**ASKEW ELEMENTARY**

**PTO MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 11, 2017**

**Executive Board Members Present**

Anna Heinzelmann - President

Sabrina Nedwed - Treasurer

Brandie Horton – VP Volunteers

Elvia Akhtar– VP Membership

Azalia Mohammed – VP Fundraising

Gretchen Ducoing – Corresponding Secretary

**Comments by PTO President**

* Introduction of 2017-2018 PTO Board Members
* Donations received from PTO in Colorado and from a GoFund account established by North Carolina

*Thank you cards need to be written*

* Spirit Nights – Chick-fil-A will be held on 10/19. 5guys will be held on 11/2.

**Comments by Principal Cumby**

* Current Askew enrollment is 871.
* School year projected enrollment was 882.
* At start of school year, enrollment was down 120 students from the 2017-2018 projected enrollment due Hurricane Harvey. As a result, there was a $250K reduction/payback to HISD from the Askew budget. The reduction was addressed by the following two items: (a) Two teachers (Mr. Oh and Ms. Ray – 3rd and 4th grade) were reassigned to other schools in the district; and (b) an additional Pre-K class was opened at Askew with Ms. Ulhaque reassigned to this class from a kindergarten class.
* Askew is currently considered a HUB school meaning that overflow from other schools in the district could be directed here. Askew is only down 11 students from the project enrollment.
* Construction update: Phase I is 60% complete – construction of the new building is on target to finish by the end of the current school year. The existing buildings will need to be vacated by 6-15-17. None of the furniture, fixtures, equipment will be transferred to new buildings; returned to HISD for use in other schools.

**Comments by HISD Board Trustee Holly Vilaseca (Holly.flynnvilaseca@houstonisd.org)**

* Discussed district priorities which includes support of 3rd/5th ward schools. District is rallying around these schools and providing wrap around services.
* Discussed activities/impacts to district/Askew from Hurricane Harvey.
* HISD received a grant to provide free meals including meals as part of after school programs.
* No delays to Askew construction as a result of the hurricane
* HISD campuses were used during the hurricane to provide transitional shelters – such as Westside/Revere. Campus also used to provide meals – such as Bush.
* HISD buses were used to provide transportation for evacuations/evacuees.

**Ikids – after school program at Askew**

Adrienne Pierce with Ikids provided an overview of the services provided by Ikids and indicated that she would like to see a deeper relationship between her organization and the Askew PTO. She indicated that Ikids can tailor the offerings at Askew to meet parent interest and can provide childcare services during PTO meetings.

**Askew Talent Show**

* The talent show will be held on 12/15.
* Tryouts will be 11/6 – 11/10
* A flyer will be sent home in next week’s Tuesday folder discussing the talent show and the relevant dates for tryouts/rehearsals/etc.

**Comments by Elvia Akhtar – PTO Membership**

* 98 families and 16 staff members have joined the PTO this year.
* The PTO membership drive will end on October 20th.
* Ms. Calhoun’s class (5th grade) leads the school in membership with Ms. Arriaga (Kindergarten) in second place. The winning class with receive a popsicle party.
* The PTO skate night will be held on 10/27 from 5- 8 at the Dairy Ashford roller rink. Admission is free for PTO members. There will be a charge for skate rental.
* We have approximately 500 families at Askew. A historical high for PTO family membership is approximately 220.
* Ms. Cumby will set up automated calls to Askew families discussing the PTO Membership drive.

**Box Tops – Candy Lillibridge**

* The Fall box tops collection date is October 25th. Box tops can be sent in envelope or on flyer sent home in Tuesday folder. Label with child’s name/teacher name.
* Class with largest collection will receive a party.
* Goal is to raise $1,000 for the year. Each box top earns 10 cents for school
* Box tops are found on many items that you use every day.
* Candy could use help counting/sorting box tops.

**Comments by Azalia Mohammed – PTO Fundraising**

PTO has begun brainstorming efforts to identify fundraising activities for the 2017-2018. If you have any ideas, please relay to Azalia at 713-304-5361 or atbenjamin@yahoo.com.

**Comments by Brandi Horton – PTO Volunteers**

* Open positions exist for Recording Secretary and for Parliamentarian.
* In addition, need assistance with the 5th grade moving on activities.

**Comments by Sabrina Nedwed – PTO Treasurer**

* Currently, PTO is on budget.
* Funds were spent this year on the Teacher back to school breakfast and to provide each teacher with $100 for school supplies

**Comments by Chuck Sears – West Houston ATA Martial Arts**

West Houston ATA Martial Arts supports the Askew PTO by donating the proceeds received from the following two offerings:

* Current sign-up special -- $57 for 1st month’s training and uniform
* Anti-bullying sessions - $15 /$10 for additional siblings

**Questions/Comments**

Question regarding whether PTO website is updated with all information (dates, etc) covered at the meeting? *Pending item to ensure that the website is up to date. Consider including a link from PTO website to facebook page.*