

Country Day Montessori PTO
Minutes
December 9, 2008

Meeting Called to order at 6:45 pm by Carra Milikien.

The officers were introduced and then Carra led the meeting.

Carra explained the purpose of the organization. We are a parent organization whose function is to support the teacher, administrators and the school as a whole. We will provide this support in two main ways: raising money and providing people power. This support will help the country day school and its teachers provide our children with the best possible education. This PTO will be a nonprofit organization, which will thereby open up opportunities for grant money for our school that are currently unavailable due to the for profit status of the school. In regards to establishing our nonprofit status, Carra informed us of her progress in filling the appropriate legal documents. The Country Day Montessori PTO should achieve nonprofit status in 2-3 weeks.

The Board of Directors was introduced:

Joan Martinez
Shari Lawrence
Cara Milikien

The mission statement of the PTO was read:

The Country Day Montessori PTO is a nonprofit organization that has been established to support the educational opportunities of the students at the San Antonio Country Day School by collaborating with and developing relationships between the school, parents, faculty and the community.

We then discussed other needs of our organization, starting with the creation of committees. We will need a Bylaw committee, to create the bylaws of our organization. A Fundraising committee is needed to develop fundraising ideas. This will also include trying to obtain grant money. A Nominations committee will be needed to nominate officers for the 2009-2010 school year. Sign-up sheets will be made available at the end of the meeting.

Next we discussed choosing room parents. Instead of having one parent for each teacher, those in attendance decided to have parent liaisons base on grade level. Parents volunteered for these postions as follows:

Pre-primary	Kathryn Fantasia
Primary	Jennifer Williams
Kindergarten	Margaret Alvarez
Lower Elementary	Gigi Garcia
Upper Elementary	Mike Hudson

The schedule for upcoming meetings was given as follows:

January 27th 6:30 pm

February 19th 8:45 am
March 31st 6:30 pm
April 17th 8:45 am
May 26th 6:30 pm

There will be child care provided at the evening meetings. The morning meetings will be followed by parent meetings.

The Dues have been set at \$10 per family. The bylaws will state how the dues are to be used by the PTO. Dues can be paid by cash or check (made out to Country Day Montessori PTO) and can be given to the treasurer Valanna Bulner or left in the office with Carol Ann. Any family who has not paid dues will not get a vote in PTO matters.

The meeting was then opened for questions and comments.

Ms. Betty Williams shared ideas of things the school could use the PTO's help with. This included computer connections with schools in other parts of the world and remote teaching. The idea was proposed to have students perform at PTO meetings in the effort to attract more parents and to give the students more opportunities to perform.

The need for a PTO website and link from the school web page was discussed. The site should include minutes from previous meetings, schedules, officer contact information and ways to purchase the PTO's salsa.

Upcoming cookbook sales were discussed. Kathy volunteered to make posters announcing the sale of the cookbooks

Other projects in the works were discussed.

A \$250 grant from Annie's Homegrown has been obtained. This money is for a school vegetable garden. It is to be student run, but we will need parent volunteers to make it work.

There is also a butterfly pavilion and garden in progress.

Another project is the security gates. It was decided that a committee is needed to address this project. As an organization we will need to decide how to divide our money to these and other projects.

Kimberly Williams discussed the need for a skills directory, so that parents could help each other with their various expertises. We also discussed the idea of a PTO directory, so the parents could contact on another.

The meeting was concluded at 7:30 pm