



Condit Elementary PTO

Minutes of the April 6, 2015 PTO meeting

Call to Order: Alison Septimus called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. in the Condit library.

A draft of the March 02, 2015 PTO Meeting minutes was distributed. Michal Lutfak made a motion to approve the minutes and Melissa Brams seconded this motion. There were no dissenting verbal votes in the audience.

Officer Reports

Treasurer

Melanie Carter distributed current budget statements. She noted that the PTO has been very successful in raising money this year—through Reach for the Stars, the 100 Years Gala, Condit Sociables, and other fundraisers. She will be creating a new line for next year's budget for the New School, with the plans that PTO money will be given for projects for the new school. Ms. Carter also stated that she was putting together an Audit Committee to meet in August and needed two PTO members to serve on it in addition to a PTO Board member she's already signed up. Deirdre Rozowski and Jennifer Cross volunteered.

V.P. Volunteering

Whitney Donalson stated she was putting together committee chairs for next year and thanked those who have served as one.

Past President/ Parliamentarian

Pegi Newhouse distributed a form with the proposed 2015-2016 slate of PTO Officers. She thanked Melissa Brams, Debbie Robbins, Minette Hiller, and Ms. Ames for serving on the Nominating Committee. Michal Lutfak made a motion to approve the slate, and Anita Mehta seconded the motion. There were no verbal dissenters in the audience. Ms. Newhouse also distributed a proposed change to the PTO By-Laws. She explained that issues have come up with Condit Sociables planning and the 100 Years Gala with concern to our alcohol policy. The proposed change was considered conservative, as it still requires a PTO Board vote for exceptions. Michal Lutfak made a motion to approve the change, and Minette Hiller seconded the motion. A majority vote is not required.

President

Ali Septimus stated that yearbooks are on sale by Karen Vessels. Kindergarten tours are this week and they'll need help with them on Wednesday and Thursday mornings—email Ms. Septimus. The Book Fair begins April 14, and Whitney Donalson said to look in upcoming Condit Happenings for volunteer positions from Tuesday through Friday of that week. In May is the Science Fair. Ms. Septimus thanked the four outgoing Board members: Kristi Coffey, Pegi Newhouse, Minette Hiller, and Michal Lutfak.

Committee Reports

100 Year Gala: Michal Lutfak stated over \$30,000 was netted from the 100 Years Gala. She thanked everyone, and stated there was discussions about doing an annual gala, and it would be up to the PTO Board. She said it was a relatively easy \$30,000 to raise. Melissa Brams suggested maybe only for special occasions, like the opening of the new school. Michal Lutfak stated that Horn, West University, and many other public schools have one every year. Suzi Nelson suggested perhaps every other year because next year will involve a lot of new school fundraising. Kristi Coffey stated it would be helpful to know as far as possible in advance. Pegi Newhouse cautioned we can't let the auction overtap our business donors. Terry Levitt-Chavez supported an annual gala. Jennifer Cross suggested if another is done it is incorporated into the comprehensive menu of donation options being created for businesses.

Field Day: Whitney Donalson stated it is on track for May 15 to be held at the park across the street for a ½ day event there. Lunch will be at Condit, and then only older grades will come back outside for additional activities. There will be no fire trucks with water this year. She will need volunteers.

School Supplies: Whitney Donalson stated supply orders will begin this week for the 2015-2016 school year. Prices have increased due to teacher specifications of higher quality, pricier items. Last year a number of current families did not preorder, which lead to long lines and running out of supplies. This year, the deadline is extended to July, but it will be \$10 more if someone waits until Snow Cone Social to order them. There will be a limited supply there and wait times to get additional orders will take 2-3 weeks into the school year. Michal Lutfak noted that prices are compared and are higher with other companies. It was noted that some money for Family Fun Night donated for tickets was not used and this can be allocated to school supplies for those in need.

UIL: Deirdre Rozowski stated 22 awards were earned last week at a competition, and they were the overall 2nd Place champions from among 21 schools. There are a limited number of competitors (imposed by the contest rules) at the upcoming final competition of the year. There have been four competitions so far (the first one only had 9 participants from Condit). There have been some different kids each time from Condit. Mrs. Rozowski stated we needed to talk it up, and she has chosen to have Condit participate in 3 UIL competitions next year. She needs coaches, which can be a very small commitment, and a Co-Chair. There is a meeting this Wednesday at 11:35, and Mr. Greenberg will post this on LivingTree.

(Pegi Newhouse spoke. See officer reports above.)

Name That Book: Jennifer Cross stated that the K-2 Team earned a perfect score and won 1st Place at their competition. This resulted from a long tryout process last fall and then weekly meetings since then. She stated it was a large commitment by the parents, and a lot of hard work all year by the kids. She and Sneha Bhavsar (the Co-Chair/Coach) were very proud, and will be passing the torch on to a new Coach next year.

Odyssey of the Mind: Anita Mehta stated that this year Condit had 1 K-2 team and 2 3-5 teams, the latter of which is competitive. One of the 3-5 teams advanced to the upcoming regional competition. She stated that West University Elementary had 16 teams, so she encourages others to help coach a team next year.

(Ali Septimus spoke. See officer reports above.)

The Leader in Me

Ms. Driscoll, a Kindergarten teacher, stated that TLIM program is growing and they have added a Lighthouse Team, which consists of Minette Hiller (parent), Grade Level teachers, and ancillary. The purpose of that team is to construct bigger picture goals for the remainder of this year and next year. Three of those goals are: 1) Students' data notebooks for learning goals; 2) Leadership Event—small scale likely May 1st this year, and parents are invited to it. It will last 1-1 ½ hours; and 3) parent education and involvement.

Principal

Mr. Greenberg stated that there have been tangible differences this year as a result of implementing TLIM. There is construction progress and the new school is still on schedule. Ms. Grimm will be back next week, and Ms. Heath and Ms. Ritchie are due to have their babies soon. He stated he told teachers they can't get around standardized testing, but to make the kids laugh and feel confident. There was 100% attendance in the recent round of tests. On April 15th there will be a bedtime story event at the Book Fair. He thanked all of the people who stepped up to advocate for better teacher parking.

Ali Septimus noted that a host was still needed for the end of year PTO party.

Adjournment: 8:57 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Cross, 2014-15 PTO VP of School Services / Support.