



PTO Meeting Agenda - November 2023

- Welcome - Meeting began at 7:58a by President Maggie Dundon
- President's Update
 - Welcome
 - **Specials Grant** - Exciting announcements as packages for Makerspace have been coming in. A grant was approved for the program, and the supplies are coming in. The supplies will be used with all programs and classes. There are 3D printers and laser cutter. There will be take home packets made for kids to work on projects at home.
 - **West Campus** - Campus is tentatively scheduled to start the work over Thanksgiving break. Those who are new, this was funded through one of Bash campaigns to update the space behind the classroom wings of 1st and 2nd. We will have a garden and play space for the children. There will be clearing, gravel added, and benches. It will probably be done after the winter break. It is two phases and it depends on the weather for how long it will take to complete.
 - **Volunteers** - On ParentSquare you may have seen that we need you to register for VIPS if you are volunteering in the school and classroom. We have had to turn away parents because they are not registered. Please register a week or two before you volunteer. **Q** - Do you need to do it every year? **A** - yes, it must be done at the beginning of every school year.
 - **Twain Directory** - The directory has been put together and will be distributed to those who did Friends and Family. If you do not receive it, it may be that we did not get your payment. Please email Maggie or Marvin and we will work it out.
 - Approval of October Minutes - Motion to approve minutes by Mallory Rissmiller
Motion second by Elizabeth Garcia Vote count to approve - 24
- Administrators Report
 - **Ms. Rawson** - Thank you all for coming today. It is November and she is thinking about what she is thankful for. She is thankful for Mark Twain and all the parents. It is exciting to see the children growing and how much they are learning. I want to talk about safety. It is our number one priority. We have the gates in the front and back, and they should be connected to the buzzer by next

week. You will ring the buzzer at the first gate. This provides us an extra layer of security. Please check the gates and doors when you leave. Every month we do a fire drill so students can practice going out in different locations. We are always reflecting on our practice of the drills on how we can get better. In the next few days, we will have a lock down drill. We have them to ensure our campus is safe. Rawson will come on the announcement and say we are having a lockdown. All doors are locked and shut. All children are quiet and they hide. The blinds will be closed as well. Police puts the school on lockdown or Rawson can put the school on lockdown. We do 2 lockdowns per school year. The first one may be today or tomorrow. We like to prepare the children. Rawson does not use code words. She is very clear with the communication. Parents will always be informed if the school is on a real lockdown. It will go out on ParentSquare. Please do not call the school as we have to answer all calls and this may interfere with the process. If you see things that are unsafe, please tell us. We need to all work together. The community rallies around this school. The community is so strong. She has two former parents who reached out to volunteer at the school. We are great because of all of the work that has been done at the school. **Q** - I heard a story of the lockdown that happened with my child. What should I tell him? **A** - Inform him to listen to his teacher's instructions. **Q** - Where does the announcement comes from? **A** - It comes from the walkie talkie and the loudspeakers. All teachers and staff have one. **Q** - As parents should we not come up here? **A** - Rawson will not tell you not to come, because she feels parents can help. It depends on the situation. If you have a feeling that you need to come, you can come and wait outside. When we had a lockdown, we updated parents on ParentSquare and informing parents outside. Children may not be released if you come. We must keep the children safe. **Q** - Why are the children hiding? **A** - We must keep the children safe. Teachers and students may not know why we are on a lockdown. Rawson is the only one who knows. She has to make decisions to keep everyone safe. When we are doing a lockdown drill, Rawson indicates it is a drill. She is adding some softeners to the gate so it does not close so hard. **Q** - How do you feel about the MAPP test? **A** - Mrs. Johnson is here and will talk about it. This test is really cool and the data that you see will be amazing

- **Mrs. Johnson** - Want to update you on the testing coming up. GT will be done for 3 to 4 weeks. If you do not apply this year, you can always apply next year. The middle of the year MAPP test will be after the winter break. The district is wanting the data to be secure so the children can get used to the testing. Teachers will rotate for the testing and we will see how much the children have progressed. We will have data on growth and how they compare to other students in the country. We also have the 3rd to 5th who will be taking the STAAR interim test. This is to help them get used to taking the test online. They will take it in the same platform that they take the real STAAR test. We will see how they are growing and if they are on track. We want to help our students to meet the criteria. **Q** - Is the MAPP online or written? **A** - It is online. There are two different companies and they align the test with the STAAR to help make predictions. **Q** - What does the teachers do with the information? **A** - Teachers can look at classroom trends and determine if they need to adjust lesson plans.

When it is individual or it is certain children struggling, they may give that child more remediation to help them. Teachers use their discretion on how to help the children. **Blakeslee** - the testing is important but we try to soften it. **Johnson -Q** - Is K to 5th taking it the MAPP? **A** - Some grade levels take different components of the test. **Q** - When is the STAAR test and what grades take it? **A** - It is 3rd to 5th and HISD gives the window for the testing.

