

September PTO General Membership Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2024

Called to order at 6:38 pm

I. CISD Guest Speakers

- Mr. Chris McCord (Assistant Superintendent of Operations);
 - Easy Foster (Admin Executive Director Planning & Construction);
 - Courtney Rogers (Admin Coordinator of Planning & Construct, Finance & Special Projects)
- a. Rezoning: Zoning committee begins Fall 2024 (formally began today, 9/12) with potential planning board adoption Jan 2025. Primary goal is to relieve capacity issues here at Bush (Deretchin, Powell, Galatas, Buckalew all also over capacity). Eissler Elementary opens Fall 2025. The 3rd Tuesday in January is Mr. McCord's Board meeting.
- b. Bush's New Gym: Construction of new gymnasium Fall 2025 with approximately a 12-month duration to complete.
- Currently, the plan is to put gym on the blacktop; new gym potentially going where portables currently sit. Once portables can be cleared (i.e. capacity low enough), then gym construction can start. Also contingent on "critical infrastructure" such as AC systems, fire alarms, first responder radio systems, key card access, restroom upgrades, any redoing of duct work, etc., all of which cannot be done with kids in school.
 - District will be ordering supplies throughout the year and start work after school is out. They have the process well streamlined since they do this often. If it doesn't finish by the start of the next school year they will continue to work on nights and weekends.
 - Construction laydown area is undetermined at this time. All the materials needed to build require a space to set down.
 - The A/C will be prioritized so school days/instruction can occur comfortably during the school day. Delays may occur due to:
 - Programs displaced during construction (i.e. construction occurring during school, so students may need to find alternate space to learn while school building is being completed).
 - Need to see result of rezoning
- c. Playground Improvements: Per Mr. McCord – addressed minimizing extreme monetary investment by the PTO into playground improvements prior to gym construction/completion as the District cannot confidently know exactly where the gym or playground will end up before completing studies/engineering plans/pending approvals, etc.
- No guarantee of additional water capacity from MUD District 47 (water is "going down"). If we add grass, Mr. McCord is not sure if MUD would give us water to support the addition of grass.
 - No guarantee of additional storm water detention capacity from utility provider (to protect from overwhelming the drainage of the area)
 - Ponds throughout our area are not ponds for fish, they are for "water detention"



- Easy Foster suggested it may be best to combine funds (CISD plus Bush PTO) PRIOR to design plans getting finalized. This allows the PTO to optimize on access to resources such as engineering and contractors of CISD. The question was asked to Mr. Foster about when do conversations start with PTO if we are trying to co-design.
 - Feb 2025 is when funds come in and can start projects right off the bat. It will save us on design/engineering money. PTO funds can go farther. If PTO collaborates, district will have the maintenance responsibility [of the playground].
 - Mr. McCord shared example of Pour n Play – even though playground improvements were not up for vote on last year’s bond, it could be on a future bond. If we (the PTO) went ahead and added something costly like Pour n Play ourselves prior to a potential bond that would’ve also funded this in the future, then it might not be a good use of our playground fund. The next bond may include playground improvements and to be mindful of the possibility.
 - Question was asked that it feels like PTO is being punished for investing in playground improvements or structures if District doesn’t cover maintenance or will have to be moved/demolished once construction started.
 - Mr. McCord suggested we check out Humble ISD as according to him, they have made amazing playground improvements.
- d. Current Bush Playground – usually the end of useful life is synonymous with end of warranty period.
- CISD does not pay maintenance or replacement of any equipment purchased by the PTO. Usually the district maintains, repairs and replaces all necessary playground equipment that comes with the school – BUT Bush PTO would like more conversation around this as the state of our playground needs more care.
 - **Requires follow up:** CISD thinks the PTO funded Bush’s playground years ago, but they will need to confirm this. Mr. Foster says “playground packages” were not always part of the construction package until semi-recently. Mr. McCord says they will go back and research WHO actually paid for Bush’s original playground as we see it today and avoid working off assumptions. Follow up/updates from CISD will be provided to Mrs. Thompson.
- e. Playground Grants: AAD Grant for Shade Structure which Bush PTO identified and took to the District to see if we can apply for it.
- Shade cost \$28,665; Gordian Fee: \$567.60; Award max: \$8K; minimum out of pocket for PTO: \$21,232.60.
 - Campus would submit CISD Grant form for approval prior to submitting the AAD grant
 - Grant application opens October 1 and closes December 23; awards are announced in March
 - Grants may be the route after new school opens and thins out capacity. The question was asked of CISD if they have access to grants relevant to PTO eligibility to apply. Mrs. Thompson said Dana at CISD will compile a list of grants school/PTOs can apply for.
 - Any PTO funds contributed toward the CISD design planning referred to as “donation”



