

Lamar PTO Board Meeting Minutes

1 December 2015

Location: Ms. Stone's Classroom

Position	Name	Attendance
President	Jennifer Dawson	present
1st VP of Programs	Ariel Dawson	absent
2nd VP of Membership	Andrea Hayes	absent
3rd VP of Fundraising	Jenny Tessman	absent
Treasurer	Stephen Kelling	present
Secretary	Cathleen Akers	present
Devotional	Angie Garner	present
Volunteer Chairman	(open)	
Pictures	Christina Blackwell	present
Parliamentarian	Amanda Davis	absent
Christmas Store	(Jennifer Dawson)	
Hospitality	Lindy Meiser	present
Reporter	(open)	
Activities Chair	Casey Gray	present
Teacher Rep	Amanda Gunter	absent
Principal	Janet Mobley	present

J. Dawson called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

Norms

J. Dawson read the norms:

- Abide by the by-laws
- One person speaking at a time
- Stay positive
- Stay focused and on task
- Be open to ideas
- Please limit cell phone usage

Devotional

Garner read the devotional.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

J. Dawson asked attendees to review the November meeting minutes and called for approval. Blackwell moved to approve the minutes as written, Meiser seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

Kelling stated there was nothing to report, other than noting that there was one NSF (non-sufficient funds) check from the fundraiser on which he will follow up.

By-Law Revisions

Akers noted that the handout of the present and draft revisions of Articles VI and VII of the Bylaws reflected the changes decided on during the November meeting. She asked attendees to review the draft to see if the wording met with their approval. After J. Dawson asked if there were any comments or objections but there were none. Blackwell moved to approve the revised Articles VI and VII of the Bylaws. Kelling seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Old Business

Fall Festival. Gray stated her concern that the funds collected for the pizza and drinks were lower than she had anticipated, but she was not sure if it had to do with the amount of pizza slices or not. She said she knew that the food and drink sale was not necessarily to make money but indicated that she was worried that receipts did not cover costs. J. Dawson asked Gray to outline amounts and costs. Gray talked through these, with input from Mobley, J. Dawson and other attendees making calculations, and determined that her concern was unwarranted because the receipts actually exceeded costs by \$74.00.

Gray thought the festival went well for the most part. She was especially appreciative of the fire and police departments bringing service vehicles and staying as long as they did. She noted that although the change of date did cause some challenges—for example the Art Club being unable to paint faces, but she and attendees agreed that the date change turned out for the best in light of the hurricane warning that was issued on the originally planned date! Gray noted that games ran out of candy “prizes” too quickly, everything worked out and there seemed to be a good turnout. Gray and others commented that the most popular game was the “whack-a-teacher.” She, J. Dawson, and other attendees affirmed the suggestion that Tessman had made at a prior meeting that the PTO consider purchasing or making its own festival/carnival games for the future. Gray acknowledged the help of teachers and fellow Board members. Mobley complimented the face painting work of J. Dawson, Tessman, and Akers. J. Dawson shared some of the funny painting requests of some of the kids. She also noted that in the future for outside festivals, the face painting station should be set up under better lighting.

Christmas Luncheon. Meiser announced that this year she planned something different from past years by offering baked potatoes and soup. She thought baked potatoes would be efficient when teachers/staff arrive in bunches and would prove highly portable for teachers and staff who bring lunch back to classrooms, offices, or cafeteria duty. She also got a great quote from local restaurant Nick's: \$3.00 per person. Along with purchasing soup ingredients and crackers, etc., Meiser estimates that the total cost for 75 people at the luncheon should be \$275.00.

Meiser indicated she usually receives a good turnout of dessert contributions (donations) for Christmas luncheons but noted she could buy some if necessary. J. Dawson stated that Board members had already indicated their willingness to bake/make desserts and a few present voiced their assent.

Christmas Store/Volunteers/Raffle tickets. J. Dawson noted that raffle ticket sales were covered in the mornings (Blackwell on Wednesday the 2nd; Akers on Thursday; she herself on Friday). Mobley noted that she placed a sign for the cost of raffle tickets over an item in the stocking that featured Justin Bieber in order to offset any parent complaints because the celebrity had apparently recently disgraced himself in R-rated fashion.

