

Lamar PTO Meeting

8/29/24

Janna called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

PTO Officers and Lamar Admin Present: President Janna Smeltzer, VP of Programs Leta Canlas Ward, VP of Fundraising Dawn Starr, VP of Membership Jennifer Glass, Secretary Lindsay Waugh, Principal Alison Brown, and Treasurer Briana Gray.

Members/Potential Members Present: Jennifer Myers, Colleen Taylor, Ingri Ruiz, Roxanne Stewart, Manju Amati, Luciana Stansel, Prahbulinga, Ravi Kiram Gorti, Mailen Montero, Diosdado Correa, Deepika Sharma, Branden Smeltzer, Rosalba Aravjo, Micaela Lopez Rendon Gader, German Gader, Cruz Carrete.

Introductions of the new board members were made, starting with our President. Janna brought the Lamar totes available for our new PTO members and reminded everybody to fill out the sign-in sheet that was going around.

Janna reminded everyone that if they want to volunteer at the school, to fill out the online form through the Conroe ISD website.

PTO Supported Programs and Purchases

-PTO provides teacher and staff appreciation, spring carnival, field trips, yearbook, family breakfast events, cultural events, technology and subscriptions, spirit wear, teacher reimbursements, grade level celebrations, school decorations, the school mascot, school furniture and equipment, teacher gifts, and leopard den supplies.

We raised about \$90,000 last year through our fundraisers, mostly read-a-thon, boosterthon, and carnival. More information on the full details are

Get Involved

Janna gave a quick informational rundown of the following programs:

- Meet the Teacher
- Tears and Cheers Breakfast
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Read-A-Thon Fundraiser
- Chalk the Walk

- Boosterthon Fundraiser
- Enrichment Nights
- Carnival
- Donuts with Grownups
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Field Day
- Spirit Nights
- Cultural Events

Open Positions

The following positions are open for PTO parents to get involved:

- Corporate Partnerships
- Sponsorships
- Diversity Appreciation
- Teacher/Parent Liaison
- 4th Grade Liaison
- Carnival

The following committees also have open positions:

-Carnival, Yearbook, Sponsorships, Diversity Appreciation, Teacher Liaison, Hospitality, Decorating, Health/Safety

Proposed Budget

-In Briana's absence, Janna discussed the proposed budget.

President's Report-Janna Smeltzer

- Successful first two weeks of events.
- We provided the teachers with a welcome back breakfast and snacks.
- Meet the Teacher-we had an informational table.
- Tears and Cheers the first day of school.
- Bulletin boards and decorations-Lindsay quickly gave a quick overview of how decorations are done.
- Auction Car Rider/Parking-ends September 6th.
- Last day to order spirit wear is September 11th.

-Pre-packed school supplies were packed and distributed to each classroom for the students.

-We order and distribute the Yearbook. Treering is the company we use. Janna described the process of putting the yearbooks together.

Treasurer's Report-given by Janna Smeltzer in Briana Gray's absence.

-Bank Balance as of 8/27/24-savings-\$5,000. Checking is \$43,000.

-YTD-**Expenses:** teacher t-shirts, hospitality, school supplies. **Income:** Membership donations. **Upcoming Income:** Read-a-Thon, Spirit Nights. **Upcoming Expenses:** Gifts to School-Operations, Technology, Staff Reimbursements.

VP of Fundraising Report-Dawn Starr

-Read-a-thon-kick-off is happening on September 6th. Dawn expressed excitement and gave details on how to get your kid signed up and incentives. Also emphasized the importance of the program to encourage reading.

-Spirit Wear-Dawn talked about this a little more.

-Sponsorships-Dawn talked about the different levels and that we're always looking for these.

-Spirit Nights are currently TBD.

-Our Silent Auction is happening for car rider line priority spots and parking spots. Bidding ends September 6th.

VP of Memberships-Jennifer Glass

-New Members-38 total, 32 Grandparents/Guardians

-6 Teachers/Admin/Staff

-Jennifer talked about doing some events to encourage more people to join and more involvement from current and new members.

VP of Programs-Leta Canlas Ward

-Hispanic Heritage Month-happening from September 15th-October 15th. We will send out more information when we receive it.

-Ways to get involved-We always need volunteers for events such as Book Fair, date TBD, Fall picture day this next month, September 20th. Volunteers are needed to help keep kids rounded up and help with positioning. Leta said that you can check the website for more information.

-Yearbook-purchase by September 30th for a 10% discount. We always need pictures of kids for the yearbook.

-Lindsay gave her testimony about joining the PTO.

Principal's Report-Alison Brown

-Principal Brown introduced herself as the new principal. She talked about the construction happening to Lamar over the summer. She informed us of our staff and the work they did together to make sure the school was ready to go for families and students. On day one, classrooms were up and ready to go. Principal Brown expressed how proud she was of her staff for making it happen. She also informed us that some construction would need to happen finish everything in the school into September. She talked about loving having the students back in the school. In addition, she expressed excitement of the year, and that things were starting to get more streamlined and expedient. Mrs. Brown also expressed appreciation for the PTO.

-Jennifer Glass expressed her excitement for her daughter's last year of Lamar.

-Principal Brown fielded questions:

Will we have Reading Night?

Yes

A question was asked about yearbook and how it's going work. Fun Run and Field Day are examples of when kids' pictures would be taken for the yearbook.

Principal Brown talked about how the newsletter was not received by some parents. She said she would find a way to fix it. And, for now, if you are not receiving the newsletter, to leave your email at the office and she would email it to you directly.

Janna opened up the floor for questions:

Are we having meetings at 6 pm every time?

We will be alternating between 2 pm and 6 pm for every other meeting.

We will send out meeting minutes and slides after the meeting. Sometimes we send out sign-up genius lists and volunteer lists.

A question about the volunteer process and how one would receive information about volunteer opportunities.

Another question was asked about yearbook and how photos can be sent through the website. Our yearbook editor has access to that and add to the page. When you are online, you can make the customized photo pages for the yearbook. We will be discerning in the use of photos sent in for parents for the yearbook.

A question was asked if we were participating in the homecoming parade for College Park-only 30 participants are allowed this year. It is on the 18th. They are deciding how we will participating.

Do we have the plans for field trips?

Every grade will have a field trip. The younger kids will require volunteers.

Kickoff for the read-a-thon is happening September 6th and going through the 20th.

Treasurer Briana introduced herself at this point.

Teachers will log minutes of reading during class. We can log minutes at home. Certain numbers of minutes logged will garner certain incentives.

April Prim gave information about CISD school board elections and voter information.

Vice-Principal translated for our Spanish speaking attendants. We also send out the slides with the information after every meeting along with the meeting minutes.

Our next meeting will be September 19th at 2:00 p.m.

Janna Smeltzer called the meeting to a close at 6:50 p.m.