

ROE PTO General Board Meeting Minutes for October 14th, 2009

Meeting was brought to order at 7:06pm

Minutes

TOPIC: Welcome and Introductions

SPONSOR: Diane Cimino

- Diane Cimino introduced herself to the group and welcomed parents to the general PTO meeting. She introduced the PTO Board members.

TOPIC: Auction Update

SPONSOR: Frances Moore-Jones

- Frances discussed the upcoming auction at the Houston Club and encouraged parents to buy their tickets. She passed around a ticket sales form. The auction is the largest fundraiser in support of the PTO, accomplishing its budget goals. It's also the largest parent social of the year. There will be a live and silent auction with music, food and refreshments provided.
- Regina Burns talked about raising money for the Nature Center through Raise the Paddle and outlined many of the proposed changes.

TOPIC: Grade Speed Presentation

SPONSOR: Janet Laurell and Becca Pfeifer

- Janet Laurell gave a brief overview of what Grade Speed is and how useful it will be for parents. She presented a slideshow on how to log on and set up your username and password.
- Becca Pfeifer stressed that all your information must be the same as the information that HISD has on file or the system will not allow you access.
- Parents should contact the front office if they have trouble creating an account. They should contact Ms. Laurell or Ms. Pfeifer, the Grade Speed Reps, if there are questions regarding the software.
- Ms. Shenker logged on to her son's account in order to demonstrate the types of useful information you can gather from Grade Speed.

TOPIC: SchoolHouse Partners

SPONSOR: Mike Heinzman

- Mr. Heinzman gave an overview of his company, SchoolHouse Partners. They prescreen and recommend select service providers and when a ROE parent uses these companies, his rebate program will donate 20% of all paid invoices back to our school.

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TOPIC: Traffic and Safety Update

SPONSOR: Susan Shenker

- Ms. Shenker discussed the need for a new car rider pickup procedure for grades K-1. She distributed a map to illustrate the new procedure which will go into effect possibly in November. The map shows car pickup will happen in the bus lanes off of San Felipe and the buses will pickup from the circle drive.
- Ms. Shenker stressed that we need to plan a more systematic approach to our pickup procedure. In accordance with this, Ms. Shenker noted that she would like more of a separation between cars, buses and walkers.
- HISD has done a traffic study and she is soliciting input from parents and staff on ways to improve our pickup procedure.
- Morning drop off is currently not a problem due to staggered drop-off times and that will remain the same
- In response to several parent's suggestions, Ms. Shenker stated that parents concerns and ideas will be listened to and they should email her or members of the Traffic and Safety Committee.
- HISD police officer Robert Mock was in attendance and took questions from the audience.

TOPIC: Personal Safety Seminar

SPONSOR: Richard Bloome

- Mr. Bloome presented multiple strategies for self defense and offered advice on how to protect oneself while avoiding potentially dangerous situations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.