

## FRIENDSWOOD JUNIOR HIGH PTO MINUTES

August 29, 2018

Executive Board: Allison Cravens & Jenny Wiest: President; Leslie Fortenberry and Dene Dexter: V.P.; Liz Fischer: Treasurer; Aimee Reyes: Secretary

### **Call to Order: 9:35 AM**

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am. A sign-in sheet was distributed.

Attending were Aimee Reyes, Allison Cravens, Liz Fischer, Dana Drew, Jenny Wiest, Michelle Kallesen, Dene Dexter, Kristen Westerfield, Laura Cashen, Hether Dieste, Andrea Miller, Tabitha Marierson, Nikki Garcia, Paige Rideout, Tracy Collins, Lexie Buyajian, Colinda Van Scoyoe, Angelique Kim, Ashlee Fisher, Justi Bruner, Stacy Condon, Amber Pugsley, Eusia Hardy, Freddie Larson, Emily LaRouax, Tamara Dixon, Lin Huang, Stephanie Hamson, Sandra Burkhalter, Jennifer Clegg

**Approval of Minutes:** Copies of the minutes from May were distributed for review. A motion was made by Angelique Kim to approve the minutes, and Kristen Westerfield seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously passed.

### **Education Foundation - Paige Rideout**

- Card readers available for school fundraising.
- Feb is gala, tables are online this Friday. Announcement today. Can purchase table through the foundation website. \$2500/table and seats 10. Gala will be formal.
- Teacher of the year/foundation awards each nominee is \$500 gift.
- Mustang foundation hasn't topped off membership yet at 1000 membership. Need about 100 more members.
- Liz Fischer - as a class Christmas gift we can buy grants for teachers and doesn't have the cap. As soon as the grant is purchased it goes right through and is available after Christmas break.

### **Principal's report**

- Educational foundation has averaged about \$25K per year in gifts. The PTO has been giving to the education foundation every year. The money given by the PTO has ear marked 10% to buy the grants. After a few years we couldn't do that anymore so the PTO took that over.
- Welcome to all parents! This year the JH has 1420 kids; 463 6th, 458 7th; 499 8th
- Conducted assemblies with all three grade levels and shared how to have a good year at the JH.
- In keeping with Superintendent Roher's theme of "out of the blue" - Mr. Drew's secretary has left the JH and is at Stanfield Props. Hope Bailey is moving into Mary's spot. The secretary in Ms. Reed office is moving to bookkeeper. Will be interviewing for a new front office receptionist.
- School safety
  - Front foyer is more secure with doorways that are only opened by personnel. Can no longer just walk by if no one paying attention.
  - Cameras added mainly in cafeteria and other areas of campus. About 500 kids in cafeteria three times a day so more personnel. About 92 cameras around campus.
  - Security monitor, Austin Smith, walks the campus during the day.
  - Test scores don't keep me up at night. School safety is what keeps me up at night. Always looking for ways to improve.
- At meeting with kids had a map of the top of the campus and show them proper ways to exit the campus when they are walkers/riders. Still need to pay attention to the cars. Often parents/high school kids are watching other cars and not kids.
- Many complaints from Falcon Ridge at four way stop. The school has been flipped from original plans with bus loop and drop off. Elected to have the bus drop off near gym. We are considering the existing bus loop (not this year) would be drop off/pick up and bus area would be the existing drop off/pick up. There are plans to make Falcon Ridge three lanes with turning lanes. There would be temporary stop signs where the bus loop is now. We think this would better for safety. The only problem is that people will do a u-turn down Falcon Ridge and the possibility of head on crash is high. The changes would take place next school year. If you have any ideas please email Mr. Drew.
  - Liz - the four way stop is scary because people aren't always watching. Mr. Drew - have told kids not to walk across the field to pavilion.
  - Have requested a crossing guard/police at 4-way stop but it's a budget issue.

