



PTO Meeting Agenda – December 2023

- Welcome - Meeting started at 7:55a by Maggie Dundon, PTO President.
- President's Update
 - **Approval of November minutes** - Motion to approve November Meeting Minutes by Cindy Donaldson and Motion to Second by Ginny Kerlin. Count to approve votes 18
 - **Spring Calendar** - School Choice is out and we will be providing information to everyone even though we are not a magnet school. We will need a ton of volunteers in the Spring. There is Bingo, Bash, Relay Race, and International Festival. We will need all hands-on deck if possible. We ask if you can try to put in one shift for the events. The gift to the school for the Fall was given and Mrs. Rawson will speak on that. We have a few things that we need volunteers for. The Prospective Coffee is at 8a this Friday and we have 7 picnic tables that have arrived and need to be put together. If you like putting things together, please let her know.
 - **Housekeeping** - The PTO room is part of the school and we need to ensure that food is not left out and that it is kept clean. If we inform Ms. Karen, she will have someone swept the floor and take the trash out.
- Administrators Report
 - **Mrs. Rawson** - Can not believe that we are in the middle of December. It is so wonderful to have all of the volunteers. I know there was confusion about the Field Day parade and my apologies. She was out on yesterday and apologize if you sent her an email and she has not responded. She wants to thank everyone for being flexible about the parade. Thank you so much for the gift to the school. We are buying Clever Touches for the classrooms. We will be ordering 10 more and they will come after the break. She is encouraging teachers who do not have Clever Touch to come to the training today. We will also use the funds to pay for hourly staff. We will have GT testing for 26 more children and they are due Friday. We have hourly staff who will help us with the testing. It is a lot of testing to do in 3 days. The Magnet and Transfer office is good. They are letting you know if the child is GT or not quickly so you can apply to the appropriate school. If you have a 4th or 5th grader, I would go to the School Choice fairs. There are different matrices and they have information on them. To get into some middle schools, they may look at the STAAR scores. We are not a magnet school but we do take transfers. If you know of anyone with an incoming Kindergartener, please reach out to them. We have a few grade levels with large classes, and it is not ideal. **Q** - Does HISD accommodate

when they know you have more students? **A** - The numbers were turned in and our enrollment is down about 60 students from last year. The 5th grade classes this year are small. It is hard to determine the exact number of students that the school will have. Waivers had to be turned in for classes of 23 or more. This is required for classes over 22. Large class sizes are not ideal for the teachers or students. We got awarded a grant from the high school. They will provide instruments and music classes for students. This is an amazing opportunity and we are super excited about this. The guitar program is going and doing good. **Q** - Is there any update of when the bathrooms will be fixed in the hallway near 1st grade? **A** - She will check on that today. **Q** - For birthdays, how does the sign work? **A** - Maggie will talk to you about that. I appreciate each of you and things are going great this year. **Q** - Students were told that they cannot talk at the book fair and lunch? **A** - Mrs. Rawson was not aware of this but she will look into this. There are times when students are talking and not eating and they may be informed to eat their food.

- **Mrs. Zahregian** - Thanks for the donations for the food pantry and Beacon. **Q** - What types of donations do you have and need? **A** - We have peanut butter, granola bars, and can goods. **Q** - Are these for Twain students or other places? **A** - She currently has a little bar here with foods for the children that they can switch out if there is something that they do not eat for lunch. We do have families coming who need food and we are putting baskets together for them. She is trying to find out the needs of our families. **Q** - Could we give things like HEB gift cards? **A** - She thinks those would be good and we can give those out for the holidays. Thank you for your donations for the books as there were some children who would not have been able to get books if there were not donations. She wants to remind you that she is not the school counselor. She is licensed as a psychologist, but she is not the counselor. If your child has an issue and needs counseling services, please complete the form and the child will receive the services.
- Board of Director Updates
 - **Book Fair - Martha Carruth** - Want to thank everyone who came out and volunteered. We would not have been able to do this without all of the help. We have \$22,000 for sales. We have a ton of books donated and we will deliver them. **Maggie** – thank you to those who donated to the Book Fair and Beacon.
 - **Twain Trot** - Trot will happen rain or shine. Please watch your email if you are signed up for the race. Coach Judy will open registration on Friday if you did not sign up. It will be registration without a shirt.
 - **Bingo - Tonesha Bonner** - will host the Bingo on Jan. 19 and it is a cash only event. Bring cash, especially \$1 bills. We will have regular bingo and we will have a raffle for a hoover board and camera. Raffle will be during the event and sold during the event. We will have 2 grand prizes this year, Xbox or Target gift card. We will also have pizza for pre-purchase and must be done by Jan. 16. The flyer handed out will be the one that will go in the Tuesday folders. It will contain the link to pre-purchase. There will be snacks for \$1. We will need volunteers for the selling of bingo sheets. If you have high school students who want to volunteer, they can but they will need an adult. If you know someone who wants to help cover the price of the prizes,

please let us know. It is 5:30p to 8:30p. It is a fun night and it is very pack, all tables are filled.

- **Huckleberry Bash Chairs Mallory Rissmiller and Elizabeth Garcia** - Super excited that t-shirts are on presale at this time. We are at \$13,000 for sponsorships. Tickets go on sale in January. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer. Opening ceremony is a pep rally. The kids who get to perform at the prep rally are children of the committee members. If anyone has memorabilia from the Olympics, please let us know. You will get it back and it will be kept safe. Twain Treasures are the birthday signs that you bid on. There are 2 spots per month, for the birthdays starting in March 2024. The auction is in February 2024. Information for the Bash site will be sent through Parent Square. Think about Socials during the holidays. Socials are overseen by Erin Salisbury. There are children and adult socials. The kids social open at 7p the night of the event. There are things like pool parties and grade level parties. Adult socials have mom socials and dad socials. There is also a poker social and a teacher social. The grade level teachers will do a social and they are bid on. There are lots of opportunities for the children such as Storybook Parade grand marshal. We are looking for vacation rentals for the Bash as well. Tickets go on sale when we return from winter break. If you want the premium tables, they sell fast so get your group together.
- **HISD Liaison Connie Pei** - The certified teacher exemption will be for high school only now. There will no longer be class size exemptions. The new teacher evaluation system is on hold until 2026. There will be an exemption to start the school year earlier. There will be 180 school days next year. School Choice will be later but you will get the results earlier. If your child is in PreK, there is no longer a need for the lottery. Phase I application will open Jan. 18 until Feb. 23 and NES schools will be announced in February. The Dual Language application has changed to February 23. You must apply for the Dual Language program even if you have a sibling in the program.

- **Shout Outs, Odds & Ends & Questions**

Tonesha showed the form that other schools are using a QR code for sign in and then parents do not have to wait to sign in at the front of the school. Maggie will inform Mrs. Rawson about this. Thanks to community outreach who coordinated for the Beacon drive and food pantry. Wonderful job book fair. School store is also doing a wonderful job.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting by Ebru Senol and Motion Second by Sara Reader. Meeting adjourned at 8:42a.

