

Wednesday, October 3, 2018
PTO Meeting Notes

School Updates

Construction Update: Front is moving along well. Next is starting to frame the area for the pond and leveling the area for the front playground. We are still on schedule to have estimated finished time of mid November. There was a little slow down because of the rain, but still on good time. There are still some last things being worked on inside the building; project managers are still on site to get them taken care of ASAP. They will be on campus for the next 45 days or so.

Carpool: The switch to Pik My Kid app is being finalized. It was scheduled to start soon, but may wait to roll out in January for a smooth start. So far, carpool is going smooth. We are calling on average 200 cars and still being done by about 3:15. January seems like a good time to get everyone introduced at the same time. It can be used for all the parts of pick up including daycare, walkers, etc.

We have two new staff members. 4th and 1st grade staff came over from Redd Elementary. Mr. Mark (4th) and Mrs. Cruz (1st). They have officially started with the kids and they transitioned well.

PTO PROJECTS

Science Coordinator: Mike McSwain should be starting about October 15th. Him and Anna have been in the lab cleaning and getting it ready. Him and Ebony will soon be creating a sign-up sheet for classes to go in. He will be there to assist the science projects.

T-shirts: We now have long sleeve shirts and hoodies in a limited amount.

Teacher Treats: 5th grade is October 12th. There is a sign up genius. They will be set up in the teacher's lounge.

Box Tops: First due date is October 16th. The top class gets a party. We get .10 each one which adds up quickly so we're encouraging everyone to clip those box tops.

Ms. Tillis: PTO funded training for her over the summer. The training helped her keep technology up to date in her classroom. EdTech Program does trainings that come into classrooms. She attended about 4 of the Apple sessions. She was able to get a lot of information on the computers. She was trained well on how to create a QR code that she will be using in her classroom for tests, etc. She has worked with the students on presentations using Google slides. She will also incorporate it in Sharpen the Saw Tech club on early dismissal days.

Upcoming Events

Early Dismissal: next one is 10/19 at 11:30. The same day is the skating party for PTO members

5th grade Moving On: they want to do a pumpkin dance on 10/31. They want to see about it being approved during ancillary. They would just need to talk with the specialists to see what their schedules will be.

Fall Fundraiser: Those should have been sent home recently. We get 50% proceeds which is very high. So far the online sales have been about \$1800. The online orders and the email blast got the kids their little gifts.

Curriculum Night: It is cancelled. The district is doing a community event called Parent University. The next one is 10/18. It is held at several high schools across the district. The purpose is to give families a look at resources available for the district. Curriculum Night will be reset, just no date yet.

Spirit Night: Next Thursday at Chick-Fil-A from 3-8 then November 8th at 5 Guys.

Talent Show: Set for December 7th. They would like volunteers to help with that, basically running back stage and keeping them in the room until it's time for them to perform. They will also need

help with decorations. Concessions will be done by Erin (hot dogs and hamburgers). They will need to get someone to do a bake sale as well.

Membership

Families: So far we have about 91 families that are members. The class with the most members by 10/19 gets a party.

Skate Night:

PTO Budget

We are trying to raise about \$1,000 with community partners. So far we already have over \$200. Membership...we are looking for 150 members. School Supply sales we raised \$605 with a budget of \$200. We are in the hole on t-shirts and hoodies, so we hope to get those long sleeves and hoodies sold. 5th Grade Moving On, there has already been money raised on that. Our biggest expenditure was teacher appreciation and teachers fund of \$5000. Now teachers must be a part of PTO in order to receive gifts and beginning of the year gifts. For 5th grade, we would like to fund them t-shirts then figure out event, transport, etc. They need to have another meeting to finalize all details.

We are still trying to figure out what we need to do to have more PTO participation including teachers. One idea is to have incentives not only for just the top class, but the top Vanguard and non-vanguard. We also agree that taking away gifts if they are not members will help. Another suggestion is the gift of time for those that have high PTO participation in their classroom. Communication via a text app would be another idea. Instead of just papers in folders, there could be a text reminder.

What is happening in 1st grade this year?

Ms. Perez had her baby!! Mrs. West couldn't make it to give a presentation.

Holly Vilaseca – HISD Board Member

She represent District 6.

Board updates: Majority of the agenda items are routine, but some are not. Funding models was a big topic over the last year. There was a lot of budget discussions that happened over the last year as well. Transportation issues were also being discussed as a lot happened at the beginning of the year. Standardized start times was an item that helped saved money that was a preliminary decision. Vendor support was the next topic. Call to action from her is to complete survey on HISD website to help.... They are working to approve a legislative agenda and a funding model. Resource allocation committee is there to help understand and situate funding. She is looking for Askew parents to be a part of the Parent Advisory Group and Educator Committee to meet with the board members before they go.