



PTO Minutes September 14, 2011

President: Deanna Lashley, VP Membership: Jenny Millican, VP Fundraising: Lorrie Holekamp, Treasurer: Leigh Anne Lake, Secretary: Diane Earhart, Faculty Rep. Elem.: Jay Harper, Secondary Rep: Chris Stevenson,

VP of Membership, Jenny Millican welcomed all in attendance.

Minutes approved from last month.

Principal's Message:

Mr. Harper reported that we are off to a good start so far this school year. Enrollment numbers are down but overall we are doing well. The school has been declared a Chapter 41 school but we will be fine. He reminded us that the STAR Test will be replacing the TAKKS testing this year. He also confirmed that Harper would again be hosting the Elementary UIL event on Dec. 8th and thanked PTO for keeping up the good work!

Board Announcements:

President:- Since our President, Deanna Lashley, was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior engagement, VP of Membership, Jenny Millican announced she would be leading the meeting in her absence.

VP of Membership-Jenny Millican said we are working towards having the Directories ready for distribution by the end of September. Please remember to send \$5 to the school marked PTO if you would like to purchase a directory.

VP of Fundraising: Lorrie Holekamp had no announcements at this time.

Treasurer- Leigh Anne Lake reported: Checking: \$3,255.96
Savings: \$20, 017.91

Secretary-Diane Earhart reminded members that PTO Minutes are posted on the school website: www.harper.txed.net, sent through our email system, and we always have a paper copy available for review prior to each meeting.

Committee Announcements:

Label Redemption: Janelle Peralt reported that we have an Oct. 14th deadline for our fall submission of Box Tops. She also suggested that collecting Box Tops 50 to a bag would help her to get them processed faster. Several parents offered to help get them clipped and counted and Student Volunteers were offered from various classes as well. For more information on the Box Tops program, please visit: www.boxtops4education.com for coupons, school's earnings, and Bonus Box Tops offers throughout the year. Several members showed interest in other types of label redemption such as the Campbell's program. It was noted that PTO is open to other types of label redemption opportunities if there are more volunteers wanting to help.

No-cost Fundraising: Lorrie gave a brief summary of the Office Max receipts, ink cartridges, and credits we get through the MaxPerks program. PTO uses the store credit to buy paper products, and supplies for HWAT and prizes. Lorrie stated that we are still using the DirecTV program wherein DirecTV will give the school \$50 for every current DirecTV customer who renews their existing contract for another year, and \$100 for new customers. When calling DirecTV, please give the School code: B2844 so HISD will receive credit. Last year we earned \$100! Thank you to those that participated last year. An email will be sent with the information as well. Lorrie also explained the Dauna's program that is currently underway. Dauna's Convenience Store will be redeeming cash receipts for \$.05 each!! Please turn your receipts in to the school to be collected in the PTO drop box in the Teacher Workrooms, or in the collection jugs located in the HS library and inside Dauna's.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation: Vicky Brand is recruiting people to help get stuff delivered to the school once a month. Lorrie mentioned that Susan Henderson has offered to get items delivered to the HS area and several others volunteered to get items delivered and even assembled as needed. Contact Vicky at gbrand@kvc.com to let her know you would like to help. Vicky is also working on bulletin boards as well with Beverly Clark. Both HS and Elem cafeteria boards look great! Thanks Vicky and Beverly!

Walk-A-Thon- Lorrie announced the 6th Annual Harper Walk-A-Thon (HWAT) will be held the Friday before spring break, March 9, 2012. Last year's event raised \$33,000! After a brief summary of what HWAT is, Lorrie reported that we will begin to send out the Business Sponsor Letters in October and that the first parent information packets will go out in January.

5K: Janelle- It was noted that last year's HWAT Fundraising Kick-Off Event, "The Harper 5K", raised an impressive \$6,000!! Janelle stated this year's event will be Sunday, February 26, 2012 at 2pm in the Harper Community Park. New for this year we will have Online registration, long sleeve tech tees in ladies and men's sizes for the adults and short sleeve tech tees in youth sizes. Janelle is also looking into new age

group medals and overall awards for this year.

