

Elkins HS PTO Meeting
Elkins High School, Missouri City TX
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024

- Meeting called to order by Nadine Skinner at 6:31pm.
- Welcome/Members in attendance: Nadine Skinner, Maria Pannala, Stephanie Fermin, Sana Malik, Charu Shiva, Dolon Gundoku, Tanisha Crawford, Elizabeth McDermott, Erin Sherman, Beza Tsegaye, Arpana Dadhia, Scott Campbell, Naaila Sami, Angelica Morales, Amy Wang, Afshan Qureshi, Richi Chaudhry, Laura Najera, Ana Apolinar, Sandy Li, Zehra Khan, Jyoti Sandana, Debra Ealy, Vidhya Venkatesan, Michelle Quinteros
- Parliamentarian- Sana Malik
 - Quorum reached
- Principal Report- Mr. Campbell (Associate AP)
 - Celebrations- Band got an award, Orchestra got national honors, EHS has 11 National Merit Scholars
 - Staff- 125 teachers, 225 staff. New CCR counselor: Mrs. Harris, new attendance clerk: Mrs. Najera, new SS teacher: Mrs. Ranger, new Science teacher: Mr. Green, new CTE teacher: Mrs. Asouin, new para: Mrs. Routh
 - NWEA- new assessments from the district about to start, interventions will be assessed from the data, Jr and Sr Peer Tutoring about to start
 - PR2 comes out on Friday and will impact UIL eligibility
 - Fall sports underway- football, volleyball, water polo, tennis, cross country
 - Volunteering needs- Mrs. Marlow needs help with laminating posters
 - Homecoming- Oct. 26th, Mrs. Guidry will reach out with StuCo for any needs
 - Pep Rally Questions- could the dates be posted ahead of time for the entire year? Can the beneficiaries of the fundraisers be posted in flyers and newsletter so that parents know who benefits?
 - Cheating Questions- happening in classes, specifically AP classes, teachers and admins aware, teachers create multiple tests, browsers locked, other measures in place, but students are savvy. Incidents are reported and students receive consequences in accordance to district policy
 - Sunshine Committee plans to meet with admins for lifecycle events
 - Damages to bathrooms reported, work orders are put in by the custodians
 - PTO purchased flags last year for the Cheerleaders, are they being used?
- President Report- Nadine Skinner
 - 3 PTO board members have not become PTO members, please do so ASAP
 - Please contact Jason Karam, our new AP for newsletter items.
jason.karam@fortbendisd.gov

- Newsletters are sent out Sundays at 6pm
- Vice President Report- Laura Najera
 - Lourdes, our head custodian, is getting married. Laura is taking a collection if anyone would like to donate for a wedding gift
- Treasurer Report- Amy Wang
 - Google workspace is set up, setting up account for emails
 - Kroger donations from May 26th-August 24th: \$83.33
 - Go Daddy renewal coming up
 - Budget sent via email to board members
 - Current balance: \$47,519.25 Income: \$20, 471.26 Expenses: \$4,456.48
 - Paid \$295 for football decals, from Coach Grimes' request
 - Will reimburse teachers for Formative program when they subscribe, as approved by PTO last month
- Secretary- Angelica Morales
 - Approval of August meeting minutes: Sana makes a motion to approve, Dolon seconds the motion, all vote to approve, none opposed, none abstained.
 - Sugar Shindig is Oct 25th, tickets on sale
- Gifting- Naaila Sami
 - Mr. Martinez- 20 cases of water for ISS classroom, will impact 120 students, Arpana offered to donate
 - Mrs. Pearson- TI Inspire calculators for room in Math Village, 10 with charging stations, cost is \$1498.90. Mrs. Muceus is looking to see if school budget can fund this.
 - Lourdes- pressure washer, cost is \$1750, currently have to request one from the district but don't have it for long enough to get all the areas that need cleaning. Mrs. Muceus felt it was too expensive and would take most of our gifting budget. Beautification will look into other possibilities.
- VIPS- Charu Shiva and Nakia Allen
 - EHS VIPS of the Month—for August 2024 is Ms. Stephanie Butera
 - Here's the report from the VIPS committee for August 2024.
 - We had a great start at the kick-off meeting. We had 3 guest speakers from the district.
 - Dr. Jaretha Jordan, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
 - Topic: Lead the PAC

