

MINUTES

Thornebrooke PTO Board Meeting

Date | time 11/22/2019 / 09:22am | *Meeting called to order by* Karissa Martin & Dena Reyes – Co-presidents

In Attendance

Karissa Martin, Dena Reyes, Laura Van Baalen, Eve Pafford, Danielle McCoy, Christie Howlett, Allison McMullan, Jennifer Elzeer, Julie Soares, Alessandra Romano, Christopher Daniels

Old Business

Karissa welcomed everyone and called meeting to order at 9:22. First order of business - approval of October Board Meeting minutes (10/25/19). Motion to approve by Jennifer Elzeer. Seconded by Laura Van Baalen. All in favor. Minutes approved as presented.

Principal's Report

- Mr. Daniels thanked everyone and wished them a great Thanksgiving break.
 - The Teach-in was a success. We had many good speakers.
 - Staff changes are official. Tiffany Hovsepian is the new school secretary. A new registrar has been hired. Mrs. Benedict was hired to cover for Mrs. Metova's 4th grade class while she is out on maternity leave. Mrs. Benedict is an experienced, certified teacher. Later we will look to hire a new clerk to fill Ms. Doris' position. Also looking to hire a new P.E. and possibly a new hourly tutor.
 - Good news! – 2 of 9 National Merit Scholars semi-finalists were former TES students (of 62 elementary schools).
 - Safety update – we do 2 drills a month. This week we did a severe weather drill. Students are told that it is a practice drill to reassure them.
 - Testing data looks good
 - There is a meeting for multilingual families today at 10am.
 - There will be another Legislative session after winter break, which determines funding. Happy to see that teacher retention is being addressed to attract more teachers.
 - School is in the process of formalizing secondary technology plan in order to keep our technology in good shape. Our on-site tech will be out for a while. Ms. Ann will fill in. We are looking to fill the position temporarily.
 - Question asked about technology for state testing. This year state testing is back to paper tests.
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Gotha Middle School PTO presentation

Gwen Richman and Wendy Kimelman, co-presidents of Gotha Middle School PTO, came to speak. The PTO and the new principal, Monica Emory, are on a mission to make positive changes at GMS. Gotha's PTO budget is significantly smaller than Thornebrooke's budget, so they operate differently. They will be having a fundraiser at Kendra Scott (jewelry designer) at the Mall at Millenia on Saturday, December 7th from 1:00-4:00pm. 20% of the proceeds from in-store purchases will go back to the GMS PTO. One of their goals is to strengthen the PTO and school community, so they are getting the word out about the positive growth at Gotha. Please consider helping Gotha's PTO.

Budget Updates

Jennifer distributed the budget and pointed out that the \$850 currently budgeted for PTO Operations will be used to pay for last year's audit and therefore needs to be increased by \$275. In April we will also need to do our internal budget. We discussed getting internal volunteers to do it, rather than pay for another audit.

- Proposed change to the 2019-2010 TES PTO Budget - PTO Operations Audit line item to be increased by \$275 to cover last year's audit expense. (please see attached budget).

The budget adjustment was motioned to be approved by Allison McMullan and seconded by Danielle McCoy. All in favor. Changes approved.

Big Barracuda of the Month

Please consider nominating a Thornebrooke employee for Big Barracuda of the month for November (see attached nomination form). Ms. Watson was nominated in September and Ms. Heaton was nominated in October. Winners win a special parking spot.

Committee Reports

- **Guardian Angels** – Community Outreach Update from Lynn (sent to exec. via text b/c she was busy with food drive/turkey jars! :) – The school raised \$1,681.25 in Turkey Jar money, collected over 2,500 items of food, and collected over 70 pounds of candy for troops. Go TES! Enough money was raised for gift cards to be distributed in the spring.
- **Spirit Night** - \$175 was raised at NYPD for Spirit Night. Still looking into a private screening of a movie in January. Also had a conversation about organizing a STEM spirit night with Bricks 4 Kids. Another suggestion was to look into holding a spirit night at Defy.
- **Spirit Wear update** – Four new items have launched for winter: girls pullover, boys long sleeve shirt, boys shorts, and girls long sleeve shirt. The online sale closes Dec. 3 in order to get the items back before the winter break. Flyers will go home with students.
- **Holiday Shoppe** – Please sign up to volunteer. See sign-up genius. Shifts are still open.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 am

Upcoming Events

- Holiday Shoppe: 12/4 – 12/10
- Spring General PTO Meeting – Friday, January 24