

**Eisenhower PTO
General Meeting
September 13, 2024
9:30am (Virtual)**

PTO Executive Board: President – Rebecca Thornsberry
1st Vice President – Juli Kosovec
2nd Vice President - Mark Miller
Board Advisor – Jen Zofchak
Treasurer – Katie Heitman (unable to attend)
Secretary – Jolien Geis

Attendance:
22 Total attendees

The meeting was called to order by President Rebecca Thornsberry

Welcome – Rebecca Thornsberry

Approval of Minutes – All (Approval by Jen Zofchak and Juli Kosovec)

Treasurer Report: Katie Heitman

Jolien Geis (filling in for Katie Heitman) – At the beginning of the school year, we had around \$12,000. So far, we have spent money on the Welcome Breakfast for new families and the Back-to-School lunch for the staff. We have brought in approximately \$2,400 through the PTO membership. The Eisenhower is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please support it.

Jen Zofchak – We did bring in some money through the bookfair.

Rebecca Thornsberry– We did have a larger bank in the past due to the post covid years. We will be hosting more Spirit Nights this year. We had one at Chick-fil-a and have our next one Oct. 2 at Chipotle. We will be hosting Spirit Nights once a month.

President's Report: Rebecca Thornsberry

Recent and upcoming events/activities

- Book Fair and Open House: Jen Zofchak - Total Sales: \$13,000. Thank you to volunteers that came to help throughout the day at check out and to help children select books. The scholastic book fairs are a great fundraiser. A portion of our sales provide us with scholastic dollars. The scholastic dollars allow us to purchase books for our teachers' classrooms and reading night. The PTO can also split the profit rewards between Scholastic dollars and cash.
- Open house: Mr. Miller – We like to welcome parents to the school. It's great for families to come and learn what we're doing at Eisenhower and meet the teachers. It's also great for the kids to see their parents making school a priority.
- Volunteers: The link for volunteers has been sent out and 150 people have signed up to date. That link was taken down briefly to assign room parents. The link is back up and running. If anyone has had issues, please have them try again due to that brief interruption.
<https://forms.gle/GpyX5SHDhE4jRAze6>

- **Room Parents:** Our chair, Randi, contacted room parents and held their introduction meeting prior to open house. Room parents should have reached out to their classrooms. Room parents are another avenue to reach families about PTO events.
- **PTO Membership:** <https://forms.gle/amCNVTyLnHjCGKXT8> Membership is \$10/child.
- **Picture Day:** Thank you to the volunteers. Links to your child's picture have been sent from the photographer M&M. If you haven't received it, please contact M&M directly. Picture retake Day is October, 17.
- **Eisenhower Extras:** These extras allow kids to try activities that they don't do during the school day. There were 200 responses. After closing, the chairs will assign activities based on your choices. A confirmation email will be sent with their activity and payment info. There is a PayPal, cash and/or check option.
- **Birthday book club:** Chair, Missy – During the month of your child's birthday you can donate a preselected book to our Eisenhower library for \$15. Mrs. Hart has a list of preselected books. A name plate sticker will be on the book with your child's name. There is an online form for parents to sign up.
- **Eisenhower:** Chair, Alex Faddick – The event is Thursday, Oct. 24. Spread the word that parent volunteers are needed. Packets are being sent soon. The Eisenhower is our carnival style fundraiser. There will be information forthcoming about our website too.
- **PTC Updates** – The PTC organization is over all PTOs in USC. They ran the new family dinner with tickets to the football game to welcome new families and help connect them to our community. The PTC also oversees the Membership Toolkit. The Membership Toolkit provides contact information in a directory to those who want to participate. In the past a paper copy was an option, however starting this year only the digital online version is available. To access this directory, USC families must pay PTO dues to become a PTO member.

Vice President's Report: Juli Kosovec

Next year, we will need a Treasurer for our Eisenhower PTO board. If you have interest, please let me know. It would benefit the new treasurer to shadow the current treasurer, Katie Heitman, starting in January.

Principal's Report/Eisenhower Update: Mark Miller

- PSSA results from last year should be distributed next week.
- We celebrated Patriot's Day on September 11. We understand that our children are still small and we celebrate differently at each grade level. We take the day to talk about American heroes and honor all the heroes that helped on Sept. 11.

Open to Questions:

- Kindergarten Harvest Parade: How will the parade work for my K-plus Kindergartener?
 - *Mr. Miller* – All kindergarten will parade with their Kindergarten group. AM will be indoors only and PM will parade outside.
- How does the cafeteria work for my Kindergarten K-plus child?
 - *Mr. Miller* – There are adults who take the children through the line as a group. Each child chooses their main meal along with the mandatory fruit, vegetables and drink. There are ala carte items that may be purchased. You can email the cafeteria to place restrictions on purchases.

- My kindergarten child doesn't know where the cafeteria is for breakfast, how does breakfast work?
 - *Mr. Miller* – Please write a note to your AM teacher that you'd like your child to have breakfast and we'll be sure it to get them there.
- We are new to USC and my child had a stomach ache last week. She was sent down to the nurse. She sat for 20 min until school ended. Nobody took her name or called home. Did we miss something we need to do for the school nurse?
 - *Mr. Miller* – Typically, a child may/may not be escorted to the nurse's office depending if they need assistance. The nurse takes the child's name and the nurse assesses if parents should be called. Parents are not called for every nurse visit. Please follow up with me after this call.
- With the multiple day break in November, parents wouldn't have scheduled vacations if they knew it was teacher conferences.
 - *Mr. Miller* – This was a discussion we had across the Elementary schools because if you give a large break then parents are going to make plans. Please schedule conferences with your teachers at another time. You can do so virtually but also it's nice to be in person.
- Are Room Parents expected to come up with Eisenhower basket ideas for their classrooms?
 - *Alex Faddick* – The chair for the Eisenhower classroom baskets will send details for basket themes and collection details. We rely on the room parents to spread the word to promote donating items for the baskets and to promote volunteering.
- Could PTO meetings be held after school hours to accommodate working parents?
 - *Mr. Miller* – In the past we tried to host in the evenings, and nobody came. It was just the board who attended at 7pm.

Dates to Remember:

10/1-10/30 – Fall Extras (Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

10/17 - Picture Retake Day

10/24 - Eisenhower

10/31 - Harvest Party and Parade

11/14- Math Night

11/15- Next PTO General Meeting

10/2 – Spirit Night as Chipotle