As for volunteers for the Store itself, J. Dawson noted that although few parents/guardians on the sign-up list from Open House could actually volunteer, she was hopeful that Mobley's newsletter notice would help recruit some more. Kelling said he would call a couple of church members who had completed the DISD volunteer forms to see if they could help out at the Store.

Coin Drive. J. Dawson said the coin drive was still ongoing so she had no sense yet of how much that might bring in.

Fundraiser Updates. Gray provided the update for Tessman. She explained that because some of the catalog items were out of stock, the orders are delayed. Tessman was contacting buyers to determine whether they wanted to switch items or have money returned before finalizing the order for shipping to school.

T-shirt sales. J. Dawson said that T-shirts sales have not gone forward, but she admitted that she did not understand what Tessman needs. Meiser explained that she provided Tessman and Mobley a "vector" image of the approved design because then T-shirt-producer café press would have the design in a scalable format to print the design in any size on any product. Meiser noted that she explained to Tessman that the image requires a specialized program to open it. Meiser believes Tessman only thinks that she is lacking what the printer (café press) needs because Tessman cannot view the image itself. Gray offered to speak to Tessman and urge her to send the vector image to café press.

New Business

Father-Daughter Dance. J. Dawson said the Father-Daughter Dance is scheduled for Friday, 12 February. She noted that HeadStart parents like to partner in projects, and Mobley added that HeadStart parents decorated for the dance the year before last. Mobley has provided music for the event through an ipod/mp3 player. Beverly Talbot (of science lab) has taken photos informally with her camera, candid and posed. PTO has not arranged any fee-photography service at this event. Mobley noted that in the last couple of years a painted background has been available for the dance, re-used after produced for a grade-level program. Some people did "selfies" or asked Talbot or someone else to use their phones or cameras for that. However, since there are no grade-level programs now due to space constraints, Mobley advised that since there will not be any new backgrounds, PTO should check to see if last year's background is still around, either in the basement storage or at the back of the stage. Akers volunteered to do so.

J. Dawson noted that snacks have been offered at the dance. Akers said that when she volunteered at the last dance, there was Chex Mix (purchased bags, not homemade), cookies, and brownies, as well as water and Coke. She said that in addition to the PTO-purchased snacks, the dance last year benefited from sweets left over from a couple of the class Valentine parties held earlier in the day; she suggested that perhaps PTO could ask teachers if their classes would consider contributing any surplus party treats to the dance this year.

Mother-Son Night. J. Dawson said that the Mother-Son night is scheduled for 18 March. There was some discussion about activities to offer such as dodge ball, shooting hoops, and perhaps an obstacle course.

Open Discussion

Mobley advised attendees that the space issue that has precluded the school's ability to continue grade-level programs leaves PTO without a mechanism to hold its general membership meetings as it has in the past. She reminded attendees that the PTO bylaws require four general membership meetings each year and that so far this school year there has only been one—at Open House. Mobley urged brainstorming with the following suggestions resulting: hold one before Father-Daughter Dance; maybe host a talent show in April or May and hold one before that; host a family music jam night and hold one then, perhaps in conjunction with the library's annual book fair in May.

Updates from Mrs. Mobley

Mobley announced that the school can no longer use the call-out announcement system unless there is an emergency; she explained that because some phones can be charged for calls, there is a law that restricts usage of such a system. However, because the district still wanted a way to communicate with families, the district has adopted the Remind 101 program for families to opt into for texts or emails, about which a recent notice was sent home with students. She indicated that she would have a Lamar-only Remind account set up as well.

Dates to Remember

Raffle ticket sales for giant stocking—1 December through 4 December (mornings before school start)
Christmas Store—9 December and 11 December 8:30am to 3:30pm (10 December re-stock)
Christmas Luncheon—16 December
Classroom Christmas parties—17 December
Final school day before winter break—18 December (early release)
PTO Board meeting—11 January 2016
Father-Daughter Dance—12 February 2016
Mother-Son Night—18 March 2016

J. Dawson suggested adjournment at 6:20pm. Blackwell made a motion to do so, Kelling seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES BY CATHLEEN AKERS