



## Condit Elementary PTO

### Minutes of the January 13, 2021 PTO meeting

Call to Order: Jean Lee called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. virtually, from her home.

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

PTO President Jean Lee welcomed everyone to the 3rd virtual PTO Meeting of the 2020/2021 academic year.

Jean Lee congratulated Amira Staller as the new Reach for the Stars – Business representative. Amira is familiar with this role from the 2018/2019 academic year. Jean also congratulated Sami Valentine as the new Vice President of External Affairs. We happily welcome both new members to the PTO Board and truly appreciate their time and dedication to our school.

#### Officer Reports

Treasurer, Pinar Cepni, reminded everyone that this academic year looks very different due to COVID-19. We have a lower level of income for the PTO as we needed to cancel or postpone the Bookfair, Fall Carnival and Boosterthon which all generate income for the school. Both RFTS-Family and Business totals are lower than 1 year ago due to the pandemic. Our expenses continue to be at the same levels just for different needs – faculty support for cameras, supplies related to safety measures. We truly appreciate everyone's support for the Teacher Wish Lists. Currently, our PTO income stands at \$38, 817.96 while our expenses have topped \$67, 323.78 which is a loss of \$28,505.82. As always, 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: So far, we have raised 50% of our goal. 60 families have generously donated funds which is about half the number compared to last year. This fund of money impacts our ability to provide many of our favorite Condit programs. The good news is that it is never too late to contribute! If you have any questions, please email Julie at: [dabney.julie@gmail.com](mailto:dabney.julie@gmail.com)

Reach for the Stars – Business, Amira Staller: There is still space available for spring banners along our very visible fence on S. Rice Ave! Your business can opt for a full season banner or the 2-month option. Additionally, our Condit Happenings and Cat Chat newsletter have a few more openings for ads. If you have a business or know of one interested in advertising with our school, please reach out to Amira: [amirastaller@gmail.com](mailto:amirastaller@gmail.com)

## **Committee Reports**

International Festival, fondly known as I-Fest, usually takes place this month. The PTO Board is looking into modifying this event to adhere to current health and safety regulations while still making it a very special evening celebrating the incredible diversity that thrives within our school. Our revamped event will take place on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. The general idea is to have families “host” a country in their front yards while “travelers” drive around the neighborhood, visiting different countries around the world, while they learn something new and have loads of fun. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

Condit chicken coop update: 5 lovely chickens have been added to the coop! They are all fancy breeds with varying feather patterns and sizes but please do not forget, Lady Cluck is the leader of this flock. All in-person classes have visited the coop and we are now in the process of scheduling virtual classes to meet the girls, hosted by Mrs. Tomlinson. The chickens are all 2 months old so they will commence laying eggs in about 3-4 months. We will be adding a fenced-in yard, a ledge on the coop and a nearby bench for people to sit and admire the flock. An enormous THANK YOU to Wabash Feed and Supply for donating 200lbs of feed. Mrs. Tomlinson is our faculty advisor, please contact her with any questions about our feathered friends: [stomlins@houstonisd.org](mailto:stomlins@houstonisd.org)

The School Spirit Store will host a Pop-Up Shop on Friday, 1/22 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 next Friday!

Box Tops: PLEASE do not forget to scan your receipts!! The easiest way is to download the Box Tops App and then follow the directions for choosing a school and scanning your receipts. The App will calculate the rewards automatically. You can also email digital receipts to: [receipts@boxtops4education.com](mailto:receipts@boxtops4education.com)

PTO Nominating Committee, Amira Staller: There are several PTO Board positions becoming available next year. We will announce the open positions in February after which, we have 6 weeks to discuss, nominate and vote on these positions. The nominating committee is comprised of 5 members: the past PTO President, 1 current PTO Board Member, 1 faculty member and 2 general PTO members.

## **Principal's Report**

Attendance for these virtual meetings is truly phenomenal! Great job, Jean and parents.

We have been seeing students greeting each other and being extra kind in the carpool line along Third Street – it warms our hearts.

I-Fest – it is great to see families wanting to find a way to host this event despite the circumstances. Our annual event which celebrates everyone's heritage is so wonderful.

The COVID surge is real and it is happening at Condit. We have had 9 confirmed cases since October 19<sup>th</sup> and 5 of them have been since winter break ended. This is a bit concerning. We are contact-tracing because we need to know if there is a connection between some of the cases in order to take a prudent path forward. We are sticking with our 10-day quarantine policy, sometimes 7-day if they are a contact with a negative test result. The numbers are real and we will continue to practice our safety measures within the school and take guidance from HISD.

School funding is determined the February before the academic year is to begin. We sit down with our current numbers and attempt to accurately project the numbers for the next year, taking into consideration many factors. In October, the student population is counted and that becomes our official number for the academic year. If the student population is less than projected, we have to give money back to the district. This year, we are down 50 students than we projected, HISD did give schools a bit of

funding relief but we still had to give money back. We did have a staff member resign after winter break so we reassigned our tech enrichment teacher to fill this opening. She will return in her regular capacity next year.

We are currently at 65% in-person at Condit. This week you can opt to change your selection or keep it the same. There is nothing to do if you choose to stay the same. To make a change, logon to the Parent Connect portal and please, let your teacher know of any changes, as well.

We normally do our Kindergarten tours in November however, this year we cannot host those tours. We just finished a promotional video and we will host a few evening Q/A sessions for parents by the end of January. We are excited to share what our school is all about!

### **Upcoming Events**

January 18 – MLK Jr Day – NO SCHOOL

January 18 – Last day for the 4<sup>th</sup> 6-Week Selection for In-Person or Virtual Instruction

January 19 – Condit Night Out – The ‘401 Table and Taps – ALL DAY \*\*Don’t forget to mention Condit!

January 22 - School Spirit Store Pop-Up Shop 3:30pm on the basketball court

January 29 – Teacher Prep Day – NO SCHOOL

### **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!

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 February 16th at 6:30PM. Teams logon information will be provided. Thank you again for attending this evening’s meeting.

*Adjournment: 7:11PM*

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