

# **Energy Institute High School PTO**

## **May 23, 2018 – General Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting called to order by** Shelley Nadel at 8:41 AM, EIHS Sync Spot

**Attendance:** Shelley Nadel, Bendi Saindon, Anne Geyer, Kathy Kehn, Jennie Biggs, Jane Shoppell, Charlotte Procter, Rita Bergers, Patricia & Jeff Laughlin, Sarah Levit, Esther Obando, Rachel Lowe, Noelle MacGregor, Kathy Kahanek, Niki Deltz Joel Abramowitz, Sarah Carpentieri-Asbury, Diana Crossley, Charisse Mayer, Lori Lambropoulous, Consuelo Cabrera, Liliana Diaz, Maureen McNamara

**I. WELCOME AND PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Shelley discussed history & success of our first Auction (\$16,000) and thanked organizers. We have a good foundation for move to new building.

**II. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Treasurer** – (Balance Sheet & Profit & Loss reports attached) Kathy Kahanak highlighted our fundraisers this year, including Chik Fil-A, the tour of our new campus, business matching donations, etc. It was noted that the leased Printer Kiosk has not been used as much as we had anticipated (Noelle said it was down for some time but move to new building should help). Jane suggested re-evaluating its usefulness at some point next year to make sure it’s still a good use of our money. Shelley will check the lease terms. PTO will also re-evaluate water support project. Sarah Levit announced that many parents donated food and gift cards to Teacher Appreciation Week. Kathy also highlighted teacher grants (\$100 gift cards) fall & spring, reviewed & explained Balance Sheet. We agreed that we want to continue being fiscally responsible and maintain a reserve.

**III. OLD BUSINESS – Parent Advisory Committee** – Shelley explained that the PTO & PTO meetings double as Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and PAC meetings.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS: 2018-2019 Executive Board & Committee Chairs** – Shelley introduced the candidates for Executive Board. Jane motioned to hold vote; Jennie seconded the motion. Shelley briefly introduced each candidate. Motion to accept slate; motion seconded.

2018-2019 Executive Board:

**President** – Bendi Saindon;

**President-Elect** – Sarah Carpentieri-Asbury

**Treasurer** – Kathy Kahanek

**Secretary** – Anne Geyer

**Parliamentarian** – Kathy Kehn

2018-2019 Committee Chairs:

**Fundraising** – Charisse Mayer & Patricia Laughlin (CFA)

**Marketing/Communication** – Sarah Levit

**Hospitality** – Becky McGlothlin & Diana Crossley

**Spirit Store** – Amber Hoffman & Susan Rakestraw

**Volunteer Coordinator** – Virginia Lozano

**Membership** – Michelle Guzman-Campos

**Deposit Coordinator** – Fanny Zachariah

**Carpool Coordinator** – Beckye Levin Gross

Bendi invited attendees to let her know if they have an interest in leading & volunteering for any other areas of activity.

**V. ADMINISTRATION REPORT:** Lori Lambropoulos discussed the impact of HISD Budget cuts and the challenges they present.

-- **Transition to new building** is going well. Boxes will be moved to new school on July 9 (Lori will let us know if there is anything parents or students can do to help with packing.) Grand opening celebration will be in September.

-- **PTO lockers:** Shelley asked about where our lockers will go in new building. Lori is still looking at the spaces. Patricia Laughlin needs to be included in conversation about where chips & cookies will be stored.

-- **Safety:** Bendi asked about school safety measures (following Santa Fe HS shooting). Lori said a team of risk managers has already looked at the new building. We need to decide how safe we really want our school to be (metal detector, one single entrance, etc.). Student parking will be in safest part of lot. Decisions are being made in conjunction with safety experts. There are five times as many cameras at new school.

-- **Psychological help for students:** A concerned parent inquired about psychological services offered by the school for those having difficulty processing the recent school shooting in Santa Fe, TX. Rachel Lowe suggested programs for the kids about respect among students, (bullying,) etc. Lori is looking into a community program called Psych on Site. Shelley suggested the "No Place for Hate" program of the Anti-Defamation League. Our president-elect, Dr. Sarah Carpentieri-Asbury, a licensed neuropsychologist, said she has been working with survivors and family members at Santa Fe HS. She said she would be happy to help any members of the Energy family who are having difficulty with the event.

-- **Top School Needs Now:** Shelley asked what are the top five needs for the school. Lori discussed current problems of District with respect to budget/financing. Lori said she appreciates mindfulness of PTO wanting funds to benefit entire school but sometimes certain needs arise for a certain grade. Some current critical needs are: 1) Freshman camp, which is a big part of our school culture for incoming students, teachers & 50-60 upperclassmen go and help. 2) Stipends for teachers to come during summer to work and get supplies before first week of school (24 teachers @\$300). 3) General Fund (GF1 Account), Normally she has had \$150,000 a year (this includes pay for subs, calculators, Saturday tutorials, science & engineering supplies). This coming year she will have \$64,000 in GF1. 4) Transportation is a big cost for cohorts. Nothing allocated to them yet for (Just this year, we spent over \$25,000. Joel Abramowitz asked Lori what the amount would be to cover everything. She said around \$65,000

-- **Start times:** 1) Lori explained the need for early start times for EIHS. Internships and externships need more time – this is a big part time of our program. TEA mandates they need to be in school 5 hours, internship & travel time makes this very difficult 2) Fact that students come from all over city, they get home too late. 3) Field trip experiences. Students usually need to be at destination no later than 9 AM – just getting them on the bus in time is hard. 4) She knows about the literature that says teenagers need to sleep later in the morning. She said we may rethink this for next year.

-- **Polo Shirt Donations** from graduating seniors. This can be announced. Sarah Levit also asked that we think about having freshmen (moving up to sophomore) donate their PE shirts to incoming freshmen.

-- **Breakfast for incoming freshman** leaving for the freshman camp. Can the PTO provide food for parents & kids for the day they leave on buses for camp?

-- **HISD Assessment Meeting** – Bendi attended this group by invitation. HISD's Assessment Department is taking a closer look at the amount of testing in district schools and potential overlap of data collected by these assessments. Their goal is to determine the best ways to increase instructional time while still collecting useful data to track student progress and assess curriculum. The Department welcomes parent and community feedback.

**Meeting concluded at 10:11 AM.**