

Doss PTA General Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2014 12:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER:

The General Meeting of the Leona Doss Elementary PTA was called to order on Thursday, January 16, 2014, at 12:00 pm in the Doss Library by President, Kristin Ashy. A quorum was established. Members of the Executive Board present at the meeting were: President, Kristin Ashy; 1st Vice-President, Krista Saeger; 2nd Vice-President, Christian Meyer; Treasurer, Kim Belew; Assistant Treasurer, Erin Brooks; PIE Chair, Julie Payne; Parliamentarian, Julie Choyce; and Principal Janna Griffin.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: Sara Atkins presented the minutes from the October 10, 2013 general meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- H'Owl – Kristin Ashy thanked the chairs of this committee for doing a wonderful job.
- Teacher Supply Allowances – Before Christmas break the PTA gave around \$9,000.00 in teacher supply allowances. The teachers were very appreciative of the funds. A thank you note from Mrs. Mean's class was passed around for everyone to see.
- Crosswalks and Crossing Guard Award – Renia Jones who is our crossing guard on Far West received an award as the Crossing Guard of the year. The PTA is planning something special to recognize her achievement.
- Winter Parties – Kristin thanked everyone who volunteered at the Winter Parties. She also discussed the fact that we are working on ways to make sure the mandatory training is easily accessible and efficient so that all volunteers are trained.
- STARR testing dates – April 1st and 2nd is 4th grade writing and 5th grade math and reading. April 22nd and 23rd is 3rd and 4th grade reading and math; April 23rd is 5th grade science.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT: Krista Saeger reported that the board met with quorum present. No recommendations were made that require a vote of the general membership. Report will be filed with the minutes.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Resurfacing on Far West. There will be a meeting with the City to discuss the plans for bike lanes on Thursday the 23rd at 6:00.
- Benchmarks were given in December and all grade levels are doing well. The 5th grade science scores were a little below expectations but they were slightly behind on instruction and are working to catch up.
- Chinese Immersion – There will be a meeting on February 5th for incoming students who wish to apply for the program. The same lottery system will be used to choose the kindergarten students for next year.
- Watershed Protection Department and UT Civil Engineering Dept. at Doss – The project is moving forward and the Green Team will meet with the UT Civil Engineering students on January 31. The 4th grade GT science students will also be able to participate in this meeting.
- Gifted and Talented – Parents have come to Janna with the Problem Solvers program. She is looking at a soft implementation of this project this year. A student does not need to be part of the G/T program in order to participate.
- Library Renovation – A committee is working on a plan to remodel the space to provide a more functional and modernized space. May request funds form the endowment to help with the expense associated with this project.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Financial report – the report for the period of 10/1/2013 – 12/31/13 was reviewed. The Treasurer highlighted some of the major receipts such as H'owl and Book Fair and also some of the major expenses during that period.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Membership): Goal of 600 members. Only need a few more to meet that goal. Christian plans to do another push this month and will try to contact the families that are new to Doss.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Daughter Dance - The dance will be January 31st from 7-9. They still need volunteers to help with snacks and drinks.
- Science Fair – The Science Fair will be held on January 29th. The doors will open that evening at 6:00. They need more people to sign up and help judge that morning.
- Spring Party – The Spring Party will be held on April 11th and the theme will be Doss'd and Confused. Austin Terrier has signed on to be the top sponsor. Please consider hosting a buy-in party. Last year these parties made over \$33,000 for the PTA.

OLD BUSINESS: Portable covers –After reviewing the current bid and considering the possibility of adding additional portables that will also need covers using the funds set aside for this does not seem like a wise financial decision and the money may be better spent on other needs at this time. This will be brought to the membership at the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Kristin took nominations from the floor for the Nominating Committee. Those nominated were Megan Helmbrecht, Kim Belew, Kim Schocket, Erin Peloquin, Amy Skaggs, and Jennifer Fleming. A motion was made to approve the Nominating Committee. The motion was 2nd and the motion was passed.
- A motion was made from the floor by PTA member Jeff Russell to reimburse him for his expense for a premium membership to Volunteer Spot incurred as chair of Math Pentathlon. Kristin Ashy asked the 1st Vice President to preside over the proceedings relating to the motion and the discussion of the motion in order for Kristin to participate in the discussion. The motion was amended to clarify that the membership was a personal membership. Several members spoke on the matter. Current and former members of the executive committee spoke to the fact that any request for reimbursement for an item that is or even one that may be considered for personal use should not be reimbursed in order to protect our status as a tax exempt entity. The member bringing the motion spoke to the fact that the account was not personal and was for committee use even though it was in his name. The amended motion was voted on and was not approved. All present discussed that more education on this topic should take place at the committee chair training to avoid any future misunderstandings on this type of expense.

The Meeting was adjourned by President, Kristin Ashy at 1:20 pm.