Askew PTO Meeting

Minutes

Meeting date: November 9, 2016 – Askew Library 6:00pm

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

# School Update – Ms. Cumby

## Bond/building/construction update

There is still no construction company. There are 4 contractors who have come by and given bids for the construction. They will decide on the construction company on December 8th at the board meeting. The school is not involved in the choice of contractors. They will likely begin working in the spring of 2017 and will complete the rest of the project. The timeline has not yet been updated to account for the late start. The project manager, Ron Keller, works for Rice Gardner and he is still in place.

The previous contractor still has a few small projects to complete in the T-buildings.

It was reminded that the project advisory committee meetings are open to the public and everyone who is interested is encouraged to attend them. The hope is that if more people attend, it will be at a higher priority. The next meeting is December 12th. In addition to this, please write down any concerns you have about the construction and give them to Ms. Cumby (or email them to her) so that any problems can be recorded.

The teachers who are in the T-buildings were able to order $12,000 in classroom storage from Lakeshore with the bond budget. This helped to fix some of the storage issues they have been having there. The T-buildings were unfurnished.

## Other school info

They will no longer be testing children in the Vanguard program in Kinder or 5th grade with the CogAT test. The only reason for this test is to see if they qualify for the program and because they already do, they do not need to take it. This should not affect their middle school requirements which is their last 4th grade report card. Students in these grades who are not GT qualified will still take the test.

There will likely be other changes for the GT qualifications next year.

# President Update – Lisa Fikes

## Playground equipment for the older grades

Lisa ordered some hula hoops, balls, jump ropes, and other play toys for the open area where they play. A storage chest with a lock was also ordered to keep the playground equipment. If anyone has an idea as to how to make a solid surface area for the kids to play on please let us know.

## Teacher Treats

The next teacher treats day is on November 18th and it will be hosted by the 4th Grade. Please sign up for what you want to bring on the sign up genius.

## PTO closet

At the back of the PTO closet is a door to the mechanical room. The fire marshal did a walk-through of the school and gave us a warning because of the closet. It has to be cleaned out so that we can at least get to the door and open it.

We are going to have a clean up day on November 18th from 9am – 12pm to clean up the closet as well as the closet in the work room.

# Membership Update – Stephanie Swain

## Membership totals YTD

Total members – 166: 129 families and 37 staff members.

Winner of the gift card – Simon Choi & Erica Rodriguez

## Popsicle party

Kindergarten wins the Popsicle party. There were 32 students of PTO members from the Kindergarten class. The first grade came in a close 2nd place with 30 memberships. Maybe 11/18?

# Fundraising Update – Joanna and sabrina

T-shirts and sweatshirts

You can now pay for T-shirts and sweatshirts online. Blue Askew hoodies will be done as a preorder. They have a zip up design and a small Askew logo on the top. They will be $25 for each hoodie. Shiro will order as many as needed. Brandy will help Shiro will the processing of the orders.

## All-Star Giving

We have received about $3553 for the PTO giving fundraiser. We should have another check writing campaign in the spring and have a deadline for February. The rewards for the past campaign are going out soon.

 $25 level – Free dress and homework pass – to be redeemed whenever they want.

 $50 level – Recess 2-2:30pm on 11/18. They will call for the students and aides will oversee the recess.

 $100 level – wear PJs to school – 11/18

 $250 level -- $250 Pizza party with Ms. Cumby and Ms. Garrick. They can each invite a friend – 11/18 at 11:30am.

## Shopping Rewards

There are ways for us to earn money from businesses where a portion of what you buy will go to Askew. We are asking the person who is in charge of cooperate sponsorship to look into this as well.

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. Ms. Farley’s class submitted the most box tops, followed by K. Calhoun, Lucas, Arriaga, and Ponce. There will be another collection in the spring for box tops. The box tops can be found on General Mills products and give the school 10cents for each one.

## Movin’ on

The 5th grade movin’ on is being led by Valerie Breunig and Shan Batiste. They have been busy doing a lot of fundraising. They need a new venue for their field trip. The previous years they have used Westside Tennis club, but Westside has decided to stop hosting school children. The new location will likely require busses which will add a large chunk of money needed.

Friday fun foods was a huge hit last month. The fun foods include granola bars, pickles, and chips. The next one will be on Friday 11/18 from 1-3pm. They will be selling leftovers plus more popsicles and pickles. All items are between $0.50 - $1. A sign up genius is available for the 5th grade students to sign up to help out.

Free dress days are also going well. The next one will be Friday 11/18 and Wednesday 12/14.

The Valentine’s day dance will be planned for Friday February 10th.

# 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.

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

## Calendar Vote

There is a link on the HISD website (and soon the PTO and Askew website) to vote for the HISD calendar for next year. Plan A is pretty much the same as the calendar for this year. Plan B gives us a week of vacation over Thanksgiving, having the students off on Monday and Tuesday of the week of Thanksgiving, days where the children have low attendance rates anyway. Please check the link and vote.

## West Houston ATA Martial Arts – Chuck Sears

West Houston ATA, who has adopted Askew brought a check for the PTO. They are very interested in fundraising for the PTO – After school program for a month for $40 where the proceeds all would go to the PTO.