

Elkins High School PTO Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

EHS Library

- **Meeting** called to order by Angelica at 6:10 pm
- **Members in Attendance:** Dolon Gundoju, Maria Pannala, Erin Sherman, Charu Shiva, Elizabeth McDermott, Naaila Sami, Anna Ramos, Mark McDermott, Sapna Badoo, Ruby Portugal, Mickey Montemayor Rosario, Ayesha Saleem, Amy Wang, Laura Najera, Elizabeth Romo, Brandi Wade, Sweta Sarolia, Feoma Ibekwe, Gabby Frausto, Sana Malik, Tressy Garcia, Arpana Dadhia, Angelica Morales
- **Quorum** was established.
- **Principal Report: Ms. Muceus (not present)**
 - Back to School Update: The school year got off to a smooth start. We did have quite a few students with concerns about their schedules, but counselors have been working diligently to get to every e-mail. It is important to remember that unless there is a mistake (like a student is sitting in French 3 but never took French 2) or if a student is in the wrong level class, we cannot change schedules. This information has been communicated since January of 2025. Several e-mails were sent in March (the week before Spring Break) with reminders to go in and verify course selections.
 - Enrollment Numbers: Current enrollment is 2859. Anticipating more next week after Labor Day.
 - New Staff: We are fully staffed! We have recently hired 3 new paraprofessionals and 2 new science teachers. Everyone should be onboarded and ready to go by next week!
 - Open House Update: We got a lot of good feedback and had a great turnout. Several parents e-mailed complimenting us on the event. It was very well attended.
 - Submitting items for announcements and library Schoology folder- how do we do that? We want students to see our flyers. Answer: There is a link in the library Schoology folder for announcement requests and if it contains a flyer, we

automatically post it on Schoology. It is under the “materials” tab on the library Schoology page.

- IXL program for SpEd paid by district (Gifting request): I asked that question to the district SpEd leaders and have not received a response. We do have a new director of SpEd and two assistant directors who are new. I will ask again and hopefully have an answer soon.

- **President Report: Angelica Morales**

- Thank you to the audit committee for submitting all paperwork.
- Please use PTO Google Drive and Google emails.
- Be sure to join PTO if you are on the PTO Board.
- Review of Roster, Year in Review and Bylaws.
- Conflict of Interest Policy with Vendors: If we are using Elkins families as vendors for the PTO, we still need to do our due diligence and get pricing from other vendors as well to make sure that we are getting the best deal. In addition, if a PTO member has a personal business or service, the PTO cannot use them as a vendor.
- Gifting Update: Teacher’s Lounge items and field house locks have been purchased.

- **Vice President Report: Laura Najera**

- Audit report completed.
- Upcoming FBEF events: PF Chang’s night, Sugar Shindig

- **Treasurer Report: Amy Wang**

- Balance is \$51,365.74. Reports were emailed to all board members.

- **Secretary Report: Nadine Skinner (not present)**

- Motion to approve July meeting minutes by Erin. Dolon seconded the motion. Everyone in favor. Motion approved.

- **Beautification Report: Vidhya Venkatesan and Tressy Garcia**

- Montex Landscaping company has agreed to donate time, plants, and services to help us makeover the front of the school building. Will make them a sponsor and advertise them. Will meet with Richard in 2nd week of September to firm up the plan.
- School Flags: Ms. Muceus will send out a survey to students to ask which flags are not represented and we will ask parents for donations for these countries.

