.

Pat, Sam, Stephanie, and some teachers went to the Texas IB Schools conference and Sam is setting up an assessment team. This team will look at planners, projects, grading, and homework to make sure we are on track. The team will have extra meetings and training. Every summer there will be advancement and assessment training. This training will take us to the next level – grade levels will look at upper levels and lower levels to see what they need to work towards or on.

5th grade field trip - Moving forward we will not be supporting the same level of trip for the 5th grade. After listening to all sides that is the decision that Sam has made. Most positive comments Sam has received are about time for bonding and celebrating. For bonding we will do a series of ropes type courses and all the 5th grade teachers and some of the magnet teachers will participate. Each person will take an activity and we will look the process. Barbara Chase Hopkins will be involved. Parents will be invited to either participate or volunteer. It will be at a park, either local or within 30-35 min. drive. At the end of the year there will be a celebration type activity maybe with ropes courses, swimming, and volleyball type things. The only fundraiser would be to help finance the type of gift the 5th graders want to leave to the school and for the celebration after the advancement ceremony.

Teachers/Classrooms - Ms. Earle has resigned because she is relocating. Ms. Kim has been subbing in there but she will be moving as well. Ms. Kim will stay until the end of the semester so that the kids don't have to go through another transition.

Traffic issues – We now have 3 crossing guards on Greenbriar. School Street problems are mostly Roberts's parents and we are going to have to really ask for them to cooperate. Rochelle Platt mentioned that a parent is putting cones up on Morningside and that is helping with crossing there as well. This has been a great parent initiative and Sam said thanks to everyone. Denise Snyder asked about the flashing lights on the school zone signs. Sam will have someone check on them.

Beth Brown asked if putting traffic cones on School Street would be helpful and Sam responded that he and Pat will monitor the street and assess the situation.

Student Population - We are down to 672 students. We are still capped so if anyone new comes in, we will still have to find a school for them. Right before the funding date we sent the attendance officer to check addresses and those students who are not zoned to Roberts and not on a magnet transfer have been asked to attend their zoned neighborhood school.

Construction - The pavilion has been condemned, and it will be fenced off. This will be considered as a repair of the covering and the cross beams on the roof, which are rusted. We will also get better drainage in the refurbishing and we are looking at ways to keep the pigeons out. Sam has asked for the T buildings to be removed by the holiday break.

4. Treasurer's Report (Donna Moran)

The beginning balance reflects money as of the end of last month, receipts are listed, and with disbursements, 5th grade and SPARK we have \$31,912.01. This is reconciled with the bank statement. We have estimated pending receipts and disbursements that came in after that. Technology did not spend all of the money they were allocated so that money has been added back into the technology budget.

5. Committee Reports

a. Buildings and Grounds (Jenny Sommer)

Jenny reported that 12 classes have planted in the international vegetable garden and 4 more are coming before the end of December. There will be opportunity for more planting in late winter and spring. The front landscaping began on Saturday. This is the last stage of Project Centerstage. The goal is for it to be low maintenance and educational. Thompson Hansen will provide all the materials at cost as well as use of equipment and subs. We will be using their workers on the weekend. The lighting has been a big issue. It will be a clean look across the front of the building. There will be evergreen shrubs along the front. The circle area will match the front of the school. The oak trees will be lit by tree lights and the flag pole and the cow will be lit as well. This will create a safer, cleaner, nicer looking front. The work should be completed in about 3 weekends. Beth Brown asked about the West University Little League field questions. (WULL had asked about being able to use our field for night practices and in return they would maintain the field.) We have not heard back from them but Jenny said that she can follow up. Bids are in on playground equipment and Jenny and Kelly Teague will be looking over them.

b. Cookie Dough (Denise Snyder)

Denise Snyder reported that they need volunteers to help with pick up and delivery on Wednesday from 3 –6. The cookie dough budget doesn't include a \$10,000 payment that will be made.

c. Technology (Karen Wagner)

Karen reported that the computer lab computers are here, software has been installed, and everything seems to be up and running and the kids are using it. Rick Rojano is working on the back room part of the auction - if you know anyone at any other schools that work on auctions let them know. There is a little extra money in the technology budget and they are going to try to get an ELMO for Ms. Herrick.

d. Family Sponsors (Beth Brown)

Beth reported that we now have 9 hurricane families with 13 kids still in the school and 9 medical families.

e. International Committee (Rochelle Platt)

Rochelle reported that all of the front panels of the quilts have been done except for kindergarten. Two are off to the quilters to be finished. The majority of them will be ready by mid December and they are hoping to have them hanging in the front hall. There were no donations for them so the left over funds from previous years will be used for the quilting. They will all be for sale at the auction, hopefully as part of the live auction. Rochelle is looking at digitally photographing them and either making note cards or tea towels that can be sold as well.

6. Unfinished Business (Deidre Hawkins and Sam Sarabia)

Beth Brown asked about the book fair. No one is present to report on it. Family night is Wednesday from 6 – 8.

Deidre Hawkins and Rochelle Platt reported that memory book theme will be “Out of This World.” Teacher pages will be “Planet Shea,” etc. and they are trying to get the teachers and children to design their own pages.

7. Meeting Adjourned (Nora Rojano)

The meeting was adjourned by Nora.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 9, 2006