Askew PTO Meeting

Minutes

Meeting date: October 5, 2016 – Askew Cafeteria 6:30pm

Executive Board Members in attendance: President – Lisa Fikes, 3rd VP Volunteers – Shiro Jaleel-Kahn, Treasurer – Mary Mathias, Recording Secretary – Anna Heinzelmann, Principal – Ms. Cumby, VP – Ms. Garrick, Magnet coordinator – Scott Bounds

# School Update – Ms. Cumby

## Bond/building/construction update-

Demo of the T buildings are done with more to go which is currently being used.

The district has decided to release our current contractor Division 1 from its contract ones phase 1 is complete. This is mainly due to the contractor’s failure to meet deadlines. Division 1 still has some incomplete work for Askew that will be finished. i.e problem with Air flow control and PA system and a few more things we are holding them accountable for.

HISD is not taking bids for a new contractor

Fence separating playgrounds. This was supposed to be a steady secure fence not the fence that has been installed. The contractor has committed to replace the fence.

Playground issue.

Why was the playground destroyed? HISD informed D1 that they did not need the playground. The spinning part and the drop shot were from the PTO and were also destroyed without approval. D1 said it will get rid of it.

A new playground is part of the plan and will be installed.

Parking:

Except for 2-3 teachers, all the other teachers are parking on campus, on Hayes and Lynbrook. We had a vist from Dr. Mutan, Cumby’s supervisor. She said she drove around the neighborhood and didn’t understand the uproar. However, parking is still an issue especially at drop off and pick up. Cars parking in the no parking lane and parking on both sides. The no parking signs had to be removed.

## School enrollment projects

Projected 880 but at 945 now

Bilingual Capped

Kinder and 3rd capped. Schools we are supposed to send to are getting capped and we had to request for one class to be uncapped. However, we are not in Jeopardy of returning funds.

## Magnet tours/applications – Scott Bounds

Scott is working on next year’s students. The Vanguard applications could be turned in starting 10/4/2016 and go until December 8th. He has 50 applicants already.

What is Vanguard? – It is the Gifted/Talented program. Children are tested and need to have a minimum score in order to be accepted. Children can be tested before Kindergarten and all children are tested in Kindergarten to see if they pass.

Space is an issue for the students, as classrooms should have a ratio of 22 students to one teacher and no one wants to send their children to a school with 30 or so children in a class.

As of now:

Kindergarten has 45 children (2 classrooms) – 1 seat available for 1st grade,

1st grade has 41 students (2 classrooms) – 3 seats available for 2nd grade,

2nd grade has 38 children (2 classrooms) – 6 seats available for 3rd grade,

3rd grade has 49 students (3 classrooms) – 0 seats available for 4th grade \*only 2 classrooms

4th grade has 46 students (2 classrooms) – 9 seats available for 5th grade and it is not capped, however not many change schools for one grade.

Next year they are going to try to have 2 Vanguard classrooms in each grade. We have more students now than what the new school is being made for, so the new building will already be full.

## Ms. Cumby:

Waiver update – A waiver is needed for any class that is over 22 students/teacher. This year she filed 7 waivers for classrooms. Last year she needed 12 waivers. The district would like a maximum of 2 waivers, but that was not possible.

## Service project: collection for apartment fire victims

There was a fire at a Hayes road. Several families connected to fire. School pulled out student records and have identified 5 families. There were 26 families impacted.

School is preparing care packages to be given to these families.

## School awards

Askew was awarded 4 distinctions out of 6. This is a great achievement and the school is performing great and is due to the hard work of the teachers. Bush and a few other schools got all 6.

## Recapture issue

HISD is charged to return 163 million to return back to the state. This is a big issue and significant budget cut. We were impacted last year but had some funds in savings this year is going to be a big problem.

November has 2 options.

1) Write a check

2) Vote and ask state to come take the property.

## Leader in Me

## Maternity Leave

Baby is due January 6. And will be here through end of semester.

Return in March.

## Other school info

# President Update – Lisa Fikes

## Fiesta Askew 10/15 from 11am – 2pm

We are looking for someone to setup and man a PTO table.

## Neighbor/carpool gifts

We have 2 volunteers to deliver small thank you gifts for the neighbors. The thank yous will be something like chocolates.

## No Parking signs

These are no longer allowed due to a neighbor (City Councilman Greg Travis) complaining that they are not legal. We will all need to be careful not to park in those areas so that the busses can get around.

## Year at a glance calendar

Ms. Cumby and Lisa Fikes have been working on the year at a glance calendar. It will be out soon.

# Membership Update – Lisa Fikes (Stephanie Swain)

## Skate night

Skate night was a success. Thank you Shiro for helping so much with skate night.