Book fair: Amanda Bennett was unable to attend but sent the following information. The Fall Book Fair will be Tues. Oct. 11th-Thurs. 13th from 7:30am-3:30pm and will be open in the evening until 7:30pm during Family Fun Night. Set up is on Monday the 10th, time TBD. Volunteers are always needed. Previous Committee Chair, Toi Love, reiterated how important it is that Volunteers help run the event, and that it is a great way to get to know other parents, staff, and kids at school. An email Flyer will be going out soon with information on both the Book Fair and Family Fun Night. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Amanda at: amanbenne@yahoo.com

Family Fun Night: This year's Committee Chair, Diane, said that plans are under way for a different type of event from previous years. We are planning on a Board Game themed event, with age appropriate games at several stations. We are also planning for a Wii Station, a Lego Creation Station, and a toddler area so even the littlest kiddos can take part in the fun! We will have Random Drawings for prizes throughout the event as well as prizes for winners of individual games. There will be food served in the Elementary Cafeteria starting at 5:30pm similar to last year, Hot dogs, Frito Pie and Free Desserts. Family Fun Night will be Oct. 12th directly after the Oct. PTO meeting from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Games will be held in the HS Cafeteria. Volunteers are needed for both the Concessions area and the Game stations. Interested Volunteers please contact Diane at: diane_delery@hotmail.com.

Home Room Coordinator: Lorrie has offered to get the Room Parent names to teachers so they will know which parents are able to help in their classrooms. Lorrie mentioned that since each Teacher has their own way of handling class parties, field trips, etc. it is always a good idea to ask the teacher directly if there is anything you can help with.

Public Relations: Diane wanted to remind PTO Members and HISD staff that our email system requires individuals to add "@groupvine.com" to their safe senders list if they want to receive PTO emails, and that "Diane Earhart" is still the sender name for this year if you see it in your "Junk" or "Spam" box. If members DO NOT wish to receive PTO emails, please click "unsubscribe" to have your name removed from this list. She then reminded members that we will be updating the PTO page on the school website regularly so please check there for information if you choose not to receive email updates and reminders. Also, we are working on a Monthly Newsletter for this year, so if anyone has any information they might like to include, please send it to Diane at: diane_delery@hotmail.com. Finally, she asked that those on Facebook "like" Harper PTO since we will be using this service more this year for events and PTO related information.

New Business:

A fundraising opportunity was offered through a PTO member regarding the selling of Stadium Seats/Cushions. Since PTO's only Fundraiser is the HWAT Event, the information was passed along to Project Graduation, and will be sent to the Booster Clubs as well to see if they are able to offer this service.

Our PTO Today Members Plus Benefits Code is 00YC30. PTO Today is the company that our PTO uses for up-to-date PTO related business matters, fundraising, and all sorts of great ideas for volunteering in our organization. Please check them out online at: www.ptotoday.com

OLD BUSINESS:

The replacement soccer nets that PTO purchased over the summer are being worked on so that they are in compliance with playground safety regulations.

The Teacher Wish Lists are being created and filled! Thank You, Teachers and Parents for taking part in this PTO Today service. Visit: www.teacherwishlist.com for more information.

Announcements:

Our "Honorable Mention" certificate for PTO Today's "2011 Parent Group of the Year" has arrived. Way To Go PTO!!

Grants funded this school year to date: Kinder tables, Concession Stand Hot Plate, Spanish Dictionaries, Learning Lab Curriculum, Soccer Nets, Elementary PE equipment, and basketballs for playground.

We have received many "Thank You's" for the new benches on the playground, as well as for the great job our Book Fair Committee continues to do in running the Scholastic Book Fairs each semester.

Janelle asked about the PTO's options regarding placing plaques or name plates on items for recognition for things around the school that have been funded by PTO. The PTO Officers said that they are looking into possibilities at this time and will keep the group posted. Then the floor was open for discussion on possible other ways to get the word out about our PTO good works as in the monthly newsletters, local and school newspapers, etc.

Jenny then read the list of PTO Events for the year and reminded everyone that the next meeting would be immediately before Family Fun Night in the Elem. Cafeteria at 4pm.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:49pm.

PTO Events:

- Fall Book Fair: Oct. 11-13th
- Family Fun Night: Oct 12th, 5:30-7:30pm
- UIL Concessions: Dec. 8th
- Senior Fin/Aid Meeting: February 2012
- Harper 5K: Feb. 26, 2012, 2pm-Harper Park
- 2012 HWAT: March 2012
- Spring Book Fair: TBD
- Teacher Appreciation Week: May 2012
- End of Year Appreciation Luncheon: June 2012