

Lamar Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes 9/21/23

Lamar Elementary PTO

Date, Time, Location: Thursday, September 21, 2023, 2pm, Lamar Leopard Den

Meeting called to order by: President Kim Cameron at 2:06pm

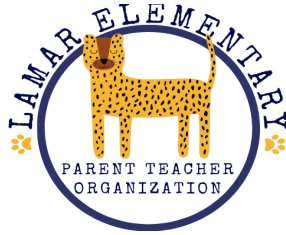
Attendance: Kim Cameron, April Prim, Janna Smeltzer, Kristina Otto, Jimmy Atkinson and other members of the Lamar Elementary PTO.

- Welcome, Introductions: Kim Cameron
 1. Visit [PTO website](#)
 2. [Sign up](#) through CISD to be a volunteer on campus
 3. Updates posted on social media regularly

- President's Report: Kim Cameron
 1. Working on a 30 day rotating calendar with signups and volunteer opportunities.
 2. Yearbook is in progress, [Tree Ring](#) is offering a 10% discount on orders through the end of October.
 3. 3 successful events so far:
 - Spirit Wear: all orders were received and distributed. There will be some overage earned back that the PTO can sell.
 - Carline Auction: Brought in over \$3,000 (was budgeted to bring in \$1600)
 - Read-a-thon: Lots of participation, ends 9/22
 4. We have also had PTO volunteers help with the Red Wagon Parade, book fair, and Read for a Better Life.

Motion to approve minutes from August meeting: 1st motion – April Prim, 2nd motion – Jimmy Atkinson; all in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

- Treasurer's Report: Briana Gray
 1. As of 9/18: \$19,000 in bank, income from carline auction ~\$3K, \$600 from memberships (still free this year, but donations come in)
 2. Expenses: Teacher reimbursements continue to come in, décor, hospitality, school supplies for school.
 3. Upcoming income: Read-a-thon, spirit wear, corporate matching
 4. Upcoming expenses: Teacher reimbursements, Hispanic Heritage month, 4th grade shirts (provided for free to all 4th graders)
 5. There is \$15K in gifts from school left over from last year. The teachers were surveyed to help identify wants/needs for the school, largest request was for technology, such as new Chromebooks. The PTO will purchase and the school will supplement.



- VP & Committee Reports:

1. Fundraising: April Prim

- As of 9/21, 87% of goal was reached for Read-a-thon. We had a very good year last year and set a very high goal for this year. Reader participation is up from last year, and we'll be doing a final push for the end.

- Spirit night fundraisers starting in October and we'll try to have one every month. First spirit night is October 5th at Spring Creek. This is the biggest one of the year and a huge event for the community with teachers and staff participating. Spring Creek is very generous in what they give back.

- Sponsorships for PTO available, we'll be doing a big push over the next couple of months. Sponsorship levels are finalized and are all on the [website](#). We'll also consider smaller or in-kind donations. Sponsorships are available from \$100 to \$5,000 price range. We don't have a sponsorship chair this year, so we are asking everyone to help and reach out to their contacts. Anyone interested in sponsorship can email hello@lamarpto.com. We have also added where sponsors can choose to sponsor a specific event if they would like.

- Corporate Matching: many companies will offer corporate matching (ex. Exxon, 3M) – form will be available on PTO website. Also view meeting slides which includes a list of corporations that have big volunteer initiatives.

- Box Tops: all digital now, there is an app available for you to collect points.

2. Membership

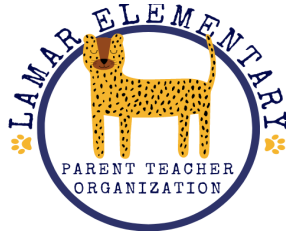
- 119 members currently

- No required membership fee to join, but donations are accepted

- Raised \$600+ as of 9/21/23

- Programs

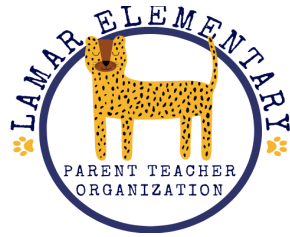
- Diversity/cultural events: committee identifies goals for events throughout the year, try to change what is highlighted each year, bring in



guests and highlight different countries/cultures each year. Will work with PTO to make volunteer opportunities more available.

- Past events: Read for a Better Life, Red Wagon Parade, book fair
 - Ways to get involved: Chalk the walk coming up – school partners with the Township and they'll send a rep and hand out stickers. Kids/teachers will meet at the country club and walk/bike the chalked path to school.
 - Carnival: Will be chaired by PTO executive board, but will need lots of help and volunteers. It will be space themed, which is a theme we'll use throughout the year.
- Principal's Report: Kristen Belcher
 - Thank you for Read-a-thon support, it encourages reading and helps support the school.
 - We had a very successful book fair which coincided with Read for a Better Life, we had lots of guest readers: community members, admin team, students from different groups at College Park.
 - We've finished beginning of the year assessments and teacher conferences will be starting. District has adopted a new phonics program.
 - Spring Creek first Spirit Night, Oct. 5. Biggest spirit night of the year, we love to see our families there.
 - No school for students on Oct. 6 (will be a work day for teachers), Oct. 9 is no school for students and teachers.
 - Fall academic night coming up soon (more info to come), typically fall night focuses on reading. The dual language program will also have a fall night upcoming.
 - 4th grade choir auditions are coming up. There will also be the Kindness Club and the Art Club for 4th graders starting soon.
 - All grade levels K-4 will have performances this year. Most grades will take place in December, and Kinder performs at Kinder graduation.
 - Watch Dogs program starting this year, new to Lamar. Kick off is on Tuesday 9/26. Hoping to have more male figures on campus.
 - CISD bond information: will be in upcoming election. Please education yourself, CISD has lots of information available, and will be sending a rep to the next meeting to explain the bond.
 - Questions

Next meeting is Thursday, October 19, 6p.m.



Meeting adjourned at 3p.m.

Minutes compiled by Janna Smeltzer, Secretary