## Membership totals YTD

Total members – 115 families and

Winner of the gift card – Simon Choi & Erica Rodriguez

Top 5 Classes

1st Farley, 4 & LeBlanc, K

2nd Calhoun, 5

3rd – Arriaga, K

4th West, 1

## Popsicle party

We need to set a date for the party and have another push for membership.

# Fundraising Update – Lisa Fikes

T-shirts and sweatshirts

You can now pay for T-shirts and sweatshirts online. Blue Askew sweatshirts will be done as a preorder and Shiro will order as many as needed.

## All-Star Giving

We have received about $3600 for the PTO giving fundraiser. $500 was just donated from Simon Choi’s family. If every family would donate a little, we would have enough to meet our budget. The PTO is vital to helping our classrooms get things that are needed.

## Shopping Rewards

There are ways for us to earn money from businesses. One way is to go to smile.amazon when you order at amazon and choose Askew as your donation. A portion of what you buy will go to Askew.

Kroger’s fundraising program will need to be redone.

## Family Dinners

We would like someone to volunteer to set up dinners for family nights at different businesses. A portion of the proceeds would go to the school. We need someone to call around for this.

## Box Tops

Candy Lillibridge will be taking care of the Box tops donations. We expect an income of $600 from the box tops, each is worth 10cents. The first round is due by October 26th. The class who turns in the most will get a pizza party.

## Movin’ on

The 5th grade movin’ on is being led by Valerie Breunig and Shan Batiste. They set up events for the celebration at the end of the year. The next fundraising events will be Free dress on Oct 19th and the pumpkin dance on Oct 28th.

# Volunteer update – Lisa Fikes/Shiro Jaleel-Kahn

## Open Positions filled

Website and Facebook positions were filled by Jennifer Fortunado and Risa Maida

The Talent show – Mr. Bowers, Ms. Danowski (Carpender), and Ms. Runnels will be helped by Amy Stout, Mack Morris, and Shannon Rohlfing

Krishna will find corporate sponsors for the school.

## Positions still open

Fundraising chair (exec board) – This will be an easy positon this year, as we have no Fundraising project.

Parlimentarian (exec board) – They are necessary to ensure that everything is running by the book, and they add another voice to the votes.

Yearbook – We have 1 person who volunteered for this position, but we need someone to help them. If you take pictures you can submit them to the chair and help add to the yearbook.

Scholastic Book Fair – Ms. Cumby does not think we will have a book fair this year. Ms. Polk has said it is not necessary, as she has extra funds left from last year. In addition to that there is just not a lot of room this year. Lisa mentioned that we could still have one and have the money come back to us rather than go to scholastic points. If it does take place, it will not be the end of October.

Gently used book fair – We need someone to run this. It is an important book fair so that people who do not have access to book, are able to get books for a very good price. Our goal is that every child leaves with a book that day.

# Treasurer update – Mary Mathias

## Budget review

In general we have a total spending planned of $20,000 and have given out $10,008 so far. We have only collected around $7000. This is ok because we had a starting balance from the previous years of $38,381.

We have collected $3685 so far for the Check writing campaign and 1,690 from PTO membership.

We have spent $1600 on a school fieldtrip to Austin and Grandparent’s day. We have also purchased planners for grades 3 and up for $2077. $622 was put towards the teacher appreciation luncheon and $4851 was used to give the teachers gift cards for school supplies.

## Money Handling Procedures

If you are going to be handling money at the school, you must fill out the form and sign it for the procedures. The form can be found online. Anyone who is helping with an event should fill out the form.

# Corresponding Secretary update – Lisa Fikes (Rayetta Seals-Ashby)

Please send all info you would like to go into the e-blast to Raye by Monday in order for it to go out in the e-blast on Tuesday.

# Other Business

## Oaks of Brittney apartments – Ms. Cumby (Ms. Muraldo)

5 years ago there was a fire in the apartments and everyone needed relocated after the building was condemned. The complex has been empty and sitting there for 4 years now.

There is a new movement to rehabilitate the building and reopen the complex. This has raised many concerns. One of which is that just renovating the old buildings will not address the concerns that were there before, including the mold and other health code problems.

The best solution for the neighborhood is to knock the building down and rebuild it. In order to make the city aware of this we need to have as many people as possible make a report to 311 saying that it is a hazard.

## West Houston ATA Martial Arts – Chuck Sears

West Houston ATA would like to adopt Askew. This means that they would be there to support the school in any way that they can. This includes coming to talk in the classroom, after school activities, fundraising, staff booths at a festival, anti-bullying programs, and anything else they could help with.

Fundraising example – After school program for a month for $40 where the proceeds all would go to the PTO.