Professionalism – Striving for our best each day and ensuring professionalism in all that we do

Accountability – Staying true to our word and wanting to know when we miss the mark

Communication – We cannot fix what we do not know; therefore, we ask that our community stay engaged and connected

- [Bart Rosebure](#), Executive Director Emergency Mgt & Lss

Topic: School Safety

All safety drills are scheduled at the beginning of each year

Do not prop doors open even if it is easier for your task

Campuses are checked regularly for safety

- [Dr. Damian Viltz](#), - Chief Operating Officer

Topic: Building Adaptation and the Process

Changes made to the interior or exterior of a campus (i.e., beautification projects, benches, playground equipment, murals, etc.) require a building modification to be submitted by the campus and approved before the work is done. A building modification is required if it did not come with the school's original plans.

Receive approval for a project before raising external funding

When in doubt, ask for guidance

- **General Topics**
“B” STARS

[Background checks](#) – all volunteers need them

Strategy – Plan in advance – Volunteer coffees, activities, emails, social media posts.

[Tracking](#) - off-campus volunteer hours that are not captured by Raptor (Raptor is the District's system that confirms background checks have been completed. When you check in at the campus as a 'volunteer' and receive a white sticker with your name on it, you have used Raptor)

Ambassadors – You are a unique group that receives District information to take back to the campus volunteers and your communities.

Review your guidebook – This will help keep you on track month-to-month (Please see attached guidebook for reference)

Support – Payal, Bobbie, and Reba have over 40 years of experience with the District. If they do not know the answer, they will connect you with the resources and help find the answer to support your efforts.

- **Support for Teachers to Support Students**

- BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse**

- <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:us:b655e574-ad4d-40d1-8e05-f08cf712d0d8>

- The restaurant is offering teachers an opportunity to request 120 Awesome Achievement Awards as incentives for students to receive a free Pizookie. Please share this with your campus teachers.

- **Friendly Reminders/Resources:**

- Volunteer Hours:** <https://forms.office.com/r/7WDDCxdH4>

- Background check:** fortbendisd.com/criminalbackgroundcheck

- Emails:**

- Jaretha.Jordan@fortbendisd.gov

- Bart.Rosebure@fortbendisd.gov

- Damian.Viltz@fortbendisd.gov

- Membership- Arpana Dadhia and Laila Tharani
 - \$606 memberships not yet paid, \$18,810 paid. We have more than 200 members.
 - 73 staff members, 13 not yet paid
 - 3 PTO board members still outstanding
 - Membership drive extended until Sept 29th, please share
- Pizza- Bhavna Bindal and Maria Pannala
 - Pizza sales have been doing well. A lot more students this year so it has been a learning curve to adjust pizza sales. But we are trying our best.
 - So far pizza sales net has been: \$3826.12 for 4 sales days up to 9/10/24
 - Please discuss buying a mobile cupboard for PTO storage. My vote is yes and I can help look for cupboards.
 - Just FYI- One PTO parent with pizza pass brought up this issue: Parent thought that if they buy pizza pass for their student, the students gets to cut pizza line completely. She did not understand that we serve both sides. We have always done this. We serve 1 kid on each side and do not stop sales completely on the regular side to be fair. The argument was that members paid \$250 so those kids should be served first. We understand that thought, BUT the students get to cut the line and get served faster, but we cannot completely stop the other side. It would be inefficient and students need all the time they can get to eat.
- Hospitality- Michelle Quinteros
 - Will host lunch for Custodians in October for Custodian Appreciation Day

- Social Media and Website- Erin Sherman and Shefali Patel
 - Volunteer hours link is shared on website and Facebook
 - Keep sending in items for distribution
 - Info can also be shared on Membership Toolkit

