



## Condit Elementary PTO Minutes of the November 17, 2020 PTO meeting

Call to Order: Amira Staller called meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. virtually, from her home.

Mrs. Lynnea Roth asked for a motion to approve the October PTO meeting minutes into record. Jean Lee made a motion to approve the minutes and Pinar Cepni seconded the motion. There were no opposing hands raised in the virtual audience.

PTO President Jean Lee welcomed everyone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> virtual PTO Meeting of the 2020/2021 academic year.

Jean Lee congratulated Pinar Cepni as the new PTO Treasurer. Edie Efron and family are moving to Memphis, TN this month and Pinar has graciously accepted this new role on the PTO Board. Condit Elementary thanks Edie for her dedication to this community and wishes the Efrons the best in their new city.

### Officer Reports

Treasurer, Pinar Cepni shared the current PTO budget (on screen and as a link in the chat section). The PTO has been very pleased with the support from Condit families as this is an extraordinary year with very unique and specific needs. Please continue to participate in the fundraisers and sociable activities which make the Condit Community so wonderful. For example, the Gingerbread House Decorating Kits sold out quickly and collected \$1,000. If you are a committee chair who has receipts, please email them to [conditptotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:conditptotreasurer@gmail.com) \*please be sure to include the name of the committee in the email and how you would like to receive reimbursement. (i.e. Venmo, check, etc.)

Reach for the Stars – Family, Julie Dabney: As Pinar indicated, we are appreciative of the support we have received from our Condit families. Our goal for this academic year is \$57,500 in funds raised through this mechanism. To date, we are 35% of the way to this goal. Our hope is to have 100% participation from families – any amount is truly appreciated. These funds contribute to the success of countless programs at our school. \*At this point, Jean Lee introduced a video produced by the PTO Board to encourage families to donate to Reach for the Stars – Family. <https://vimeo.com/469628803>

Reach for the Stars – Business, Jennifer Friedberg: There are many ways in which local businesses can contribute to the success of Condit Elementary while showcasing their business within our community. For example, advertisements in our virtual school directory, banners displayed prominently on the fences around our campus as well as, sponsorships of ads in our weekly Happenings emails and monthly Cat Chat messages. If you or someone you know is a business owner in this area, we would LOVE to partner with you this academic year! Please contact us for more information: [amirastaller@gmail.com](mailto:amirastaller@gmail.com)

## **Program Focus: WITS**

Alison Heath introduced Writers In The Schools (WITS) which is a local business in Houston with a longstanding partnership with HISD. Professional writers come to the schools and work with the students. The WITS Collaborative started at Bellaire High School and is now expanding to other campuses including Condit, as the first elementary school. Teachers are trained on the process and co-teach the lesson with the professional writer. The WITS writing process starts out with idea exploration then students develop a rough draft story, revise this draft to develop a final draft and publish their writing in a class book. This highly tailored method hones skills for students and teachers and helps to reinforce grammar through writing. Originally, WITS was implemented in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades and now it has been scaled down to include activities in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, as well.

## **Committee Reports**

Thanksgiving Pies for Condit Staff, Amira Staller: The Pie Fund closed out only a few days after it opened! Over \$1,600 was collected from Condit families to purchase pies from a local bakery in Bellaire - Way to go Condit Cats! Our staff members will receive their holiday pies on Friday, 11/20.

Room Parents will be sending out an attachment for families to print out and complete. The prompt is, "I am thankful for \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_." Students are encouraged to give these to their teachers either in-person or by email before Thanksgiving break. We truly appreciate our teachers and all they do to make learning so fun.

The School Spirit Store will host a Pop-Up Shop on Friday, 11/20 on the basketball court. They will be selling Condit gear and also \$5 and \$10 grab bags. Masks are required and social distancing practices must be observed. We will see you at 3:30pm on Friday!

Holiday Gift Collections: Room Parents will be sending an email after Thanksgiving break requesting funds to be sent for teacher holiday gifts. Funds collected in each grade will be divided equally among the teachers of that grade. These beloved room parents will also be sending out information on how to donate to the general staff holiday gift collection. \*This is a good time to make sure you are receiving emails from your children(s) room parents.

