

Country Day Montessori PTO
Minutes
October 6, 2009

Meeting started at 6:37 pm by PTO President Rose Saenz. She congratulated the school, teachers, students and parents on the recent accreditation. Rose, took a moment to thank all who have helped and will help the PTO achieve all of its goals for the year. We have had a great turn out so far and look forward to even more in the future.

Secretary, Tricia Love summarized the minutes of the September meeting and reminded all that the minutes can be viewed by looking at the PTO page on the school website.

Treasurer, Rosie Casillas gave her treasurers report. She began by thanking all who helped with the school lunch sales. She provided those in attendance with a handout showing the current income and expenses for the PTO. She showed a PTO balance over the summer of \$1532.87. Recently we brought in \$390 from PTO memberships and \$410 from the school lunch sales. We have a disbursement of \$331.95 to the school to repay the money the school loaned the PTO for startup costs. Additional disbursements totaling \$156.71 were made for expenses related to the school lunch sales. The current balance as of tonight is \$1844.21.

Next, Rose discussed a few items of old business.

She addressed the computers that we approved last meeting. The current state of the new computers is that we are waiting until December. Ms. Betty thanked the parents that have helped her research the computers. She indicated that the reason for waiting until December is that the research led her to advice from DELL to wait until the Christmas time sales, to get the best new computers for the best price. Rose indicated that the PTO will use this time to look into grants and other means to fund the computer purchase.

The issue of the PTO's 501c3 status is ongoing. The paperwork should be submitted to the government before the next PTO meeting. The hope is that the government will grant the PTO its 501c3 (tax exempt) status by the end of the school year.

The last piece of old business that Rose addressed is the results of the book fair. The process was more difficult than anticipated due to the fact that it was a new activity to us and we had a change in the Scholastic employees assisting us in the process. We are close to getting the funds finalized and it should be around \$460 in profit from the book fair. We are talking to Scholastic about having another book fair in the future either at the end of the school year or next fall or both.

Gigi Garcia, member at large, introduced Kathryn Fantasia, chair of the Library Committee. Kathryn gave a report on the status of the Library Committee and their work. She indicated the goal of the committee is to make the library a well-organized, inviting space for students and teachers. This is a big project, which will need the PTO's support with both volunteer help and funds. It will entail alphabetizing the books by author according to the category, taking inventory of the books on hand, removing any old, torn or inappropriate books, and labeling the books. Additionally resources will be needed to get new shelves and improve the aesthetics of the library.

Shari Lawrence, member at large, gave a report on the status of the school beautification committee. She indicated that the chair of the committee is Dezare Cedillo. The beautification committee is working to help the school with the butterfly garden and the trails behind the

elementary building. The committee is planning on participating in the school work day on October 17th. Ms. Betty indicated that this workday should occur from 9-noon on the 17th. Parent suggestions were made to look at the Texas Parks and Wildlife and Arbor Day websites for ideas on outdoor classroom environments.

Gigi Garcia gave a report for the Hospitality subcommittee of Student Directory. Chair of this subcommittee is Earline Long-Zlotkowski. The student directory is complete and will be distributed tomorrow (October 7th) to each family. In the cases where there is more than one student in a family the directory will be given to the oldest student. There was parent interest in having the directory in a pdf format that could be emailed. This will be looked into and should be an option at a later time.

Jamie Holder, a co-chair of the fundraising committee gave a report for the fundraising committee. She stated that the goal of the committee is to raise funds for three main areas that the school has expressed needs. These areas are beautification of the forest area, improve the library and improve school security. The committee has asked Ms. Betty for projected amounts that would be needed for these areas. Once dollar amounts are in place the committee plans to seek individual donations then look to fundraisers to supply the additional amounts. Jamie also discussed the fall festival and the committee members organizing the PTOs efforts at the festival. She supplied sign-up sheets for those interested in volunteering their time at this event. Additionally, those interested are encouraged to attend the next fundraising committee meeting on October 13th at 1:30pm in the Primary building.

Rose, spoke to the issue of obtaining grant funding for PTO projects. Tara Niebergall was introduced as a committee member on grant issues. They suggested that they are applying for some grants within the next few weeks and hope to have more to report at the next meeting. It was indicated that grants should work with the fundraising committee to make all our money gathering efforts more efficient.

Next Rose introduced our guest speakers, Ms. Megan, Lower elementary teacher and Ms. Martha, primary teacher. The teachers along with Ms. Betty Williams spoke on "The School Experience Isn't Just for Kids". They pointed out the parents see school as an academic opportunity and students see school as a social opportunity while teachers see school as an academic, emotional, volitional, social, and leadership opportunity. They then spoke to the parents' role in the academic, emotional, volitional and social experiences of school. They stressed the importance of organization and role modeling in all areas of our students lives.

Finally, the meeting was opened for questions. Teacher liaisons asked about the lists they had from their teachers. They were instructed that they could present them orally to the PTO at large or give written lists to any of the PTO board members.

The next PTO meeting will be held on November 3rd at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was concluded at 7:45pm.