

Lamar PTO Board Meeting Minutes

14 March 2016

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	present
Treasurer	Stephen Kelling	Absent
Secretary	Cathleen Akers	present
Devotional	Angie Garner	present
Volunteer Chairman	(open)	
Pictures	Christina Blackwell	absent
Parliamentarian	Amanda Davis	absent
Christmas Store	(Jennifer Dawson)	
Hospitality	Lindy Meiser	present
Reporter	(open)	
Activities Chair	Casey Gray	present
Teacher Rep	Amanda Gunter	present
Principal	Janet Mobley	present

J. Dawson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Norms

J. Dawson read the norms:

- Be kind and courteous
- One person speaking at a time
- Attack the problem not the person

Devotional

Garner read the devotional: *It's not the load that breaks you down, it's how you carry it.*

Treasurer's Report

Kelling was unable to attend the meeting; there was no report.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

J. Dawson asked attendees to review the February meeting minutes and called for approval. Gunter moved to approve the minutes as written, Mobley seconded. Approval was unanimous.

New By-laws Revisions

J. Dawson called attention to the proposed revisions to Bylaws Articles X and XI. She said that the board will vote on these proposed changes at the April board meeting, but she encouraged attendees to review. Akers noted that the two articles were the last ones in the existing Bylaws, so after this the board will have completed the review and revision of the entire document.

Old Business

T-shirt sales. Meiser announced that the t-shirts had arrived that day and showed attendees a shirt and a bag. She was pleased with how they turned out, especially how the paw print appears over the heart when the t-shirt is worn. Meiser planned to possibly distribute orders on Wednesday (16 March). Tessman said that Kelling had all of the order information. Mobley suggested that once orders are handed out, some families may want to order more. Meiser confirmed it is possible to do so.

Meiser noted that there were fewer orders than she had anticipated (given past experience) and regarded it as only “okay” as a fundraiser. Some discussion ensued regarding the order forms going home with students—whether they went out at all or the timeliness in relation to order deadline.

Meiser said the Head Start t-shirts are in also. There was some discussion about Head Start teacher requests about their shirts being different, but the upshot was that PTO could and would not customize.

Mother-Son Night. Gray prefaced her update by saying that she has been quite sick and only now was really back on her feet. She said the event will be bring-your-own picnic supper, dodgeball, and hula-hoop competition. PTO will just provide water, no snack.

Gray expressed concern that some children and their guardians may be left out when PTO arranges events expressly for “mothers and sons” and “fathers and daughters.” Meiser suggested that perhaps a “family fun” event would be better so no one felt left out. Mobley pointed out that since PTO started sponsoring the father-daughter dance, the emphasis has been (e.g., in flyers, announcements) that any special male—uncle, big brother, grandfather, family friend—is welcome to attend, and she added that that has been the case with event attendance.

Mobley asked if the note about the Mother-Son night was prepared. Tessman and Gray said they planned to work on it that night and send home with students the next day. Meiser noted that she needs to print the PTO recruitment notice and indicated she could coordinate with Tessman and Gray about printing and stuffing teachers’ mailboxes.

New Business

Kids Day (1 June). J. Dawson announced that Kids Day is scheduled for Wednesday, 1 June, and pointed out that the following day is the last day of school. The cost will be about \$1,700.00, which includes about a \$200-discount for PTO being a repeat customer. She explained that due to the popularity of one of the slide inflatables last year, this year she specifically ordered a ginormous slide and a smaller version too. Gray asked what she needed to order for the event. J. Dawson said popsicles—one for each child in school.

Open Discussion

Meiser and Garner had looked into the instruments that the second grade had written to PTO about, and Meiser said the instruments are insanely expensive. The specific bongos the second graders identified are \$2,900 and the cheapest comparable version is \$1,900. Meiser said there are some “cheapo” drums that run \$1,078. As for chimes, Meiser said the cheapest were \$1,700. After she looked at a cedar xylophone that cost \$1,000, she asked her husband about the cost of the wood to make it; he estimated there was about \$300 worth of wood in it.

Meiser stated that regardless of cost, she had concerns that if PTO did install some sort of instruments on the playground that they not be too noisy for classrooms or for the neighborhood. Further, Meiser expressed concern about insurance liability if the new instruments were something that children could climb on. There was general agreement that no mallets could be required for any instrument.

Meiser tried to look into playground equipment add-ons that might prove a feasible alternative to enhancing the existing playground equipment, but she could not locate any pricing information. Mobley said she still had a playground equipment catalogue with prices and offered that. There was some discussion about the possibility of making sound instruments for the playground.

Akers suggested that even while PTO still researched the possibility of sound instruments for the playground, PTO should send a thank you note to the second graders. Meiser volunteered herself and Garner to do so.

Mobley asked who was on the Nominating Committee. Gray, Meiser, and Gunter said they were. Mobley indicated that the nomination process needs to move forward. Meiser noted that the notice she was preparing was just the general one PTO had decided on to generate interest—not a list of positions. Gray asked how it would work if someone was interested in a position that someone else was lined up for. J. Dawson said we would tell that person the position was unavailable but we would inform her/him of the other open positions.

[Tessman and Gray needed to leave at 5:56pm.]

Meiser had a suggestion that she asked PTO to think about: a new sign for the school. She observed that other schools in the district have much nicer, newer ones than Lamar’s. She offered to look into pricing for a new one, or barring that, to repaint the old one.

Updates from Mrs. Mobley

Mobley did not have any updates. However, she asked who would be helping with school pictures coming up. Meiser said that she and Blackwell would be there.

Dates to Remember

Mother-Son Night—18 March 2016

School Pictures—23 March

PTO board meeting—11 April

J. Dawson suggested adjournment at 6pm. Akers made a motion to do so, Gunter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES BY CATHLEEN AKERS