

Hoover PTA Meeting
Wednesday, October 26 @ 6:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Jennifer Boal (President), Megan Criswell (Vice-president), Dr. Giehll (2nd Vice-president), Ashley Hauck (Secretary), Heather Geisler (Treasurer), Marie Knupp (Historian), Angela Nelson, Jillian Stephey, Jeremy Heckman, Jamie Purupati, Chelsea Farrell, Stephanie Pentland, Carissa Monaco, Olivia Frye, Anthony Puzzeni, Shayna Bodi

- I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance *Jennifer Boal*
- II. Approval of Minutes *Jennifer Boal – approved by Heather Geisler and Chelsea Farrell*
- III. Correspondence *Heather Geisler*
- IV. Executive Committee Reports

A. President *Jennifer Boal*

Special Guests: Ben Chitester & Chandler Frye - Gaga Pit Petition
Thank you to everyone for supporting our October events. PTA will review the petition and get back to them with a response. It's a group sport that is versatile. Many kids can play at the same time. Depends on size of the pit. Megan wants to know if the rest of the school was asked about interest. 30 kids signed from 4th grade.

Picture Day - Sept 30th: Thanks for Jessica Edelsen and her team of volunteers. Day of went smoothly. Picture make-up day had a mishap with scheduling, but we are now on for Nov. 2nd.

Moe's Fundraiser: We sold 30 meal kits and raised \$300 - thank you!

Read-a-thon: In progress and doing well. Make sure parents log the minutes and talk about it with them.

Spooky Story Night: 1st one was a success. Art, Music, Book Reading.

Custodial Day – PTA provided a hoagie tray for lunch. Trying to show different groups appreciation throughout the school. We also delivered chocolate and chips to the staff members on a random day.

Election Committee – Looking for volunteers to find willing parents within the school to take over committees. Historian and treasurer positions are open and need to be voted on. You only have to commit to a year but most people stay on for 2 years.

Upcoming Events:

October 31 - Halloween Parties - all grades

November 7-18th - Adopt-a-School. This year in November. We are doing it earlier than usual because ehte school we donate to is hosting a store where their families can shop for the holiday season. All sizes needed.

November 8th - No School, Bake Sale volunteers STILL needed! And table volunteers needed.

November 11th - Veterans Day

November 30th - PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm

B. 2nd Vice President *Dr. Nicci Giehl*

1. Safety Week Update: Safety drill went really well and kids were dressed appropriately. Planned school wide evacuation is for gas leaks, fire, active shooter. Kids go to Temple Emmanuel. In a shooter situation the kids are told to run to a safe space. Stop, look and listen to the adult in charge. Follow the directions given. Stranger danger. Look for badges. That's the education to the kids and faculty is given additional information.
2. Field trips are back. 2nd graders did their walking tour of Lebo. The day was beautiful and enjoyable. 1st graders went to Raccoon State Park and Hozak Farms and had a wonderful day. PTA pays for ½ of the cost of the trips.
3. Coin collections for Heritage month. Donated to Puerto Rico and kids talked about how recovery happens. 90 pounds of coins and \$996.59. Schools across Lebo participated and everyone raised about the same amount. Donated to World Central Kitchen Organization. "Small change can make a difference."
4. Readathon underway. Spooky Story Night was back and a success. Split into two sessions 1-3 and 4-5 grades. Thanks for RSVP very helpful to plan and for pick up information for pick up after event.
5. Virtual Pumpkin Decorating – part of the class party and kids vote on best pumpkin on the day of. K-2 winner and 3-5 winners get a gift card to Barns and Noble.
6. Dr. Giehl thanked PTA for the treats for the staff. Everyone was very excited.
7. Halloween parade will be on the blacktop and Robb Hollow sidewalk go zone and back into the gym. Stand across street or on blacktop. Near the gym. Not in the go zone. Parade starts inside and heads outside in grade order via the office exit. The PTA taking over the buying and distributing of party materials is welcome and a great service. Everyone likes it. Please register in the Raptor system before the party otherwise it creates a large backlog. You need to update it yearly in the office sometime between 8-4:30 M-F.
8. End of first quarter on Friday, November 4th. Reports card will follow and November 18-19 for parent conferences. Information coming from Dr. Giehl. In person and virtual options. You can reschedule if there is a problem but at some point the conference scheduler will close. Call Ms. Brown if you have a unique scheduling need that needs met.
9. Kindergarten has no school on November 23rd. Everyone else has a half day. No school November 24 and 25.
10. Breakfast program. We cannot send breakfast home like we did last year because it was federally funded, and it was allowed. This year we are not federally funded (state funded) so we cannot take the food home. Rules vary per the funding source. We open at 8:25 and kids come in and get their lunch card

and then “grab and go” their breakfast. Mrs. G and Ms. Schuler in the cafeteria in the morning to help. They eat and go by 8:40 and start attendance at 8:45.

