



FISD SPECIAL EDUCATION PTO

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: 402 LAUREL DRIVE, TRAINING ROOM #2

DATE: 8/27/2024 & 8/30/2024

TIME: 6:30 PM & 12:00 PM

AGENDA ITEMS

I. LEADERSHIP REPORTS

a) FISD Admin's Report > Dahria Driskell

- i) The 2024-2025 School Year launch has been smooth. There's been a reorg and lots of training. Facilitators are rising to meet the needs of our kiddos. We know have Elementary and Secondary Coordinators.
- ii) TEA has reached out to 206 districts to participate in a funding pilot. They want to gather data on what services districts receive in an effort to determine what funding to fight for at January's State Legislature discussion. The last time it was changed was 1987.
- iii) Dyslexia shifted in the State of Texas to Special Education. ARD Committee would have these discussions.
- iv) Inclusive Playgrounds have shifted to the broader district. Architects are reviewing ways to expand in order to work with all students.
- v) Oct 5th from 8am to 12pm – Joint district Parent Expo scheduled for Pearland, Alvin and Friendswood. Multiple vendors in the cafeteria covering various topics including Behavior, Transition, Dyslexia, and more.

b) President's Report > George James

- i) George provided a handout with the Clear Creek monthly events. It's good to learn about events at other districts.
- ii) We have restructured the Committees this year. We combined the Fundraising, Events and Volunteers into one committee called Fundraising and Events.

c) Vice President's Report > Kristen Westerfield

- i) Kristen began doing research on what Parent Liaisons do in other PTO organizations.
- ii) Kristen gave us an overview of the FISD Cares presentation that took place recently
- iii) **Action:** Kristen will reach out to the representative about speaking at one of our evening meetings.

d) Treasurer's Report > Otto Aceituno presented by George James

- i) We finalized our budget for 2024-2025 over the summer. We reviewed the budget during both meetings.
- ii) **Vote:** Attendees voted to accept the Proposed Budget. There was discussion to vote later in the year to donate profit to areas that will directly help our Special Education programs and staff.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Nominating Committee

- i) This year we are putting together our nominating committee at the beginning of the year to help fill roles throughout the year. This committee will help fill all Executive Board roles, Committee Chairs, and now also adding a Co-Treasurer and Co-Secretary role.
- ii) We would like to add two more members to the Nominating Committee that can represent older elementary/junior high age.
- iii) **Vote:** Attendees from both meetings unanimously voted in Elizabeth Ellisor, Ceanna Huggins and Erica Ortiz to this committee.
- iv) **Action:** Dahria will help us identify a Staff Representative
- v) **Action:** Julie will prepare a Google form to distribute to all members to use for nominating individuals.

b) Membership > Lin Huang (Acting)

- i) We are looking for volunteer to Chair the Membership Committee.
- ii) We've received a couple new members.
- iii) **Action:** Julie to confirm new members are included in the email distributions and Group Me.

c) Communications > Julie Romero (Acting)

- i) We are looking for a volunteer to Chair the Communications Committee.
- ii) Website has been updated with the new 2024-2025 meeting schedule. We also added a new Store to the website. We're currently selling T-Shirts but expect to add more in the future.
- iii) Julie plans to reach out to the High School Business Professional or Information Technology instructors to see if they have a student or two that might want volunteer hours to help with flyers and maintain the website.
- iv) **Action:** Julie to contact the FISD webmaster about adding information about our PTO to each campus website.

d) Fundraising & Events > OPEN

- i) We need a volunteer to Chair the Fundraising & Events Committee.
- ii) This year we want to focus on fundraising to help the Transition Center, TEC and more special education grants and programs
- iii) For events we want to plan Christmas and Spring socials. For Christmas we thought we could skip meetings and only focus on the social.
- iv) Fundraising Ideas – We had many new fundraising ideas presented and discussed:
 - (1) Christmas Social Fundraiser – (Kristen) we could have food vendors, petting zoo, and other activities
 - (2) Visitor Side Concession Stands – (Karen) we agree to sign up for Sep 27th to work the visitor concession stands. We need a minimum of 10 volunteers.
 - (3) Pancake Breakfast – (Allie) we could coordinate a pancake breakfast where the kids can even help and participate. We would sell tickets in advance.
 - (4) Great Harvest Sprit Night – (Allie) we could set up a sprit night where a portion goes towards our PTO
 - (5) Special Olympics Signs and Calendar (Liz/Julie) we could sell signs for Special Olympics but also look at doing something where we sell calendars highlighting our teams. There was discussion on the challenges around FISD having Special Olympic teams this year. We're waiting to learn more about the future state of our teams.
 - (6) Adopt-A-Grant (Julie) we could highlight a different grant on our FB and website each week

e) Hospitality > Ceanna Huggins / Erica Ortiz

- i) No new activity presented

f) Parent Resource > OPEN

- i) We need a volunteer to Chair the Parent Resource Committee.
- ii) The chair will work closely with Dahria. We would like to coordinate a Sibling Panel this year.

III. CAMPUS LIASONS REPORTS

- a) This year the parent liaisons will be the bridge between us and each Campus PTO and Campus Quest program. They will work with the campus staff. They would report any concerns, distribute information, and help attend the Campus PTO as a representative for our PTO.
- b) Elementary Schools
 - i) Cline – Allie Demers
 - ii) Westwood – Vanessa Morales
 - iii) Windsong - OPEN
- c) Intermediate and Junior High
 - i) Bales – Julie Romero
 - ii) Junior High – Kristen Westerfield
- d) High School – OPEN
- e) Transition Center – OPEN
- f) Therapeutic Education Center – OPEN
- g) Staff Liaisons
 - i) All Staff Liaisons were identified by Dahria
 - ii) **Action:** Julie to update the website with new Staff Liaisons

IV. Therapeutic Education Center Tour

- a) On Friday August 30th, we had a tour of the TEC by Principal Jamie Rogers. The TEC is an out of district program which means other districts can bring students. The center opened in August. There are currently 9 students but they have the capacity for 12. The students attending are struggling with behavior including physical aggression. The goal for TEC is to help students with behavior in order for them to return to their home campus. TEC offers a safe space which is set up to resemble what students will do at their home campus.
- b) Since the TEC is isolated, it can be challenging for staff to feel included and appreciated. Finding and keeping good staff is essential. The work for the TEC staff can be hard so we want to make sure our amazing TEC staff feels appreciated.
- c) The attendees took a brief tour of the center.

ACTION ITEMS

Kristen will reach out to the representative about speaking at one of our evening meetings.

OWNER STATUS

Kristen

Dahria will help us identify a Staff Representative	George
Julie will prepare a Google form to distribute to all members to use for nominating individuals.	Julie
Julie to confirm new members are included in the email distributions and Group Me.	Julie
Julie to contact the FISD webmaster about adding information about our PTO to each campus website.	Julie
Julie to update the website with new Staff Liaisons	Julie