



PTO Meeting Agenda – April 2024

- **Welcome** - Meeting started at 7:54am by president Maggie Dundon.
- **Administrators' Reports - Michelle Rawson** - I can't believe that we are into the middle of April. Testing at the school was so amazing. The 4th and 5th graders came up to her and said it was so amazing. They enjoyed the stories. She thinks that it is good. We are always thinking of the best things that we can do for the children. We put a movie on during lunch time and we did that for all lunches. We still had a lot of kids still testing and we wanted to keep it quiet. She appreciates the help and she appreciates people getting their children to school early on testing day. The children just want to get started. Testing was able to start very earlier, thanks to Mrs. Johnson as she is a great organizer. She knows that we will shout out the International Festival but she wants to give her thanks as it is a wonderful event. The parade was wonderful with the music. I always get an email from Pershing asking could you tell us when the parade is because the students always stop and the parents too. We will not have summer school at Mark Twain. We normally do, we have had it the past 18 years. It will be at the Rice School this year. If you have a lot of absences, we can help you make up the time. Mrs. Z has been holding tutorials which help with the absences. Students going to tutorials with their teacher also helps for the absences as well. In the past years since COVID, they have waived funding with attendance, but that will stop next year. She does not want students to come to school sick. If you have doctor's appointments where they want to see you first thing in the morning, you must be here at 9a for the attendance to count. This is the Texas Education Agency rule. We are excited this summer that Mrs. Blakeslee and herself will be going to the IB conference along with 4 teachers. HISD is also offering IB training this summer. This is good for our teachers to go to district training so they can collaborate with other teachers in the district. **Q** - Ebru - My 4th grader had taken some academic test and it says HISD at the top and want to know if this is new testing? **A** - Normally in the past the 3 to 5th grade would do STAAR practice test. What was done this year is that HISD Curriculum department created materials for them and when papers have HISD at the top, it is those materials. HISD also put out on level work, extra help, and above level work for students that teachers can utilize. **Q** - Can you tell us about the guitar teacher? **A** - She will provide an update on the guitar teacher in an email. **Q** - Marvin - Has there been a change for utilizing the slide deck for STAAR? **A** - We do have materials to replace that. It was brought to our attention that teachers could make changes to the curriculum and supplement materials. They kept criteria to how the STAAR format is. Want to shout out to Adam for the flowerbed. The kids are amazed at how big the flowers are growing. Thanks everyone.

- **President's Update**

- **Approval of March Meeting Minutes** - Motion to Approve Minutes by Cindy Donaldson
Motion Second by Ebru Senol Vote to Approve 34
- **Amendments to By-Laws** - Maggie read the new amendments to members attending meeting.

Amendment One - Each member of the Board shall have one vote. If a quorum is met at any meeting, at least fifty one percent (51%) of the votes (unless otherwise specifically provided by these By-Laws) of those Board members voting shall decide any matter submitted for vote. If a directorship is being held by more than one person, only one vote counts.

Add to 9.3: At the discretion of the executive board, the executive board may decide to use an appropriate online option to conduct a vote in connection with a regular meeting

Motion to Approve Amendment One to By-Laws by Amy Bahlo. Motion Second by Cindy Donaldson Vote to Approve 36

Amendment Two - Add to 6.1: Director of Fall Fundraiser shall be responsible for:

- Choosing a vendor for the fall fundraiser (in conjunction with the Vice President of Fundraising and PTO President)
- Planning, organizing, and implementing a Fall Fundraiser
- Reporting to Fourth Vice-President (Fundraising) and PTO President

Motion to Approve Amendment Two to By-Laws by Laura Curry. Motion Second by Connie Pei Vote to Approve 36

Amendment Three – Add to 6.1: Director of Lost & Found shall be responsible for:

- Working with the school administration to find a central location for “Lost & Found” items
- Organizing “Lost & Found” items
- Attempting to identify and re-unite owners with lost items
- Facilitating a donation of any unclaimed items • Reporting to Third Vice-President (Volunteer and Grade Level Coordination) and PTO President

Motion to Approve Amendment Three to By-Laws by Amy Bahlo. Motion Second by Alicia Dutton Vote to Approve 36

Amendment Four - Add to 6.1: Director of Twain Family Dance shall be responsible for:

- Planning, organizing, and implementing the Twain Family Dance
- Reporting to President Elect and PTO President

Amendment Four to the By-Laws discussion:

Adam - Currently at the Dad's Club and we have put on this event we do plan for the event. We would like for this one not to be separated at this time. He has been here since 2015 and this provides a way for fathers to be more participant in the school. We had a chance to meet and come up with ideas. If you want to come tonight to see what we do, come tonight to the party that is not exclusive. Mr. Obi always does a wonderful job with the party. He would like for the committee to vote down this separation at this time. He feels that the Dad's Club would be good at keeping this and it gets the dads involved.

