

**Barton Hills Elementary PTA
Executive Board Meeting
April 14, 2008**

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Review Minutes of Previous Meeting – Mila McCutchen

The meeting was called to order at 6:38pm by Mila McCutchen.

Attendees: Mila McCutchen, Kati Achtermann, DeAnn Eisenhauer, Lisa Myers, Lynn Williamson, Catherine Dadey, Melissa Saucedo, Sarah Price, Sharon Davis-Peurrung, Becky Pursley, Celia Hagert, Ann Taylor, Jamie Kaderli

II. Secretary Notes

Reviewed minutes from March 3, 2008. Celia Hagert motioned, and Lynn Williamson Seconded. Minutes approved as is.

III. Nominations for New Board

Mila McCutchen announced that the Nominating Committee is moving forward with officer nominations: President-Tina Weaver, Vice President-Celia Hagert, Secretary-Jayme Moore, and Treasurer-DeAnn Eisenhauer.

We will have a General Assembly meeting on April 24th and vote for new officers. After the vote, there will be a Cultural Arts performance by the Steel Pan Group. It's a family event so kids are welcome. A write up on the Steel Pan Group will be included in the next newsletter and sent home in the Thursday folder.

IV. Principal's Report

Kati Achtermann let us know that Kate Watson had a baby boy last Monday night.

We've received the 3rd and 5th grade TAKS reading results and they're phenomenal. In 3rd grade 98% met proficiency with 70% of those students commended. In 5th grade 100% met proficiency with 68% of those students commended. Teachers in all grade levels should be proud of the results because they were all instrumental in these test scores. There is another round of TAKS testing at the end of April/beginning of May.

The landscaping work organized by the Landscaping Committee was wonderful and looks beautiful. Kati noted that they even cleaned up the gardens by the portables. Special thanks to The Natural Gardner for their donations, and to Bob Daemmrich for building a new picnic bench.

Again, teachers are happily overwhelmed by new computers, printers, projectors, dry erase boards, and literacy library books bought by the PTA. Kati nominated our PTA for "PTA of the Year" and we are one of this year's finalists for the award. Kati and Mila will attend the Partners in Education banquet and represent our PTA. Terri Dyer was nominated for "Teacher of the Year" and is a semi-finalist for that award. The Book Buddies program was also nominated but is not a finalist.

The School Board is holding a bond election on May 10th, split into three parts: Infrastructure & Building Maintenance, Property Acquisition, and Health, Safety, Security & Environmental Improvements. Included in the bond are five benefits to BHE: new technology, renovate and expand the adult restrooms, replace the remainder of the roof, improve site drainage, and replace the doors/framing to the gym. 2008 School Bond Election booklets were handed out. Principals can only give information about bonds, not endorse or deny bond issue. Kati encourages everyone to vote. She will provide information about the bond at the April 24th General Assembly meeting. Early voting begins April 28th.

The District has been redesigning the high school for the past few years, now working on middle schools. Handed out the draft of the Middle Level Education Plan.

Kati gave an update on the 2008-09 staff changes. Kate Watson is not returning, Stacy Maine is moving from 2nd to 3rd grade. Due to a decrease in enrollment in Special Ed, we are losing a Special Ed Resource position, currently held by Britt Adams. Kati reported that AISD procedures, based on seniority, determines which teachers stay and leave a school when a position is eliminated.

V. Standing Rule Changes

Ann Taylor reported that our new bylaws have been approved by Texas PTA. We can now prepare a budget and have it approved in May of each year.

There is a conflict with the Standing Rules regarding the Audit Committee. Our Standing Rules have been approved by Texas PTA with corrections.

Mila McCutchen announced there is an Executive Board meeting scheduled for May 12th to discuss the 2008-09 budget, and a General Assembly meeting on May 29th to approve the budget. Following the General Assembly meeting will be a volunteer parent/teacher talent show.

VI. Treasurer's Report

DeAnn Eisenhauer reported that we received a \$200 donation for the ponies for Kinder Rodeo, \$100 from Rep. Elliott Naishtat and \$100 from Rep. Valinda Bolten. We used that donation to pay for the Kinder Rodeo pony rental. Also expected to receive \$500 from the Statesman for the Junior Dillo run on March 29th. We were the only PTA who qualified for the award.

Discussed the Profit & Loss statement shows a current net loss of \$14,227. This is due to money being spent in the current year that was held over from prior fiscal years. Reviewed the items still needing to be purchased before year end. Kati Achtermann talked about spending balance of teacher development funds on a science workshop in September and books for a vertical team work study.

VII. Lego Games

Eleanour Quinn was not able to make it so Mila McCutchen talked about starting a Lego competitive program in the fall, which would focus on science. The PTA would need to spend approximately \$1,000 on games. It would be an after-school activity for kids who want to do robotics. Will charge students to participate and scholarships will be available for students in need. Karen Dulaney Smith will head the program. The concerns raised by the board are the cost of the program if there is little participation, competition with Odyssey of the Mind, and devising a recruitment strategy for participants and parent volunteers. It was agreed that more information was needed before voting on the program.

VIII. Soarin' Eagle

Mila McCutchen reported that the proposed changes to Soarin' Eagle will be presented at the May 12th Executive Board meeting, when new officers will be present. Celia Hagert stated that Lisa Kepple, a professional fundraiser, has been working on a draft and will have it ready to present at the next meeting.

Mila McCutchen talked about focusing on the percentage of participation and having levels for participation. She and DeAnn Eisenhauer announced a plan to organize a calling committee next week to call those parents who have not donated to Soarin' Eagle for 2007-08. The focus of PTA spending in the coming year is on technology, library and teacher development.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.