- Beautification- Beza Tsegaye
 - Will work on landscaping improvements
 - Asked about sports banners- coaches order those and have them put up during season
 - Will look into benches from the Eagle Scouts
 - Project Overview: As part of the Beautification Committee, I have developed a detailed plan to enhance our school's appearance and school spirit. My goal is to create a more welcoming and vibrant environment that everyone can enjoy. I've identified five key projects that can be completed within our \$2,000 budget.
 - Project Breakdown:
 1. Flag Additions and Upgrades:
 - Description: Add new flags to key areas and replace the existing American flag with a larger, more prominent one to improve the school's visual appeal.
 - Estimated Cost: \$100
 - Potential Vendors: Local flag supplier, Amazon, or Home Depot
 2. Girls' Volleyball Team Banner:
 - Description: Create a large banner for the cafeteria that prominently features the girls' volleyball team, addressing the current lack of representation.
 - Action Item: Contact the volleyball coaches to select the best team picture.
 - Estimated Cost: \$200
 - Potential Vendor: Local print shop
 3. Exterior Pressure Washing:
 - Description: Clean the exterior of the school, focusing on the front entrance to refresh the building's appearance.
 - Estimated Cost: \$700
 - Potential Vendor: Professional cleaning service
 4. Bench Installation:
 - Description: Install benches in outdoor areas for students and staff to use during waiting periods.
 - Estimated Cost: \$700
 - Potential Vendor: Local outdoor furniture supplier
 5. Landscaping Improvements:
 - Description: Plant new flowers and shrubs around the front of the school to enhance curb appeal and bring more greenery to the environment.
 - Estimated Cost: \$300

- potential Volunteers: Y.E.S program students and PTO members Total Estimated Cost: \$2,000
 - Timeline:
 - Weeks 2-4: Complete flag project and banner creation.
 - Weeks 6-12: Schedule and carry out pressure washing.
 - Weeks 12-24: Begin bench installation and landscaping projects.
 - Fundraising and Volunteer Opportunities:
 - Partner with the Y.E.S. program for student volunteers in the gardening and cleaning efforts.
 - Explore fundraising initiatives such as a sponsor-a-bench program or plant sale.
 - Future Proposal: Name Stickers for Drop-Offs

Instead of using tape and paper signs in the front office for drop-offs, I propose switching to name stickers. This would provide a cleaner, more professional look. However, since this will be a consumable item, it won't be a fixed cost and will require ongoing expenses to replenish the supply as needed.

- Ideas to Consider:
 - Look into purchasing name stickers in bulk to reduce costs.
 - Set up a small budget line for ongoing supplies like name stickers.
 - Consider reaching out to local businesses for sponsorships or donations to cover supply costs.
 - Next Steps:
 6. Seek approval from the Executive Board.
 7. Adjust based on any feedback.
 8. Begin project implementation once approval is granted.
 9. Provide regular progress updates to the PTO and the school community.
 - Budget Breakdown:
 - Flag Additions and Upgrades: \$100 (5%)
 - Girls' Volleyball Team Banner: \$200 (10%)
 - Exterior Pressure Washing: \$700 (35%)
 - Bench Installation: \$700 (35%)
 - Landscaping Improvements: \$300 (15%)
- Shared Dreams- Dolon Gundoju
 - Hosted a kickoff call with parents
 - Had an in-person meeting with Student Council, collecting peanut butter, corn, green beans, canned chicken and tuna, and fruit cups
 - Confirmed fall drive dates Nov 12-19
 - Anyone can volunteer at Shared Dreams on Tuesdays and Thursdays, students can volunteer once a month link is on website,
 - Feb 25 and 26 are EHS shared dreams dates for parent volunteers

- Senior Committee- Sandy Li
 - Senior Sunrise was a success, about 450 students
 - Movie Night up next
- Safety- Ayesha Saleem
 - Would like to change the name of the committee from Safety to “*Wellness and Safety*”, to incorporate the work of SHAC and Student Wellness Coalition.
- YES Program- Vydhya Venkatesan
 - Emailed Ms. Sands- Schoolinks is the platform we will be using this year and all students already have access as this is a district program. They use their standard ID and password to log in just as they would to 1Link . Students have already begun to upload the information. Ms. Sands is also sorting through and organizing all hard copies so they can be returned and uploaded as well.
 - Whenever she needs any PTO help then she will reach out
- Comments/Further Discussion:
 - None
- Next PTO meeting is Tuesday, October 22nd at 6:30pm in the library
- Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm