

Doss PTA General Meeting

Thursday, October 13, 2016, 12:02 pm

CALL TO ORDER:

The General Meeting of the Leona Doss Elementary PTA was called to order on Thursday, October 13th, 2016 at 12:02 pm in the library of Doss Elementary by President Jen Despins. A quorum was established. Members of the Executive Board present at the meeting were: President, Jen Despins; 1st Vice President, Karen Lundquist; 2nd Vice President, Kimberly Richards; Treasurer, Sarah Baker; Secretary, Carolyn Bartelli; Parliamentarian, Shannon Meroney; and Assistant Treasurer, Julie DePalma.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the September 8, 2016 meeting were presented, and approved as written.

NO Hassle Chair Fundraiser Report: Kelly Popelka

- **Goal met.** Total about \$67,000 or so. With matching, the amount will be right over \$70,000
- Jen Despins, President, thanked the committee for their great work.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jen Despins

- Updates:
 - Had successful membership drive
 - No Hassle fundraiser goal was met
 - Promotion for the H'Owl has begun
 - Directory is currently being printed now. 421 families opted into the directory. Around 400-450 families at Doss, so it's a good turnout.
 - Bike safety week. Kids got tips regarding bike safety over morning announcements
 - RAD committee had 2 authors come in
 - World Voices committee held international family night, and it was a success.
 - Healthy lifestyles paired with TMF foundation and brought "My lunch rocks" program to the school. They also had a Doss Team for the Bun Run, and are planning others.
 - Doss night dinners have been successful with our retail rebate partners
 - Doss website is run by volunteers who have done a great job, and are currently making changes to the website and Blast template
- Coming up:
 - Reflections contest
 - H'Owl website is up and running
 - First Doss preschool club event is only 11/13 from 3 to 4 p.m.
 - Campus cleanup day coming up
 - Yearbook committee, lead by Julie Choyce, is active
 - Joint Choir performance with Hill elementary is coming up
 - Doss Dad committee meeting coming up on 10/19 in the cafeteria at 8 a.m.
 - Community engagements meetings are taking place around town. They've done their initial findings. Several coming up. There are 4 meetings coming up, at Reagan High school, Allen center, Small elementary [finish out]
 - At-large school board member election is coming up. The membership was encouraged to get involved and learn more about the candidates. (Cindy Anderson and David Quintanilla)

1st VP Report: Karen Lundquist

- Noted that the executive committee reviewed matters requiring a vote, consisting of the 2016/2017 amended budget

TREASURER REPORT: Sarah Baker

- Opened with a presentation of Actual financials as of September 30, 2016
- Format of the financial report presented was explained
 - 1st column: Last year's actuals
 - 2nd: budget, as approved back in May
 - 3rd: proposed changes to the budget
 - 4th: if adopted, what the budget will look like
- On this 2016/2017 budget.
 - One-time additions being proposed in the budget due to increase in income last year:
 - Healthy lifestyles. Proposes \$3,000 to add water bottle fillers to two fountains. HP and Hill have added these. PTA paid for equipment, and schools paid for the installation. Requested amount reflects the equipment amount.
 - Marquee - The proposed budget amount reflects the estimated cost of a new marquee
 - Playground improvements - \$25,800. to install a new soccer field on the playground in the rocky area near North Hills. \$5,800 would go to improvements to the basketball court, and the other \$20,000 would go to the soccer field. This pay for the entire soccer field, but they will seek grant funds to complete.
- Next, she noted each and every budget change reflected on the report, some of which are detailed below:
 - Spirit item costs
 - Cost of goods sold
 - Reflections to cover more entries and new art stands
 - Principal asked for an SEL (Social & Emotional Learning) budget. No budget previously
 - 5th grade graduation at Westover
 - Atrium to replace 2 benches that broke
 - Doss Daughter dance to help with long lines at photo station
 - Homeroom expenses are tied to enrollment, so as population goes up, so do these numbers
 - Meet the teacher. Downward adjustment
 - Marquee
 - Owl's Nest, to accommodate move to a new portable
 - Parent education, for things such as the Digital Natives presentation
 - Playground, Healthy Lifestyles
- Questions and Comments:
 - Soccer field - 60 x 90 feet. Would not affect the track. One tree would be affected. The land is co-owned by City of Austin park, so we'd need to get approvals from them to do this. \$3,000 funds were already committed by NWACA for the soccer field. Committee is in the process of applying for a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation, or ACL Grant.
 - Motion was made to approve the amended budget. It was seconded, and passed.