Cindy - Q- Is there a reason that you feel that it should not be separated and how do you feel about a dad feeling that role? **A** - We are not independent as we work with the PTO and respond to the PTO. We work through the PTO. **Maggie** - The Dad's Club has done a lot of things under the window. The Dad's club participates in a lot of events and assist the PTO. The issue is not to take it away from the Dad's Club but to provide support and additional help. **Adam** - We are doing it and we enjoy doing this and we are not opposed.

Q - Is there any funding benefit to not be in the Dad's club? **A - Maggie** - It would be separate line item since it would be taken out. For instance, Amy has done Lost and Found for many years without it being a role. We thought it would be good to have it as a role so the person can have a voice on the PTO. The person chairing the dance would have a voice on the board. **Adam** - Feels that we would lose that dad being involved in the Dad's club by separating this. Maybe we would have more lead way to coordinate on our schedule. **Martha** - Can we have who is the director also could be on the Dad's Club?

Maggie - Yes, they can be involved with both. In the past couple of the years, it has not necessarily dads organizing the dance. We have had other people in the PTO help out. We wanted to designate someone who would take responsibility of the dance. Dads talk about this at the last meeting as he will be here for 2 more years along with some other dads and we want to get the younger dads involved. **Adam** - He has asked the dads to be more involved with the school. **Maggie** - This would allow a safety net for any planning of the dance. **Adam** - He would like for the dance to originate from the Dad's Club. **Maggie** - The PTO is responsible for the dance and we have to designate someone to be responsible for the position.

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Motion to table Amendment Four to the By-Laws by Cindy Donaldson and Motion Second by Melissa Pasche

- **Nominating Committee – Laura Curry**

- **Executive Slate Announcement** - Nominating committee has been working very hard, more than we thought. We have an executive slate now and it was a lot of thought put into this. We wanted new faces but also people who participate. We looked at if the person would be good at doing the task and if they could be involved throughout the year. Executive Board nominees as follows:

President - Cindy Donaldson

President Elect - Sara Reader

VP Teacher Appreciation – Laura Curry

VP of Membership - Amy Bahlo

VP of Volunteers and Grade Level Rep - Leigh Erin Brauer

VP of Corporate Fundraise - Lauren Mills

VP of Communication - Stephanie Schaefer

VP of Fundraising - Mallory Rissmiller

Secretary – Amy Perkins

Treasurer – Connie Pei

SDMC - Maggie Dundon

SDMC - Erin Salisbury

- **Voting Procedure** - The slate will go home on Tuesday folder and we ask for them to be returned. We are working to fill other board positions, but the Executive Board is complete. Ballots need to be in by next Friday.

- **Board of Director Updates**

- **Dad's Club** – Father/Daughter Dance - **Adam** - Dance is tonight. We have a great time and it's something that you need to see if you have not. His wife brought his son a couple of years. There will be a LED light, studio 360, and there will be still pictures out front. Please come out. Mr. Obi puts on a great show. There will not be tickets in the student's backpack so don't look for them there. We will do everything at the door.
- **Diversity & Inclusion** – Movie night – **Antonio Poy** - Movie night is next Friday. We will make a decision with Rawson on the movie this week. There will be Mexican food or BBQ. We will make a decision which one we will have. We do need volunteers to help us set up. The fliers already went out in the kid's backpack. It is very important that all of us get involved. He will miss it. He feels participating in the school makes a difference.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10)** – **Sara Reader** – It will be May 6 to 10. There are fliers on the table and they will go out on ParentSquare as well. The theme is roll out the red carpet, a Hollywood Red Carpet theme. Monday is Movie Star, stocking the workroom with supplies and snacks, Tuesday is Treat Day, bring candy, Wednesday is Wish on a Star, bring supplies for the teachers and ancillary staff, Thursday is Flower Day, bring flowers for teacher and ancillary staff, and Friday is Fan Mail, bring a homemade thank you card or drawing. **Q** - Is there a way for the ancillary teacher to have a table to put their things. **A** - She will definitely think about that because we do want to ensure that

the ancillary teachers get their gifts. **Q** - There has been a breakfast for all of the teachers in the past. **A** - We can no longer do that due to HISD regulation. We will have the lunch for them during their lunch period instead.

- **5th grade Reps** – year end activities **Laura Curry** - The 5th grade dance is on May 10. May 19 is the swim party and there will be more information on that. We are working on graduation as well. Last year, we had 5th grade reps for next year to participate so the 5th grade reps can participate in the graduation. The 5th grade dance is free. It is paid for by parents.
- **HISD Liaison – Connie Pei - No updates at this time**

- **Shout Outs, Odds & Ends & Questions**

Maggie - The International Festival was great. Want to thank Adam for the flower beds. Everything looks fantastic. Adam - There are sunflowers in there and if they grow properly, they will be 4 to 5 ft tall.

Q- Ebru - The sound system was off and on during the festival. Is there something that we can do about that? **A** - Maggie - She has talked to Mrs. Rawson about that and will look into getting it fixed. **Q** - Will this be a problem for graduation? **A** - Not sure but we will look into this to see if we need to bring in outside source for the sound.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting by Martha Carruth and Motion Second by Ebru Senol. Meeting Adjourn at 8:41am.