



## PTO Meeting Agenda – February 14, 2024

- Welcome - Meeting started at 7:55 am by president Maggie Dundon.
- Administrators' Report
  - **Rawson** - cannot believe it is February, it is flying by. She is amazed with the growth of the children. Parents are pitching in which she is very thankful for. We had a second-grade parent helping the teacher by teaching math. Those little things really make a huge impact. Last week we had a review from HISD. They look around and check things in the classrooms. Our teachers are doing good. The reviewers also look at things that are put on the walls. There are a lot of events coming up. She is super excited about the events and she thinks the Bash is super fun and wonderful. Tomorrow is Kinder Round up and if you know anyone with incoming Kinders, please let them know. We have more students applying for transfers to Twain. She will be looking at how many zone kids are registering first. Please make sure to reach out to those who need to register. They can talk to Ms. Denise. We know there will be people moving into the neighborhood and realtors inform her of people moving in and they tell them to get registered with the school. We had a family moving in the area from Dubai and came to tour. They were happy with us within 15 minutes and they saw all the things that they heard and saw about our school. Maggie has been great with organizing tours for those who call up and want a tour. Parents of 3rd to 5th grade, at the beginning of March, we will do another practice STARR test. It is on the platform, the same way the kids log in to the real test. The 5th graders will take science this time. They have multiple answer choices and we want to make sure our students are ready. The students have to do 2 writing responses this time. Mr. Platt has been working with the teachers on the scoring. She wants to thank the PTO so much. The students loved the orchestra. It was so fun and she hopes that it is something we can continue next year. Our partnership with Witz is going great. You must pay to go. We had so many kids to sign up that we were able to offer scholarships. We offered scholarships to some students and they were really appreciative that they were invited to participate. **Q** - Is Round up for zone kids? **A** - Yes **Q** - How did our children do on the test? **A** - Yes, she loves data and she wants us to know that they saw growth. The rep showed how much time students spent on the test. There is a lot of information in the data. She has a training to learn how to use the data to move the children and she will be using it with the teachers. She always wants to help the children learn and grow. She loves that we are assessing science in 2nd to 5th. She will have more information about the MAPP test results. In 4th and 5th grade, teachers

had not gotten to geometry, but she knows that the students will get there by the end of the year and they will be ready for that on the test. She appreciates everything that the PTO does and Twain is very blessed to have the PTO. Happy Valentine's Day!!

- **Blakeslee** - She wants to talk about GT. We tested almost 300 children and it was challenging because HISD kept changing when parents could request testing. The results are just now coming out. Second grade came out Feb. 2. We did wait for the parent reports and we received them on Monday. The GT at Twain use the IB curriculum. The 4th and 5th graders are offered additional course work. She has 11 sessions with those who got the top scores. The purpose of the sessions is to challenge them. She works with them so they are just not getting the answer. She wants to see their work.
- President's Update
  - Approval of January minutes - Mallory Rissmiller Motion to Vote for approval of Minutes and Cindy Donaldson Second the Motion 24 votes to approve
  - Treasurer's Report - Maggie, asked if there were questions on the budget. No questions from audience
  - Announce the 2023-2024 Nomination Committee
    - Chair: Laura Curry, Board Members: Louise Le, Alicia Dutton, Members-at-Large: Katie August, Casey Kilpatrick, Leora Semble, Ginny Wiley
    - Explanation of Process (Laura Curry) - We will be kicking off so we can have an Executive Board slate. We will email the information out and current members can respond if they want to continue in their position and you can also nominate others. On March 20, the ballots will go out and we look to have them back by March 26. Once Executive board is done, we will work to fill all other board positions. We want to add a Lost and Found and Twain Dance committee. Many hands make great work. Many people have done work for many years and some are leaving like Ginny Kerlin. We need to get creative and not get overwhelmed, get a partner or friend, start delegate and do smaller things. For example, may do art for STEM night and not the entire thing. We need people also who can take on a giant leadership. We think some people may be waiting to be asked so ask someone if you think that they may be great. **Maggie** - You can nominate people and it is anonymous, so they will not know it is you. You may know someone's talent and they are good for something and they may not have known they would be good. Every parent at Twain is a member of the PTO, so everyone is able to vote. **Q** - Why are we doing it by paper? **A** - We have always done it by paper and it is also in the Bylaws. The vote can be returned in the Tuesday folder. **Louise** - please fill out the nomination form if you would like to engage in any events or activities. She will send out the form this weekend to the current board members and it will go out in Twain Times.