2nd VP Report/MEMBERSHIP: Kimberly Richards

- Reported 875 PTA members. Record membership number.

- Next goal is the Every Child Voice award for having a 1:1 ratio, student enrollment to PTA member
- Reminder: Must be PTA member to participate in Reflections.
- Reminder: Lots of benefits if you are Texas PTA member. You can go online and get access to these discounts.
- Thanked everyone for their support in the membership drive.
- Jen Despina thanked all of those who were involved in the social media efforts as well.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Presented by Alicia Hill

- Last year, there was a budget committee for teacher applications
- Ms. Griffin has increased membership on this committee and giving recommendations for purchase. They solicit information from their team that helps inform their requests
- She thanked meeting attendees for all their support

PIE Report: Holly Rios

- Reminded attendees about changes & enhancements to the PIE (partners in education) program
- One big change relates to benefits and timing of donation: We have benefits provided to these partners, depending on whether they are cash or inkind. Benefits are the same regardless of when they give
- Other big change was to the tier structure. We used to have 4 tiers, and now have 5. They were increase, and added a new level. This is to accommodate the very high-level sponsors.
- Overall, it takes into account that some sponsors care about promotional benefits, and others aren't, such as Doss parents. Hopefully these accommodate different profiles, and provides benefits that work for anyone.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- H'Owl - Chaired by Lauren Ward, Amanda Sencenbaugh, and Jeannette Lyons. Lauren Ward and Jeannette Lyons gave the report. T-shirts are on sale now on the website. They expect they will be sold out. tickets and shirts will also be sold in person after school next week. Will have a Jail 'n Bail where friends, parents, and teachers can be jailed. 5th graders will be the jailers. They are removing some booths, and adding some new ones. There is a map on the website of where the booths are, and what they are. There will be signage to help guests navigate. There will be a sporty section with leader boards for each event. Also new is a mystery bean bag section. Amy Hajdu is spearheading the drinks for the H'Owl, and got them all donated from Whole Foods. They have lots of local food, including Lick. Amanda Sencenbaugh got booth binders out, and distributed to room parents. If t-shirt are ordered before Friday, they will be in kids' classes by monday. Ticket distribution - online ticket sales. They will still ask for pringle can donations. Jen Despina thanked them for their good work. Lisa Thompson is managing older, vertical volunteers. If anyone at Murchison or Anderson is interested in getting volunteer hours, contact Lisa Thompson.
- Green Team - Sandry Ely. This committee was brought back for the education of families and students. Met with Principal who talked about waste management being a priority. Committee will be assessing Doss' efforts in order to formulate a plan. She asked for committee chairs' ideas, inputs for collaboration with green team.
- Reflections - Sandry Ely. This program comes from national PTA down to local level, and designed to let kids express themselves through artistic expression. Entries are scored 20% artistic ability, 50% is how they choose to theme, and the rest is creativity. Participation is supposed to be encouraged. Must be done completely by the child; parents aren't allowed to help otherwise the child's entry will be disqualified. Deadline: Tuesday, 10/25th. Judging thursday, 11/3rd. Still looking for judges. 20% of entries move onto the city level. There are 6 categories. they can enter various categories, or just one. Rules are on the website. Anyone awarded a national prize gets a monetary prize, as well as our PTA.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- None

QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm by Jen Despina, President

Secretary:

Carolyn Gutierrez Bartelli