- Impact class:
  - All parents should have received email about the impact class.
  - The idea behind the class is social/emotional learning. Trying to meet kids in an area outside of curriculum. All about connections. Back in Jan. Mr. Rouscher was at a meeting with Mr. Drew where they discussed one of the things on the radar was the culture change in the kids. Seeing more acting out, more kids concerned about doing something stupid to make their friends laugh. Mr. Rouscher asked what are you doing to change your staff to address this? Mr. Drew started thinking that it's the adults fault - we are allowing them to act the way they are acting. Just because you want them to be a productive adult doesn't mean they will. We need to give them some guidance.
  - Three important things: Communicate, build relationships, problem solve.
  - We brought a team of teachers together on how to reach this side of kids. We need to have something in front of them weekly. How to make right decisions, etc.
  - There is the Team leadership class offered for one semester and it is a great class.
  - The question was how do we incorporate this class? Doesn't need to be everyday but settled on a Tues/Thurs model and devote 20 minutes each session and hopefully make an impact. It equates to about 21 hours of lost instructions during the course of the year. This is divided over 7 periods. This is knocked down to 3 minutes a day lost instruction. We do a great job with what we've got. This is not a negative thing.
  - In class the kids are talking about building relationships with each other. We have developed "families" with about 18-20 in a class. There are no lessons; there are activities. No grade, just check attendance. Really believe that this is what we need for our kids. Tried to even out the boys and girls, but the grade level is the same. It was by random draw which kids are in each class.
  - Our own teaching staff is creating the activities which will go on during the year. Our expectation is for the adults to stay involved with the kids. Mr. Drew participated in the activity and as soon as he did this, one of the teachers participated. Then it took off to the kids participating. This is a process. We need to train for things that we often don't like to do alone. But if we train with a team, it's better. Better to train rather than try. There will be stumbling blocks and we are still working out things. Activities are provided a week ahead so that teachers can ask questions. There are kids who don't want to talk. We will be working with that; to make kids more comfortable. These groups will be together for the year.
  - Currently learning about each other. Later will be time management. We have access to great ideas and activities.
  - Planning out activities a few weeks ahead but can incorporate things that happen in the real world around us.
- I try to be transparent with the PTO because you are the eyes and ears of the community. If there are issues on facebook; please call the front office to confirm things.
- Lockers being left open - at meetings Mr. Drew said do not share combinations or lockers. Just mark up their items with a black marker. There are cameras so the school can monitor but most likely check lost and found for items!

Jenny Wiest - overview of what the PTO meetings. One fundraiser and volunteer opportunities are basically the socials and candy sales. All documents will be posted on our facebook pages and each class page. Liz: also remember to join the newflash on the PTO website. You do need to sign up every year. The newflashes are also posted on the PTO website. We welcome ideas on how to communicate with parents.

### **Treasurer report:**

- 2nd year as treasurer, 6th year involved with PTO. August is still active. We will approve the budget and pass out at next meeting.
- We are a little head than prior year. Bank balance about \$26K which is a good start. We gave entire net to school last year.
- We purchase grants during spring that parents don't pick up that encompass the most teachers.
- If you need to do an expense, you cannot be reimbursed sales tax. All forms on website.
- Will be reviewing internal controls. What are we missing that we can make stronger. For example using the bookkeeper to be in the room when counting cash.

### **Fundraising Report**

- Sold 220 raffle tickets. Gift cards are the prize. Need to sell 150 more. Can buy online on PTO website. Will be sold at lunch during Fridays. Pushing drawing to last Friday of month after open house.

## **Committee Reports**

- Volunteers
  - Will be getting it into spreadsheet and send to all committee chairs.
- Directory
  - Online and will be sent through email.
- 6th grade social
  - 9/21. Started planning and doing a blue-out theme. Stuck on photo booth which is pricey but is really a good idea for the kids. It's \$350. Pizza and frito pie (maybe too much work). And selling candy and donations for door prizes. Met with Ms. Holt to go over some things. If you are going to volunteer you need to come during the day to get a badge. Cannot just show up and try to volunteer. Also try to get a log in for wi-fi. New DJ but needs to be paid at the time of the contract to get a discount; maybe pay in cash to get a discount. Katie will talk to Liz about specifics.
  - Selling tickets online starting 9/3. Kids will get their wristbands on Friday at lunch; will be put on. Can buy at the door but \$5 more.
  - Pick up: Parents will have a form to fill out that will be passed out during lunch on day of social.
  - Socials are always on-site. Many teachers are here as chaperones.
  - Historically done shifts of volunteers but can do however.
  - Talk offline about budget and photo booth.
- 7/8th grade social
  - Meeting next week. The social is on homecoming but concerned people will go out of town due to holiday on 10/22. Kids will be bussed over to the HS after the social. There is a permission slip process.
- Spirit Store
  - Sold out of a lot of items at registrations. Have reordered but will not be in until after labor day. Allison will also be selling raffle tickets. On 9/14 orders ready to hand out by student name. Will be sending out email
- Food Trucks - First is 9/17 during 7th grade A/B football games.
- Cafeteria Sales
  - Will be doing it three times a year (Halloween, Christmas, Valentines). Rename to candy grams. Kids buy candy and trinkets during lunch. Delivered to 5th period class on last day.
- Hospitality
  - Once we figure out dates, will go from there. Three luncheons a year. Will need to rethink the Christmas luncheon because the last day is not a half day. Need many volunteers and a great way to meet your child's teacher. If you are good at decorating, please let Liz or Michelle know.
- Teacher Birthdays
  - Every month celebrate teachers and hopefully each month have a cake donated. Third Thursday of every month. Just need donations dropped off at front desk the day of. Have several months of donations lined up.
- Mustang Care Committee
  - Helping families in need or donations of money towards books kids need to purchase.
- Character Counts
  - Re-organizing the program. More to come.
- Science fair: No report
- School Supplies 350 packs were sold. Received a check for \$1800 so great job!

- Pi Day: No report
- Website: No report

Adjourned at 10:55.

Dates to Remember:

- 9/3 No School
- 9/19 PTO meeting 9:30
- 9/19 6th open house 9/21 6th grade social
- 9/26 7th/8th grade social

Next meeting is Sept 19, 9:30am

**End of Meeting Minutes**