

PTO December Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2024

Called to order at 11:54 am

I. Approval of 12/12/23 Board Meeting Minutes

- a) K. Crabtree made a motion to approve; M. Lord second; motion passed

II. Principal's Update

Mrs. Thompson was not at the meeting; Ms. Dupre and Ms. McCoy provided updates in her absence.

- a) Bingo Night — we were informed we can't proceed with the idea of hosting a PTO Family Bingo night because the Texas Gaming Commission owns the rights to bingo and CISD is no longer allowing schools to host bingo. Alternate suggestions included another park play date or a family game night with a different game.
- b) Playground – Mrs. Thompson suggested that we hold off on the playground improvements until CISD has a clear path on the new gym. Apparently, there may be a possibility that the new gym may be built where our playground is currently located if space/dimensions do not align with the space where the portables are in the back of the school. CISD's intent is that the new gym will go where the portables are, but actual plans won't be confirmed until 2026 when CISD shifts its focus to building the new gyms at the schools per the Bond measures. Instead of using the money PTO has raised and saved for the playground, Mrs. Thompson and the administration staff requested that we use the money to purchase Chromebooks to support the STAAR testing state requirements. Ms. McCoy, who is the testing coordinator, provided more information about our technology needs:
 - We currently have 368 Chromebooks and 360 students in third and fourth grade, the request is for 200 new Chromebooks so that they can have a 1:1 ratio of students to chrome books to include 2nd grade as well.
 - The administration mentioned that Chromebooks can break easily and expire, once they are expired, they are no longer able to be used.

Parents had a lot of questions about the Chromebooks request, including:

- What is exact number and cost for the Chromebooks are being requested?
- How many of the ones we currently have are malfunctioning?
- Why aren't funds from the CISD Bond that recently passed isn't being used to cover the cost of the Chromebooks? Dr. Lambert mentioned that the Bond measure, if passed, will cover new devices and maintenance on existing devices.
- Why isn't the state providing funding to schools to cover costs of devices if they are the ones who are requiring tests to be done electronically?
- Why do second graders need Chromebooks?

Parents expressed concerns and disappointment about the latest on the playground improvements, including:

- We want to be transparent to our families who have donated toward the playground as this would feel like a bait and switch
- PTO raised money for the playground, and we recently purchased 97 new Chromebooks in the Spring 2022, we also purchased software and Chromebook carts



- PTO Board agreed to reach out to the District to request a meeting to learn more about their thinking behind the pause, what their plans/timeline are for the new gym and what is the realistic likelihood that the gym may go on the playground
- PTO Board agreed to request a meeting with the architects/new gym committee at the district to get more info

III. President's Update

- a) Vote in new 2023/24 Secretary Position - Daneli Fernandez-Burran. D. Dellinger made a motion to approve; M. Lord second; motion passed
- b) Vote in 2024/25 Nominating Committee: Rebecca Bittinger, Martha Ceron, Laura Sech, Sarah Kier, and Tessa Stuckey. B. Jovanovic made a motion to approve; M. Lord second; motion passed
- c) Brick Instillation – We have sold 44 bricks to date. Mrs. Thompson asked us not to promote selling of the bricks for now until CISD confirms vendor and provides quote for an installation. She feels that the new gym may have an impact on the location of where we may want to place the bricks so she suggested around the flagpole in front of the school instead of the playground. PTO suggested placing bricks over by the boy/girl statue on Crownridge near the picnic tables or along the small wall by the playground.
- d) GaGa Ball Pit – Due to the recent rain and the endless dirt in the playground, the GaGa Pit is now floating around which can be a hazard for the kids. We would like to move the pit/figure out of the dirt area and purchasing a mat/other surface to set the pit on in another location at school. Or, take it out completely and store it until a more permanent solution is found. Need to follow up with Ms. Thompson to discuss options and make a decision on next steps.
- e) Kinder Recess Equipment – Parents brought to our attention that kinder students do not have any recess equipment to play with and asked why since PTO purchases the equipment for all levels based on grade level lead's requests. Parents asked for more info on the process and why some teachers/grade levels aren't requesting recess equipment.

IV. Treasurer

- a) Net Revenue: \$28,945.65
- b) Cash on Hand: \$129,943.98

V. Fundraising

- a) Bonanza – No longer using field or space where portables currently sit, inflatables out on playground and basketball blacktop/bus loop. Ask L. Blasingame to obtain dimensions on inflatables to ensure space is adequate.
- b) Silent Auction – we're going online this year leading to Bonanza and closing at 8 pm on the day of the event. Suggestion to highlight silent auction items on the screen in the cafeteria to promote auction items.
- c) Pro DJ coming in with their own equipment, hula hoops, etc. cost is \$600 and it's a different person than last year's lady DJ. Explore different quotes for less cost; checking with L. Blasingame as DJ may have already been booked.



- d) Food – Decided to do pizza and salad only this year to avoid bottleneck. Russo's will bring and heat up prior to serving; he parbakes, then finishes baking onsite; only \$10/pizza. He offered to give salads at a discounted price of \$1.50 each with balsamic or ranch dressing choices. Decided to go with cheese and pepperoni options; anticipating ordering 350 pizzas and 500 salads for \$4250.

VI. Services

- a) 2024/25 School Supplies - Past vendor (EPI) was challenging and bad quality supplies: 3rd grade binders broke within a month; 2nd grade pencil boxes broke soon too; many items missing from kits as well as entire packages missing. Looking at options for next year:
- EPI is \$70-80 and they allow over ordering and ship back overstock (e.g. \$74.99 per kit for kinder)
 - [1stDay School Supplies](#) is \$70-80 range, while it's the most expensive it uses brand name products and higher quality (e.g. \$74.99 per kit for kinder)
 - Sprouts is \$70-80 range plus incentives, and the customer service is better; incentive is if we sell 750 kits, we get \$750 back/donated. They also hire 2-4 HS students to assist on delivery day (out of their pocket); there is no over-ordering however.

We have extra supplies in our closet which can be utilized for new kids; cascade to teachers/registrar so they know it's available. Need to find another PTO volunteer to assist with Spring Supplies Orders as Oana is no longer leading this. M. Lord to go back to Sprouts and 1st Day Supplies to ask follow up questions and report back at next PTO meeting so that we can make a decision.

- b) Academic Outreach - Teachers voted on Math Bubble, which is a math-centered show done by a lady with bubbles; cost is \$500. The other option is the Raptor Show, and the cost is less than last year's; would need more notice to book vs. Math Bubble. Only Kinder wanted the Learning Zoo as 1st choice and we were advised by Ms. Thompson that kinder has funds they can use for this if they choose to do Learning Zoo on their own.
- c) Yearbook – deadline to submit quantities is Jan. 31; L. Duval and K. Jannasch to look at what we ordered last year and follow up with J. Aker on recommended quantities to be order. So far, we've sold 314 yearbooks.

VII. Programs

- a) Family Movie Night – Taking place on February 9 at the Mitchell Intermediate Campus (at no cost). Movie featured is the Super Mario Movie; event is free but raffle tickets and concessions will be available for purchase. Three food trucks are coming and candy will be available for purchase at the concessions. L. Irvine offered her popcorn machine to be used for the event.



VIII. Communications

- a) Spring Membership Social - No Bingo but looking into possibly doing a rodeo/western themed dance party to lead into our Bonanza event. We can use this event to help promote Bonanza and possibly sell tickets. Consider having Food Trucks or BBQ from Rudy's and Jeremiah's Italian Ice Truck (they would donate 20% of earnings). M. Lord's husband can possibly serve as DJ.

Meeting ended at 1:37 pm

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