- Courtyard: Will use beautification budge as well as student labor to revamp and clean up the courtyard. Mulch and hardy plants, plans, TBD.
 - Ms. Muceus to ask YES sponsor, Ms. Sands, if clean up can count towards YES hours.
 - We also see the need to replace some of the signs in the front of the school. Is this something PTO safety committee can take care of? We can talk about this at PTO meetings.
 - Consider doing a beautification day, one in the fall and one in the spring, where students can get hours and make our school look beautiful!
 - A hanging banner outside is on our dream wish list at this point. We will work to see if we can get some sponsors to get this.
 - We will meet with Arpana to talk about different levels of memberships for corporate sponsorships.
- **Gifting Report: Naaila Sami**
 - Mr. Schnabl: Aquatic Science equipment. Asked for \$2060. Decided to gift \$500. This will benefit 320 students. Motion to approve made by Ayesha, seconded by Naaila. All in favor, and motion approved.
 - Ms. Radhakrishnan: AP Bio lab equipment. Asked for \$878.59. Decided to give \$435. This will benefit 154 students. Motion to approve made by Ayesha, seconded by Naaila. All in favor, and motion approved.
 - Ms. Isaac/Rodriguez asked for SpED IXL subscription for 20 students (\$349). We are waiting on the district to see if they will fund this item.
- **Hospitality Report: Michelle Quinteros**
 - Back to School Breakfast recap: The event on August 5th was a success! Food was provided by FBISD catering with a complete breakfast, churros, and beverages (orange juice and hot coffee) included. We also provided water. Four ballon decorations were made by Michelle. Michelle also bought bananas and tangerines. She doesn't need to be reimbursed for those items. Tables and the rest of the decorations were provided by Ms. Muceus, creating a cheerful atmosphere for everyone. The teachers were all very pleased, and all of our volunteers arrived on time and helped things run smoothly. Thank you for all of your dedication! While drop off donations collected were lower than expected, we still raised \$260 from Zelle. Amy may confirm this amount, and we had a little extra food which was shared with the custodians. Overall, it was a positive event that set a welcoming tone for our teachers as they begin the school year.

Michelle wants to extend her gratitude to everyone who contributed and supported us in making it happen.

- **Membership Report: Arpana Dadhia and Laila Tharani**

- As of August 24th, we have raised \$11,740 with a total of 65 faculty members becoming PTO members.
- Moving forward, will try to give gifting chair a report of faculty donations which can help her see if the teacher who is requesting grants is a PTO member or not.

- **Pizza Report: Maria Pannala and Brandi Downey**

- Pizza kick-off sale on August 19th was not what we had hoped and prepared for, resulting in proceeds of only \$1722 (\$505 net) and too many leftover boxes.
- We will continue our advertising efforts and reminding parents and students via FB, Instagram, X, WhatsApp, school website, newsletter, morning announcements, and posters in school.
- Pizza on August 26th sold out, but we ordered less boxes than last week and had some issues with delivery times. But we made over \$2000 today.

- **Safety and Wellness Update: Ayesha Saleem**

- Sidewalk from Elkins to Highway 6: There is a missing sidewalk going from Elkins to Highway 6. The reason the city has not put in the sidewalk is because that piece of land was bought by a developer, and it is their responsibility now to add the sidewalk. Unfortunately, it won't go in until they have constructed there. Ms. Gina Torry from Citizens for Road Safety has graciously offered to help advocate for this issue with the appropriate authorities.
- Road Signage: Ms. Muceus will consult with Mr. Pike to determine if additional road signage is needed and where it should be placed. Once I receive her input, I will obtain a quote for the signage.
- First SHAC Meeting: The first SHAC (School Health Advisory Council) meeting for the district will be held on Wednesday, September 10, from 12 pm to 1:30 pm at the Administration Building on Lexington. The theme will be Mental Health, and guests are welcome to attend.
- February- American Heart Month: Following a discussion with Ms. Muceus, I reached out to the Kids Heart Challenge representative for our area, Ms. Ashley Avalos (American Heart Association). She shared that the district leadership is working to get high school students certified in hands-only CPR training. She is also meeting with the SHAC Student Wellness Coalition for their input. I will collaborate with Ms. Muceus to identify student-led clubs interested in

sponsoring the AHA program in February 2026 for American Heart Month. (Some suggested STUCO, NHS, Women in Medicine.) Dr. Adam Stephens, Chief Academic Officer, is exploring the possibility of awarding graduation cords to seniors who complete the Kids Heart Challenge steps. This program also offers scholarship for seniors and grant opportunities for our campus to support health and wellness initiatives.