11. Boy Scouts associated with Hoover? Pack 28 is based out of Bower Hill Community Church. Dr. Giehll wants to include them in presenting the colors Veterans Day ceremony. Girl Scouts in a troop with Jessica Lynn-Horgan.
12. ELA – English Language Arts curriculum is being updated. Dr. Irvin presented. Multiyear phased in approach. Starting with K-2 and using Foundations – multisensory program: high frequency words, fluency, vocabulary, handwriting, spelling, phonics. Research based program. Used as intervention in small groups and have had large success. It’s a tier 1 program that is good for all kids. Parents asking why kids need it if they are already need it? Dr. Giehll says there are rules of language that we haven’t been taught and this program teaches kids why language is used like it is. Not just about reading fluency but the English language overall.
13. Writing workshop district wide right now (FOUNDATIONS) - we need to update materials to make sure teachers have good resources. Lucy Caulkins approach – short mini lesson, independent work. Students work with teachers on their skills. Narrative, informational, opinion, argumentative writing. Anchor texts are student writing samples that demonstrate different skills. We show kids what their next steps in writing will look like... the expected targets at different grade levels. 2nd grade teachers across district meet monthly to discuss assessment criteria and practice to assure all schools are meeting same benchmarks and milestones. Lebo believes in teacher autonomy but also in district wide collaboration. Next area of focus will be reading comprehension materials. We are doing this because our current materials are over 10 years old – we need a refresh. Covid delayed the adoption of a new curriculum but now they are moving forward again. Teachers enjoy the updated materials and results look good so far. Jenn said the district has a reading specialist who is certified and trained in FOUNDATIONS program and she supports the teams of teachers district wide.

C. 1st Vice President *Megan Criswell*

1. Assemblies – refocusing on bringing in some great programs. Cello Fury is on tap. PTA wants to do more of this and is looking for ideas. Heather Geisler is leading the charge. Dr. Giehll has a speaker she’d like to have come in. She’s a teacher and very motivational.

D. Treasurer *Heather Geisler*

Approval of the 2022-2023 budget

1. Anthony Pizzuti motioned for approval. Olivia Frye seconded. Jefferson is doing MOE’S fundraiser. You can order up to 80. Once you hit that number MOE’S calls another store to see if they can fulfill order. We are planning to do it in the spring again.
2. Megan – would be nice to see a district wide list of fundraisers going on.

E. Secretary *Ashley Hauck* – no updates

- F. Historian *Marie Knupp*
 - 1. She's been doing a wonderful job with the newsletter. Needs a cochair to help edit and review dates. You must be on PTA to get the newsletter and access to the directory.
- G. Follow ups from last meeting – N/A

V. Committee Reports

- A. Library Committee (Amanda Benedict)

Spooky Story Night: first one was last night, Tuesday 10/25. Tomorrow is Spooky Story Night for Grades 4-5. Thursday 10/27 grades 4-5. We still need some volunteers for Thursday if anyone is interested. Apologies for having the date for 1st graders the same as the field trip. This event has been virtual the past 2 years and we had short notice for 2 brand new chairs to pull it together! Thank you for riding out the bumps! We think the students will have fun! Can we tell the kids to bring a snack next year. Kids were starving. Tell parents to pack a snack for after. Olivia asked if PTA could provide food for the event? Dr. Giehl said we need a permission slip signed. If it becomes solely a PTA event instead of a school event that we support, then we can do snacks.
- B. Read-a-thon (Becki Campanero)

Read-a-thon ends on Friday, October 28th. We can continue accepting donations until I officially end the campaign on the website, so we can put an announcement in the next newsletter with an official deadline for donations to make one final push. As of right now (10/20 at 11:30am), we've raised \$6400. We take home 75% of that which is \$4800. 94 students have set up an account with just over 9000 minutes read. Thank you to Marie for sending out Quick Announcements.
- C. Bake Sale (Kara Trant) – you cannot affiliate with a party if you volunteer at the table. Do not make baked goods with political affiliations.
- D. Adopt a School (Kristi Brancolini) *updated dates to Nov. 7-18th* - passionate this year because the school we are donating to is in great need. Our goods will stock a store where families can shop for free. Drop off is at the entrances. New items needed.
- E. Holiday Shop (Cristina Battaglia & Tara Lavy) – gearing up and looking for volunteers. December 8-9.
- F. Lunch Clubs (Jenn Boal) – 2 people have volunteered but we need more volunteers. You do a 3- or 6-week session. Kids come to the club for the second half of lunch instead of recess. Kids love it and want to go. Coloring, Pokemon, Karaoke, Lego ... anything. We have a budget to fund it. 10-12 volunteers needed. Kids sign up for their top 3 choices and they get their top 2. Time frame is 12-12:30 and 12:30-1:00 and can be a range of grades. Carissa asking if she can fit it into her day as a working mom. December zoom meeting with Jenn to plan activities.
- G. Plant Sale (Shayna Bodi) – Olivia and Shayna working together. Partner with Bedners and will offer gift cards to Bedners (not the one right down the street, different families). Will run for a month. There is a QR code that will take you online to all of the information. Will run until November. Plant sale supports campus beautification and Shayna found two moms to help with the project.
- H. 5th Grade Activities (Stacy Brett Davern)

5th Grade activities update- committees are formed and chairs are working to lead

the designated activity. We are waiting to hear back regarding fundraising charity selection, and if Carnival is a go from Mrs. Pitzer & Mrs. Brown.

- I. Hoover 5K (Shannon Harpst) - no update to report. Looking for volunteers and chairs.
- J. Relay for Life (Shannon Harpst) - no update to report. Needs volunteers and cochairs.
- K. Kids of Steel (Shannon Harpst) - no update to report
- L. Corporate Funding (Anthony Puzzini) - Box tops for education APP - Look for an adjustment to the wording in all email notifications. This is a super simple way to get funds for our kid's activities without incurring any cost. Just one easy step of snapping a picture of your receipt once the app is downloaded, and our PTA will receive credit for things that you are purchasing anyway. It is a win-win situation! Thank you for your support in this easy, but important fundraiser.

VI. Open Topics for Discussion – Bylaws committee (we are looking for members). Shayna – municipal building has ASCEND lebo questionnaire to see how people are feeling about the community. Please participate. Add to newsletter.

VII. Adjournment