Cindy Donaldson Motion to approve Nomination Committee and Mallory Rissmiller Second the Motion vote count 24

- Board of Director Updates
  - **Huckleberry Bash** - We have sold over 200 tickets for the games on Friday. The wine pull is selling. We have sold over 230 tickets for Bash. Please buy your ticket before they sell out. We have so much on the auction, we have trips, principal for the day, this art work done by the students with Jennifer Hughes. You can buy now your ticket for vacation stay at Zsa Zsa Hotel. Final committee meeting tomorrow. **Erin** - She is in charge of socials. We have a lot of great socials coming up for adults. We are low in children socials. Talk to your friends and see if you can come up with any ideas. We have done a fun one at Bellaire bats with the boys. A lot of the socials are done at the end of the summer. It is a great time to connect with your friends again. It can be simple as something at your house. Someone was thinking of renting out the fire station and have something. Please reach out if you want to host a social. You do not have to currently have a solid program for it, but your ideas at this time for the social. **Q** - What is the head count for the social? **A** - It depends on what you are doing. If it is something in your home in the backyard, it can be like 12 children. You put on your form how many children are the max. Mr. Obi has done an ice cream social and he pays for 1 ice cream per student. It is here at the school. We did an alumni social where the students who went to Twain came and caught up with one another. The children and parents enjoyed it. You don't want to spend more on the social than what you will bring it. Auction opens at 7p the day of Bash. There are socials for the children by grade level. Cindy mention how she does a social as a pool party at her home. Socials generally start at \$25 for the children. These socials are different from the teacher socials. The teachers get together and do social for the children in their class. Those are auction items as there are 2 spots per teacher per grade. Those are on the silent auction and you have to wait until it closes to know the winner. If there is a spot open after the auction, we do go to their class and offer it to the students in the class. **Elizabeth** - Friday is the games and it will be exciting. We will be running around the neighborhood. It went out in the Twain Times. We need a few volunteers to help with check in or distribute food. Please grab the QR code to volunteer. Specific request is for a Tiger. It may be great for your spouse as a Valentine's gift. If your special someone would like to be the Tiger, let us know. We will also take a high school student, but the person needs to be tall. The tickets end today for the trail, but we will keep selling. The goal of this part of Bash is community building. We have a few host houses in the vicinity and we want to thank those houses. We will do some game stops this year and we will utilize some space outside the school as well. Please pre-purchase your food. You must be at the event to bid on big auction items. **Laura** - please come out for the wine pull. You can bring your own cup for the wine pull. **Maggie** - There are auction items that are Twain Treasures such as your child's picture on the fence, carpool line, and graduation tickets.
  - **Kinder Round Up - Louise Le** - Tomorrow is Kinder Round up. It is for everyone in the neighborhood and current Twain families. Please ask your neighbors if they have small children.

We will fill up this year and we want to account for everyone in the neighborhood. We do have enough volunteers.

- **STEAM Night - Donna** - March 7 is a free event for all Twain families focusing on STEM. We are focusing on our art. She works at the art museum and we will have scratch art, weaving, beads/bracelets, Legos, and HMS Stardom. It is very cool. We will have some students performing. If you are a 2nd grade parent, get ready because your children are performing. We will have food trucks here. It is a 2-hour event. It starts at 5p to 7p. We utilize the entire campus. **Q** - Is the Science Fair included? **A** - It is optional and fun. It can be done with friends, family, or other students. It will be displayed during STEM night.
- **International Festival - Ebru Senol and Deepa Ramachandran** - Want to make sure everyone knows the festival is coming and the theme is around the world in 80 days. We want to bring the adventure of travel. We want the students to share their favorite travel destination. We have the dance on stage and the tables to represent each country. The parade will be that Friday morning around the school. Please sign up for your country tables. The link is in the Twain Times and ParentSquare. Please come and attend if you are not presenting.
- **HISD Liaison – Connie Pei** - Calendar for next school year is approved. First day of school is Aug. 12, 2024. School Choice is going on and applications are due Feb. 23. Results will be out on March 26.
- **Diversity Committee – Maggie on behalf of Krystal Carter** - Black History program will be Feb. 29 and there will be 2 performances. You can sign your children up to participate. The students will be on announcements about Black History. Movie night will be coming up so look for information.
- **5th Grade - Laura Curry** - Camping was great. On March 1, we will have the photos for the 5th graders. The other events will be coming up and we are very excited.
- **Shout Outs, Odds & Ends & Questions**

Bingo Night raised \$6,000. The committee did a wonderful job.

Want to do a shout out to Birthday Grams volunteers Jenny Hanks and Dwine Meyers. The children love it. If you want to purchase a birthday gram. All benefits go to the school.

Ebru Senol Motion to End Meeting and Motion Second by Martha Carruth. Meeting adjourned at 8:46a.