- **Ms. Blakeslee** - Discussing GT testing. It is universal for 2nd grade this year. All second graders were tested. All other grades must be done by application. It needs a parent signature. The application deadline is Dec. 8, but we will start testing on November 13. We ask that you have applications in by tomorrow, Nov. 9. We will take applications after Nov. 9, but we want to get the students on the schedule for testing. HISD also changed the application process. **Q** - Do you know if they will test 2nd grade universal next year? **A** - Not sure at this time.
- **Mrs. Powers** - She organizes parents to volunteer to read to children. If you know someone who wants to volunteer, please let her know. She will match you with a student who is best for you from grades K to 5th. Please let her know if you know any potential volunteers.
- Board of Director Updates
 - **Twain Trot – Coach Jody** - We are a month away from the Tiger Trot. The numbers are about the same as last year. The race will be rain or shine. If there is a freeze or thunderstorm, it will be pushed back. We have Kona Ice coming out and Mr. Obi will be disc jockey for the event. Will need volunteers for the race. We will be going into the neighborhood and we will need monitors. It will go out soon on ParentSquare. It is really helpful for volunteers and high school students can volunteer as well.
 - **Spooky Spectacular – Maggie Dundon** - Want to thank them for a spectacular job. The final numbers are not in yet. We think that they raise around \$20,000 for the school.
 - **Dual Language Informational Meeting - Maggie Dundon** - Information meeting is tonight at 6p. Information is on ParentSquare. It is for parents who have children coming into Kinder.
 - **Book Fair - Christine Transier** - Dec. 4 to 7 is the Book Fair. Family night is Thursday the 7th. Storybook character parade is on Dec. 8. It will be the similar theme with Bash. Student engagement is a writing prompt. It will be due before book fair starts. Every entry gets into the raffle for a prize. We will confirm the dates that parents are able to come in and shop with their children. **Q** - Can you send your child with money? **A** - There is no cash, please do not send your child with cash. **Q** - Do you need volunteers? **A** - Yes, we will need volunteers. Information will be posted on ParentSquare.
 - **Huckleberry Bash - Mallory Rissmiller and Elizabeth Garcia** - The Bash site is available today. You must register every year for the site. Please log in with the same user name and password from last year. Shirts will go live right after

Thanksgiving. Please remember to register so you can buy the shirts. We are in the process of getting sponsorship. If you know someone, please let us know. If you follow anyone on social media with small businesses, please let us know so we can reach out to them. The meeting is tonight at 7:30p at Laurel's house. Many of you have been to socials, if you have some creative ideas and would love to host a social, we would love to have new social come to Twain. You will see a lot of us and we are excited. We will be reaching out to the parent who signed up for the Bash Coordinator in the classes.

- **Spirit nights - Eva Castaneda** - Minted is all year. Please use the code and do some shopping. Thanks for participation in the last Spirit Night at Los Tios. This Friday is Fajita Pete. Please go order on Friday. Next month is Tom Foolery. We will send information out soon. It is early December so you can get your Christmas shopping done. We got about \$200 from Los Tios Spirit Night.
- **HISD Liaison – Connie Pei** - There is information on School Choice Enrollment. It is tonight. They are also doing the magnet tours on Thursdays. School Choice Fair is at Bellaire High School this Saturday. The application for School Choice is in January. A lot of things happening in the district may not impact all schools, so please keep that in mind. There is data in the first 6 weeks of school. They have double the number of staff resigning from last year. Verizon and HISD partnership have ended and not sure how this will impact the students. There are talks of starting school year earlier, teacher exemptions, and notification of parents about uncertified teachers. There will be a draft of the meeting information published on Friday. The district advisory committee will vote. Highly recommend parents read the draft.
- **Diversity – Krystal Carter** - During the month of October, it was Hispanic Heritage month and she did go on the announcements to share information. This month is Native American heritage month and she will do her best to get something out on ParentSquare. During the month of December and January, she encourages students to share information done in their culture during this time of the year.
- **Fifth Grade Parent Rep – Krystal Carter** -The 5th grade camping event is coming up. The most common question is what happens if you do not have a tent. There are tents at Walmart that you can get for \$10, but you can also borrow a tent from someone. We have been asked what will we do if it rains. She is not sure at this time, but we are watching the weather and will make decisions towards the end of the week. Let her know if you have questions. **Q** - Do you have to sleep over at the camping event? **A**- No, do not have to sleep over. You may leave at night. If you are okay with your child being supervised by another parent, it is okay, but you must make those arrangements.
- Shout Outs, Odds & Ends & Questions

Next board meeting will be different. We will have a coffee truck outside the morning before the meeting and all teachers will get coffee and parents can purchase coffee. Spooky did a good job. Birthday Grams will be this Thursday. There is no school on

Friday. Please do not bring your child on Friday. Hospitality, thank you for helping with all the events that we have had. Next Friday is a Prospective Parent coffee. Room Parents, thank you for all that you do. I know class t-shirts are going around. If you had difficulty getting funds for the shirts from parents, let the PTO know. If you can, please sign up to volunteer at lunch time. We are at the time of the year where kids are getting antsy and may be louder than usual during lunch.

Motion to Adjourn by Sara Reader Motion second by Ebru Senol Meeting Adjourn at 8:47a