- **Senior Report: Anna Ramos**

- Only 3 events this year and divided the budget this way: Senior Sunrise \$2300, Senior Movie Event \$2300, Senior Field Day with Sunset \$5000
- Senior Sunrise Details: Yard Sign \$145, Justin Reyes Photo Booth \$300 (waiting on invoice), 4 security guards \$400 (waiting on invoice), Billy's Donuts \$320, Starbucks donated. Total is \$1135. Remaining balance is \$1135. Amazon (paint, sunglasses, markers, tablecloths) cost \$535.43. Anna donated the large canvas for the hand prints. That leaves the original budget with \$599.57 plus \$665 in monetary donations from the senior parents. Total of \$1264.57 left. Anna does need to send in a Sam's list that she can pick up curbside if someone would order it.

- **Shared Dreams Report: Dolon Gundaju**

- Connected with Bobbi Anderson for what they need for our spring drive. We will be focusing on deodorant, toilet paper, and toothpaste.
- Target week for spring drive in March 2nd through March 11th (before spring break).
- Ms. Guidry (student council sponsor) confirmed that they would like to partner in spring drive this year.
- Students will receive student council hours not YES hours for participating.
- Parents will be able to help with spring drive too.
- Our campus Shared Dreams dates are March 3rd and 4th.

- **Student Hospitality Report: Afshan Qureshi and Gabriela Frausto**

- Knight Fest/Welcome Back event recap: Great event! It was hard to tell who was an Elkins student. There were too many cookies and Gatorades left. Next time should get water too. There were about 8 cases left of Gatorades. Gabriela said the Gatorades were going to be stored, but Afshan sent a text to Angelica and Bhavna saying she donated them to the coach, with the intent that they are for student use. Angelica added that we need to be mindful of our funds; it is our job to use the money wisely. In the future, we need to make sure that the PTO keeps

any unopened, non-perishable items so that they can be used for a future PTO event. It was also mentioned that we should find the best priced provider for everything we want to do.

- **Sunshine Report: Pallavi Rungta Goel**

- The birthday poster is ready, but is still working on getting donations. She has been to Kroger, and they asked her to send a proposal. However, the manager mentioned that they have certain limits.
- Pallavi thinks we need a small budget for the committee.
- We can do something simple like a granola bar and a sack of chips. We can buy from Sam's or Costco.
- She wanted to know who to ask for the birthday list. It was mentioned to ask Ms. Turner for the birthday list.

- **Publicity/Website Report: Erin Sherman and Shefali Patel**

- We have a new PTO Instagram account
- Posting platforms: X, Instagram, FB, website
- Erin has updated the website.
- Newsletter updates to be sent to Shefali on Tuesdays at publicity@elkinspto.org.

- **VIPS Report: Charu Shiva and Liz McDermott**

- FBISD had a VIPS Kickoff Meeting on August 19th. Meeting takeaways: Submit all outside/off-campus volunteer hours, recognize volunteer with highest number of hours each month, follow up with booster clubs and their volunteer hours, all volunteers must be background checked, reach out to Collaborative Communities (Bobbie Anderson) for campus needs.
- Link to report volunteer hours:
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=QWJ9SRo5d0KRrL3SqZ9wVDFan0t-6R9DvD3FUyW4kl9UNkswRjZYQVo5M1QxSktNTDEzV0czMFBYRCQIQCNjPTEu&route=shorturl>
- Message from Superintendent: Last week, we proudly welcomed more than 79,000 students back for the 2025-26 school year- and celebrated the opening of three brand-new, state-of-the-art elementary campuses! Fort Bend ISD has earned a "B" rating from the Texas Education Agency's A-F Accountability Rating System- a full letter-grade improvement from last year's "C." This achievement reflects the incredible dedication and hard work of our students, educators, and staff. Here are a few impactful ways you can support our students; Mentor a

student or share your experience on Career Day, Advertise with the district and reach a broad audience, Donate materials or student incentives to enhance learning, Sponsor a school or district event, Join a district committee and help shape our future.

- **New Business**

- Arpana wants to buy a gift card for Mr. Pike for his help during Knight Fest. She will work with Student Hospitality so they can share the cost.

- **Up Next**

- Senior Sunrise: 8/29
- No School- Labor Day: 9/1
- PTO Meeting, 6 pm: 9/16
- No School- Ft. Bend County Fair Day: 9/26

- **Meeting** adjourned at 7:35 pm