## **Principal's Report**

At this time of year, we take a moment to assess everything that we are thankful for in these challenging times. Parents, students, staff and teachers – we are all holding each other up and the support is truly appreciated.

COVID Procedures: We have almost completed 6 weeks of in-person education. Attendance is taken at 9AM and Nurse Hall contacts all of the absences not already accounted for through earlier communications between families and teachers. If a student is ill, Nurse Hall discusses symptoms and follows the HISD COVID procedures document – pages 87 and 88 – to determine if the illness should be considered a Presumed Positive. To date, we have had 5 Presumed Positives. For each one, the Condit community has been informed and the specific class has been given more relevant information. Page 88 of the document outlines the quarantine procedures related to cases, close contacts and presumed positives. At Condit, a student absent for illness and deemed a presumed positive, MUST HAVE a negative COVID test result AND a doctor's note indicating what the given symptoms are due to for the student to be admitted back to in-person education. Our school community has had 2 confirmed cases. The classes were quarantined for the prescribed amount of time.

Cycle 3 Enrollment: Friday, 11/13 was the deadline to decide any changes to your children's educational location for Cycle 3. 15-20 are starting in-person education and a handful will be going virtual. There are no major shifts in the numbers so there will be no changes in the teaching model or space for all grades. Every February enrollment projections are made for the following school year. In February of 2020, 783 were enrolled. We projected that 771 would attend Condit for the 2020/2021 academic year. Roughly 40

students switched to private schools before the start of this school year. We had 740 enroll this Fall which is less than the 771 we projected. We most likely will have to give back some of the funding we received based on numbers. HISD is working with every school on how to proceed given these unexpected shifts in enrollment. Condit administrators will continue to be transparent about any changes we may need to make as we move forward. Please reach out if you have any questions.

It is always so great to see our students in-person and virtually – learning, growing and connecting. The challenges are great but our community is even greater.

### **Upcoming Events**

November 18 – Condit Night Out – Tapester’s Grill – ALL DAY \*\*Don’t forget to mention Condit!

November 20 – School Spirit Store Pop-Up Shop 3:30 on the basketball court

November 23-27 – Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL

December 8 – Condit Night Out – Tomfoolery Toys and Books – ALL DAY \*\*Don’t forget to mention Condit!

December 11 – Report Cards – check Power-Up school site – no hard copies will be sent.

December 18 – Virtual Gingerbread House Decorating

December 21 – 31 – Winter Break – NO SCHOOL

January 13 – Next PTO Meeting @ 6:30pm

### **Communication and Information**

There are several ways to stay in touch with Condit Elementary and stay informed of upcoming events and information:

Condit Elementary PTO website (listing of monthly PTO meetings): <https://www.conditpto.org>

Weekly Condit Happenings emails: register for these emails on the Condit PTO website (see above)

Monthly Cat Chat newsletter: register for this newsletter on the Condit PTO website (see above)

Dojo: download the app and connect with your children’s teachers and Condit Administration

HISD website: <https://www.houstonisd.org/conditelem>

Condit Elementary on social media: Friend “Condit Elementary School” on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

### **Reminders**

There are 4 committees in need of leadership chairs:

- Green Generations – if you have a green thumb or love being outside, this is the committee for you!
- International Festival (I-Fest) – it has not yet been decided if we will host this wonderful festival this year, To Be Determined.

- Name that Book – we need a parent chair for the kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team.
- Odyssey of the Mind – wonderful club, if your children enjoy problem solving through teamwork and creativity, this is the club for you to chair!

Box Tops are collected in October and March of each academic year. You can bring in Box Tops to the classroom all year long or submit them digitally by emailing your receipts to: [receipts@boxtops4education.com](mailto:receipts@boxtops4education.com) You can also scan your receipts with your phone using the Box Tops app!

PTO Membership: please do not forget to join! The cost is \$25 for the academic year. As a member, you get to vote on important issues related to our school. <https://www.conditpto.org>

Closing Comments, Jean Lee: The next PTO meeting is January 13th at 6:30PM. Teams logon information will be provided. Thank you again for attending this evening's meeting.

*Adjournment: 7:14PM*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lynnea Roth, 2020-2021 PTO VP of School Services / Support.

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