

**Lone Star Elementary  
PTA Meeting  
September 12, 2017**

**Members Present:** Tanya Sumner, Lindsey Dunn, Christina Snowdy, Wendy Campbell, Ashley Struyk, Kristin Tallas, Brook Abbe, Yael Gurwitz-Elkin, Kimberly Pallegar, Heidi Jovanovich, Tristan Hanna, Mary Ann Caminita, Alyse Leibel, Sarah Nix, Natalie Kelly, Christina Smalley, Stephanie Schumeyer, Athena Silver, Jen Rodano, Nicole Midkiff, Brittany Burns, Tammy Tempel, Lisa Lemaux, Heather Regimbald, Danielle Teague, Megan Stultz, Danielle Carmical, Sarah Jones, Melanie Delahoussaye, Verionca Afill, Ann Marie Ronsman, Sharon Brown, Sarah Chandler, Lorie Thornton, Kristen Ward, Melissa Jorge, Rachael Bates, Katy Reibenstein, Samantha Webb, Noelia Vratil, April Smith, Wendy Reynolds, Margie Shuler, Kali Hurst, Gretchen Williamson, Sarah Rhea, Eric Eveland, Dr. Catherine Bartlett

Gretchen Williamson called the meeting to order at 8:53 am and welcomed everyone to the first PTA meeting of the year.

**Minutes** – Alyse Leibel made a motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting as presented. Yael Gurwitz-Elkin seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Introductions** – Members of the board introduced themselves. Gretchen Williamson spoke to what PTA is - Parent Teacher Association, a way for volunteers for the school to help serve where needed. We have lots of great parent involvement. She noted the many ways that people can volunteer.

**Treasurer's Report** - Eric Eveland reviewed the profit and loss statement, and the Woodforest bank statement, including the beginning balance of \$11,292.77 and closing balance of \$19,380.64. He opened for questions. Yael Gurwitz-Elkin made a motion accept the financials as presented. Sally Kirkland seconded and the motion carried.

**Principals Corner** - Dr. Bartlett delayed Tribe Day to this Thursday. The kids are excited. She noted that they will need people to sign up for Tribe Day lunchroom duty. You can use the link for WatchDogs and put Dr. Bartlett's email in ([Catherine.bartlett@mysd.org](mailto:Catherine.bartlett@mysd.org)) to sign up. Fourth and fifth graders will be helpers with the goal of no tears, everyone eats, and lots of smiles. Progress reports will be coming home soon. Picture day will be next week on Thursday, September 21.

## **Announcements:**

**Simply Circle App** - Gretchen Williamson thanked everyone who has helped with kindergarten lunches. She said the board will communicate volunteer opportunities through the Simply Circle app. Natalie Kelly noted that using a computer is easier to see what you can volunteer for, rather than a phone. If you set up notifications, you'll get an email to show opportunities that day. She asked for feedback and noted that current sign ups include help decorating the science lab.

**Website** - Gretchen Williamson reported that the PTA website is LSEPTA.com. The board will be posting minutes from the meetings, will have a calendar, a link to order the yearbook, and more. Don't forget to like the PTA Facebook page. The school also has a Facebook page, where teachers can add things to it such as adding photos and requesting items. It is also a great way for families and extended family to keep in touch with what's going on at school.

**Volunteering** - To volunteer at the school, you must fill out a background form. The form can be found on the MISD website. There's also a link to the form on the PTA website. They have to be updated every year. Be sure to let others know who will be volunteering.

**Watchdogs** – Dads can sign up to work at the school for a day. The sign up for that is Sign Up Genius and is on the PTA website. Tanya Sumner is Watchdog coordinator.

**Fundraising** - Christina Smalley reported that the Fun Run will be on October 26. More information will be coming soon. It is one day of running, but they will be doing activities and fundraising throughout that week. Gretchen Williamson noted that it will be Apex Fun Run again this year. It is run by a family local to Montgomery, a lot of fun for the kids and will kick off with a Pep Rally. The event helps us raise a lot of money for the school. Last year the event cleared \$78,000. She noted that if the event is successful, that will be the only fundraiser for the year. They will need a lot of parents to help that day, especially with marking shirts. The students will raise money for it by asking friends and family to sponsor them per lap. Dr. Bartlett said that 20% goes directly back to the classroom for things like flexible seating, more books, grade level set of tablets or laptops. They have big goals this year including a 5<sup>th</sup> grade laptop cart and turning the library into an internet café with a laptop cart there as well. It also helps with The Leader in Me. She wants the money to impact all of the students or as many as possible. Gretchen Williamson noted that Lone Star is within the top 5% schools in the nation with how much is raised.

**Box Tops** – Jen Rodano reported that we do collect box tops and get 10 cents for every box top. Last year we raised around \$1,200 with it. To help Jen, please cut the box tops to the edge. We do not do Campbell's soup cans anymore. She will be sending home box top collection sheets. You can put in a bag or tape them to the sheet and send in your student's folder. The teacher will make sure she gets them. She will check all and will send them in. We will collect them twice a year. They cut checks to us in October and April. There will also be classroom incentives and contests.

**Programs** - Natalie Kelly reported that Red Ribbon Week will be the same week as Fun Run. There will be volunteer opportunities associated with that. Also coming up are Character Book Parade (no volunteer opportunities) and Anti-Bully Week. Some others they are considering include nutrition week, and pets week. Check SimplyCircle for associated volunteer opportunities.

**Yearbook** – Sally Kirkland reported that she will need help with taking photos at events. There's an app for the yearbook and we will add the sign in to the PTA website. You can upload them right then; you just have to caption every single picture with the grade and also the event, if possible. This is especially important if it is grade-specific. She noted that if you upload several, you need to caption every single picture. There will be many opportunities to take pictures. She would like to have someone for each grade at Fun Run. She recommended buying yearbooks before October 15 because the price goes up then and will go up even more after that. They have sold 83 so far. Gretchen Williamson thanked Sally for all her work on that.

**Important Dates** - Check the list of Important Dates. Please put them in your calendar. We've tried to go all the way through December.

**Voting** - Gretchen Williamson reported that in the packet, there's a tax exemption form. You can show those forms if purchasing something for the PTA. The PTA will not reimburse tax on anything you purchase. She noted that a vote was needed for non-tax days. Every year, we're allowed two non-tax days and we need to vote on one. She proposed that one of those be Meet the Teacher because of shirts and mums. Eric Eveland made a motion to use the Meet the Teacher date for one of the days. Jen Rodano seconded and the motion carried.

The next Meeting will be in cafeteria or in room 101. The PTA will be discussing volunteer opportunities for Fun Run. Sarah Rhea will post the meeting minutes on the website.

Natalie Kelly reported that there are 3 volunteer opportunities open now for science lab decorating. She said you can sign up or just show up in room 204.

The meeting was opened for questions.

- Notes from Tribe meeting were sent in a PDF attachment in the email that went out last Friday.
- Yes, there will be spring pictures. Graduation photos as well. All are optional.
- See you at the Pole will be September 27.
- What is the rule on little ones coming when mom volunteers? Dr. Bartlett said that babies usually are not a problem. It's just hard when they're mobile. If you volunteer to chaperone on a field trip, siblings are not allowed.
- Room Moms – Gretchen Williamson reported that we will be getting back with teachers on room moms. Teachers have a lot of input on that. Natalie is going to be room mom coordinator this year. She will be the point of contact for all. There will be a head room mom for each grade, so that all are working together at the grade level.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 am.