II. Approval of 5/9/24 General PTO Meeting Minutes

- a. Ji Terracina made a motion to approve May 2024 General meeting minutes; Taylor Parmigiano second the motion.

III. Principal's Update

- a. Pilot Reading Program: Bush was selected for a pilot reading program. Small groups will be selected next week to focus on tailoring reading needs
- b. Technology Bond: iPads and some Chromebooks will be replaced soon by the District with the Bond money; 30 new Chromebooks coming from the District
- c. Other Technology Needs: New Chromebooks cart ordered with PTO Campus Enhancement funds

IV. President's Update

- a. 2024 Family Survey: PTO included three questions in the school survey which Mrs. Thompson sent out to parents over the summer. PTO received positive feedback on its key programs and fundraisers, and a few suggestions on areas of improvement for this year. For details on the feedback received, [see pg. 7 in slide deck](#).
- b. Membership Toolkit & Directory: New PTO platform that replaces Formsite, DirectorySpot, and Brevo
 - Families can set up free accounts to view volunteer opportunities, place orders through the Spirit Store and keep track of orders.
 - Platform will also be used for our Fall Fundraiser, Bucks for Bush, student directory, and Teacher/Staff Favorites database
- c. Bucks for Bush: Student rally October 21 to kick off fall fundraiser; fundraiser goes from October 21 thru November 8. Changes have been implemented for this year, including:
 - Each teacher will have their own TEAM which PTO will create for them
 - Each student gets added to their teacher's team/class
 - Goals, rewards and incentives for:
 - Top class in each grade level
 - Top teacher in school
 - Top student per grade
 - Top student in school
 - Classes that meet target goals also have varying incentives
 - Suggested donation goal per student is \$100
 - Jingle Bell run on December 13



V. Parliamentarian

- a. Vote on 2024-25 VP, School Relations Position: Rebecca Bittinger from the nominating committee, nominated Taylor Parmigiano to the position. Last year, Taylor partnered with school administration to start Watch DOGS, boosting dad engagement on campus. The role of the School Relations VP position will serve as liaison between PTO and administration as it relates to the playground and plans for the new gym. The majority of the current Executive Board will change for the 2025-2026 school year given that this is the last year for most of its officers. The VP of School Relations position will ensure continuity as we plan for playground improvements and work with the District on the new gym. Took vote on T. Parmigiano taking on that role; all FOR, none against.

VI. Treasurer

- a. Net Revenue: \$25,156.02
- b. Cash on Hand: \$163,234.56
- c. Playground Fund Savings CD
 - Moving to Certificate of Deposit with APY 4.5% (8-month term)
 - Current account is a Money Market Savings with APY is 0.50%
- d. Correction to July 2024 Budget Update
 - Net Revenue: \$8,702.87
 - Cash on Hand: \$146,789.11

VII. Programs

- a. Trunk or Treat: October 25 from 6-8 pm. Families and teachers/staff invited to decorate their trunks; candy will be provided. Kicking off a candy donation drive and looking for a sponsor.

VIII. Services

- a. Yearbook: Contest with 4th Graders to design the yearbook cover; submissions are due on October 4. Winner will be announced on October 14.
 - Yearbook sales start on September 16 through our new yearbook vendor, Jostens.

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Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

