

NewTech High @ Coppell PTSO

August 2, 2010

Minutes`

Attendees:

Alison Durkee	Amanda Ziaer	Anne Tatum	Becky Gross
Bridget Bell	Connie Braun	Dana Shay	Debbie Macziewski
Debra Rountree	Donna Ramsey	Ellen Orr	Ginger Worthington
JoAnn Hill	JoAnn Leach	Judy Humphreyson	Kathy Lonborg
Kelly Durso	Kristy Racz	Krista Finnegan	LuAnn Kamstra
Marca Hiller	Micah Hamner	Michele McClew	Robin Pulford
Sandi Tanner	Sandy Williamson	Sylvia Dendy	Tabitha Branum
Tara Krieg	Tressa Wolford	Anthony Hill	Sid Grant

Anne Tatum called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m., welcomed everyone and asked each person to introduce themselves. She explained that she makes an effort to respect everyone's time and keep the PTSO meeting moving. As necessary, she may ask that some topics be discussed off-line with a later update to the Board. Anne said the best way to contact her is via e-mail as she checks it several times each day, however, you can also call either phone number. This first meeting was held in room 104 at NTHS.

Tabitha added that as we listen to different topics, it is our responsibility as Board members to see things through the eyes of all 500 Learner's! We represent each of them.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved as submitted following a motion by Bridget Bell and second by Sandi Tanner.

Tax Rate Election (TRE)

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services **Sid Grant** presented facts on the .013 tax rate increase and why this is essential to maintaining the quality of education in Coppell. Voting starts on August 27th see www.coppellisd.com for additional information on voting sites/dates and a full presentation.

Highlights:

- ▶ House Bill 1 froze school district revenues per student at the 2005-06 level with no inflationary factors. In 2009, legislature provided minimal relief by giving an extra \$120 per student, which was consumed by state mandated pay raises. No financial relief is anticipated from the state in the 2011 Legislative Session.
- ▶ If the TRE fails because of lack of Coppell support, the Board will have to consider future reductions: larger class sizes, reduction in programs, restructuring instructional day at schools, fewer extra and co-curricular courses, and eliminating art, music, athletics and literacy as they are not state mandated.
- ▶ To date, the Coppell ISD has reduced the budget by about \$4.6 million. The reductions include eliminating approx. 50 positions in the district.
- ▶ If the tax rate increase passes, it will ensure the district has the budget to maintain current services for the next 2 years. The Legislators will meet again in 2013.
- ▶ In support of the Tax Rate Election, **Anthony Hill** asked everyone to vote "YES"! He went on to say that if we don't want to reduce more teaching and support staff, GT/reading programs and extra curricular activities that this is the only way to ensure our children get what they need from our schools. In prior elections, only 3% of Coppell voted. We can't assume this will pass and that our citizens are voting.
- ▶ Tabitha asked that we advocate our voting right to our kids. She plans to educate the seniors/18 year olds at New Tech on this issue and ask that they vote. We are running on empty and need this increase badly.
- ▶ **Anne Tatum** followed-up with asking that everyone vote "YES" to the increase.

Treasurer's Report

- ▶ Dana Shay reported cash on hand of about \$7,613 (see attached financials). Following discussions regarding the Benevolence Fund being used for Seniors with little/no financial means for Senior activities, Bridge Bell motioned and Ellen Orr seconded the motion to approve the 2010 - 2011 Budget. The motion was approved.

Director's Update

- ▶ Tabitha expressed how special these kids are to her. They are part of her family. Many have come to the school during the summer to tell her and the staff about their vacations, personal issues, etc...They are so connected to the school and she feels blessed to share her life with them.

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- ▶ The Seniors have decided their Theme: "From Dreams to Realty Flying First Class" The kids are working with an event planner to design Prom and Graduation from concept to implementation and the parents/staff are planning surprises for them along the way. Plan to attend one of the Senior Parent Informational Meetings on 8/5, 8/10 or 8/14 to receive a Senior Kit with information on cost for basic to custom Prom/Graduation experiences. Tabitha wants parents and kids to know as early as possible what to expect. They are planning some special moments for the parents and Seniors to share. You can attend the meeting even if you have a Freshman/Junior or Sophomore.
- ▶ For this year's Service Learning focus, Tabitha has proposed that the senior class select the organization or theme that the school will support throughout the year. Last year's service focus was Touch A Life Foundation and child trafficking. The seniors may choose to continue with that focus, or they may decide on something different. They will work on this project during the first few days of school when the entire student body is involved in project work. Tabitha will ask that learners research and understand the proposed organizations purpose, funding, needs, etc. as part of the process. She expects lots of enthusiasm because she's gotten ideas and suggestions from learners throughout the summer about organizations and/or issues for service learning. If anyone has comments or feedback on the concept of letting the seniors select this year's theme, please let Tabitha know. On a side note, Bridget Bell reported the packages sent from New Tech did arrive in Ghana. She received a text saying it was like Christmas in July and one of the boys, who received white t-shirts, was overjoyed!
- ▶ Correction of Graduation Date: **Friday, June 3rd @ 2 p.m. held at Irving Bible Church**
- ▶ Tabitha reported that New Tech is fully staffed with a group of outstanding people. They have hired 11 new staff member and are now completely gender balanced. Amanda Ziaer introduced herself to the Board. She is the new Assistant Director and is very excited to join the school. Micah Hamner will assume the position of NTH counselor. Micah is handling all of the schedules and will plan to hold several training classes on Naviance in the near future. For more information on Naviance, see the website <http://www.naviance.com>.
- ▶ Tabitha announced that this year, learners will be grouped by grade level for networking groups. While she likes the concept of multi-grade groups, she and the staff decided to try grade level grouping this year as they feel that younger learners will feel more comfortable asking questions and expressing themselves among peers their own age, without the added pressure of feeling intimidated by older learners. Additionally, grade-level grouping will support more individualized networking topics and presentations.
- ▶ Review all important dates for the start of school activities.

Other Business

- ▶ **Volunteers** will be needed for many activities such as: schedule pick-up, rookie camp/ice cream party, movie night and a photographer for the a.m. and p.m. shift for the 1st day of school. **Please contact Debra Rountree if you need volunteers AND to volunteer a.s.a.p.!**
- ▶ Meetings next year will continue to be held on the first Monday of each month at **5:30**. Due to Labor Day on the first Monday of September, the second meeting will be on **September 13th**.
- ▶ Homecoming tickets will be sold at schedule pick up. Homecoming will be held at the Omni on September 11th and there will be plenty of tickets.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

Tressa Wolford
Secretary