



Condit Elementary PTO

Minutes of the November 5, 2019 PTO meeting

Call to Order: Amira Staller called to meeting order at 6:30 p.m. in the Condit Cafeteria.

Ms. Rebecca Grazier asked members to review the October 02, 2019 meeting minutes available online. Rebecca Grazier asked for a motion to approve them into record. Jean Lee made a motion to approve the minutes and Whitney Guarisco seconded this motion. There were no opposing hands raised in the audience.

Officer Reports

Treasurer

Edie Efron distributed the current PTO budget. Carnival had another great year. Edie described how the budget is determined as a guideline for the year each summer at board meeting. There were no other major expenditures to note.

Reach for the Stars Family, Jean Lee: Jean reminded everyone that deadline has been extended to November 22nd. Close to \$43,000 collected to date with additional expected. The money raised will go towards ancillary, computers, school upgrades, and other items the district doesn't cover.

Reach for the Stars Business: Amira Staller noted that we are already past our fundraising goal.

New Business:

Carnival – Rebecca Grazier provided a recap on carnival and thanked everyone for their help in making this year's event another success.

Recycling Initiative – Amira Staller and Whitney Guarisco provided an updated on current recycling initiative. 5th grade science teacher picks up paper recycling from classroom with students and they take home to recycle. The janitorial staff also collects recycling at the school, and this is added to the dedicated dumpster onsite. The plan is to start adding bins around school for plastic and bottles, but these will also need to be taken home by students to recycle. They are working with the city to determine why recycling is not picked up at Condit.

SPARK Park – Amira Staller discussed the SPARK park and new signage added this year. Dedication is scheduled for November 18 at 1 pm and will include HISD representatives, Condit school choir, a ribbon cutting and reception. An invite was shared on Dojo and parents are encouraged to attend – students will be in class.

Gala – Amira Staller reminded everyone that we still do not have a chair to host this year. We are looking at continuing to host an online auction in place of the Gala. The goal would be to have parent and teacher-hosted experiences that parents can bid on for their students. We hope to roll this out in the new year.

PTO Holiday Party: Amira Staller mentioned that we are still looking for a family to host the PTO holiday party. They only need to provide a clean house. All food/drinks and clean up will be provided by PTO. This event is always a fun time to see parents dressed up and out without children.

Principal's Report, Dan Greenberg: Mr. Greenberg thanked everyone for coming and commented that evening meetings always have a different vibe. We currently have 781 students enrolled at Condit which is the largest student body we have ever had. Technology at Condit is not just about "plugging in" but enhances the curriculum. Our teachers can plan their lessons based on how many devices we have. PTO funds do not go towards teacher technology in classroom. Mr. Greenberg described how we are using Restorative Practices this year. It is good to struggle educationally and socially. Students learn to make small mistakes so they can learn from them such as "what harm did you cause?", "What are you going to do to make it right?". We have students from different walks of life, and this helps everyone learn how to work together. The year is flying by with Boosterthon just around the corner. If parents ever have questions about happenings within the district, please feel free to reach out directly via email. If there is ever news that impacts the school, it will be pushed out via Class Dojo.

Committee Updates

Boosterthon, Dana Cran: The race is scheduled for Thursday, November 21st. We have a pep rally on November 11th to get everyone excited. The main goal is to raise \$50,000. Last year we raised \$48,000. The structure is different this year as we have less help from the Boosterthon team but will have the opportunity to keep more of the funds raised. We hope that this will not impact the cheer/spirit provided by the daily interactions with the Boosterthon team. There will be 3 different races – the times will go out on Class Dojo and via room parents. Our fundraising focus for this year will be iPad upgrades and continued outdoor improvements. Also new this year is an added obstacle course component. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dana Cran (dana.cran@gmail.com). Additional details will be going out next week.

Book Fair, Leslie Sutin: There will be only one big book fair this year December 3-7. There will be a family night that will include a small holiday bazaar with food/ice cream trucks. This will be open to the neighborhood. The Fitness with Fathers event is on that Friday and we hope this will help encourage more attendance that morning. Another new feature will be eWallet, which will allow parents to preload funds into an account to be used by students. Additional details will follow on event and new features this year. Since Thursday, December 5th is Holiday in the Park, the team will adjust their evening event accordingly. A SignUpGenius will go out for volunteers to help set up and run the event. Set up will take place before Thanksgiving break.

5th Grade Activities and Graduation: December 19th is 5th grade trip to Camp Olympia. The 5th Grade Bake Sale is scheduled for Valentine's day. They still need 5 people to help co-chair subcommittees. Please email Sami Valentine (samivalentine@gmail.com) with any questions or interest.

Green Generations, Whitney Guarisco: There are plants in the garden – lettuce, kale, broccoli. The butterfly garden has been planted. We also have a raised bed for special needs kids with a soft succulent garden. The marigolds are to help attract ladybugs, which keep aphids away from the veggies. There are 2 composting bins. The small bin is near the garden, with the larger barrel in the side yard. They have been adjusted recently to help with the odor, as a balance is needed to help in the process. We are still working with the students at lunch to learn where to throw away their trash and leftover food. Before the composting began, the school used to throw away 50 bags of garbage but now down to 12. It takes 2.5 months for the composting bins to turn into dirt. The goal is to get one more bin to help with this initiative. We have also started encouraging kids to take home their uneaten food to show their parents what they are eating while at school. Both Whitney and Mr. Greenberg commented that the school lunches provided by the school are healthy and a better option than the processed foods most students bring from home. Recipe for Success is a new program that encourages healthy eating for kids. A huge component is about the garden and raising vegetables with the other component about healthy eating. Rachel Pasternak and Esther Puig are spearheading this initiative. The Green Generations team waters plants each week in all the classrooms. It is a huge task and additional volunteers are needed to help with this effort.

Upcoming Events:

- November 11 – Boosterthon Pep Rally

- November 11 – Condit Night Out – Los Tios, NY Pizzeria and Poke Inn. Tom Foolery Toys & Books on both November 10 & 11.
- November 13 and 14 – Kinder tours
- November 14 – Dual Language meeting
- November 18 – SPARK Park dedication
- November 21 - Boosterthon
- November 25-29 – Thanksgiving break (no school)
- December 3-6 – Book Fair
- December 10 – Condit Night Out at Tapester’s Grill
- December 11 – Gingerbread decorating
- December 12 – Shared Decision-Making Committee meeting
- December 13 – Leadership Drive
- December 20-January 6 – Winter break (no school)

Closing Comments, Amira Staller: The next PTO meeting is January 15 in the morning. Tonight’s drawing which was for a Condit-branded umbrella.

Adjournment: 7:22 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebecca Grazier, 2019-2020 PTO VP of School Services / Support.