

NewTech High @ Coppell PTSO

October 4, 2010

Minutes`

Attendees:

Alison Durkee	Amanda Ziaer	Anne Tatum	Becky Gross
Brandy Osterberger	Bridget Bell	Connie Braun	Crystal Bates
Dat Ho	Debbie Anderson	Debbie Macziewski	Donna Broyles
Ellen Orr	Jacqueline Eslick	JoAnn Hill	JoAnn Leach
Judy Humphreyson	Karen Bingman	Kelly Durso	Lisa Armstrong
LuAnn Kamstra	Maggie Gross	Mary Porter	Micah Hamner
Robin Pulford	Sandi Tanner	Sandy Williamson	Tabitha Branum
Tara Krieg	Tressa Wolford		

The meeting was held in room 111

Anne Tatum called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Motion for the September Meeting Minutes approval was made by Judy Humphreyson and a second motion was made by Lisa Armstrong. All approved and the motion was passed.

Brandy Osterberger – report on Fundraiser

From Brandy: We are in the midst of planning our big **MARDI GRAS @ New Tech** again this year. It was a huge success 2 years ago and we decided to take it on every other year. The original idea grew from a Geometry project, and I would like to have the learners work through that project again. Although, I will need help from some of YOU! We will be designing “quilt” blocks. The learners are individually responsible for one block. They cut their designs out of material and the blocks are sewn together to create a blanket or “quilt”. The Mardi Gras fundraiser will be in February; however the day is to be determined. If you would like to donate money or items, there are tax deductible forms available at New Tech. The first year all money was donated to Children’s Medical. This year there will be a live and silent auction and the fundraiser will benefit New Tech and Habitat for Humanity.

Help needed: scraps of material (send to Brandy), people who are able to sew or glue the quilts together, donations of gift basket items (can be small), gift cards/certificates, piano lessons, decorating time etc...

Anyone interested in party planning and event organization, please contact Brandy @ bosterberger@coppellisd.com or Jacqueline Eslick @ jeslick44@gmail.com. The PTSO would love to have a fundraising subgroup for the Mardi Gras event!

Treasurer’s Report

- ▶ In Dana Shay’s absence, Tara Krieg reported cash on hand of \$23,214 (Financials are attached).
- ▶ As of October 3rd, Write-A-Check has contributed \$12,340.

The audit committee has completed the audit for the past 2 years. The committee consisting of the Kristy Racz V.P., Tara Krieg Member-at-Large and Sherri Waddey Faculty Member found all monies have been accounted for. Tara Krieg will chair the Gifts-to-School Committee as Assistant Treasurer, along with Tabitha Branum as **NTH@C** Director, Dana Shay as treasurer, Anne Tatum as PTSO president and Judy Humphreyson as the Member-at-large. There will be changes to the Bylaws needed for both the Audit Committee and the Gifts-to-School Committee. If anyone has any other bylaw change suggestions, please let Anne know.

LLC Update

- ▶ Maggie Gross and Dat Ho reported on the Community Service Project – Habitat for Humanity floor plans are underway.
- ▶ During the month of October the networking groups are preparing for the Fall Festival at the end of October. These groups are designing booths and working together to create an old fashion carnival for everyone to enjoy! The center piece of the Fall Festival is the Punkin’ Chunkin’ Contest. New Tech and CHS will design the catapults for the pumpkins! Tickets are available the night of the event.
- ▶ Preparation for Red Ribbon week is underway. They have a full week planned beginning Oct. 27th. There will be dress-up days, smore making and other activities to push the message behind Red Ribbon Week/Drug Prevention Week.

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PTO President's Meeting Updates

- ▶ Anne Tatum spoke about the **President's Meeting** she attended last Friday. Plan to attend the lunch discussion on "**How to Prepare Our Kids for the Future**" held in the lecture hall at **CHS at 12:30 p.m. on October 13th**. Don't forget, everyone is invited to attend the Education Foundation Auction/Dinner on **October 16th from 7-11 p.m.**

Director's Update

- ▶ Tabitha talked about the SAT/ACT scores for 2010. They were the highest since 2000. **SAT's were up 6% over the year 2000 and ACT increased 11% from 2000**. Results were taken from CHS only. New Tech will have scores for our first graduating class next year, although, Tabitha reported New Tech learners scored very high on the ACT! Some NT students are still taking/retaking their SAT to increase their scores.
- ▶ With regard to test scores, Tabitha discussed a rumor that has circulated in reference to New Tech students not passing any AP tests and hiring a consultant from Florida. This is completely false! It is true that New Tech didn't fair as well with the AP exams, however, this exam is a memorization of facts and not higher level conceptual learning. New Tech requires a higher order thinking and real world application. These are optional exams and not required by colleges. For those kids who are interested in taking the AP exams, New Tech will now offer a study skills course. New Tech charges the actual cost of the exam to our students.
- ▶ **Rotary Club students of the month from New Tech are Riley Braun sand Sag Patel**. They are both exceptional students and role-models. They are being honored for their contribution to charitable organizations! Congratulations!
- ▶ Please help me congratulate **Shehyrar Siddiqui and Luke Williamson for their National Merit Candidate qualification**. In addition, we have **6 National Commended Scholars**. These individuals include **Juliana Brassfield, Prabu Devadas, Jacob Lewis, Nikko Racz, Laura Lisbona, and Kristin Miller**. I am so proud of each and every one of these individuals. It takes so much hard work and effort outside of the school day to be prepared for this test! Congratulations to all of you!
- ▶ Community Service/Outreach - **Chain of Hope** was started at New Tech as a way to join schools to honor Reggie Garrett. New Tech, CHS and Guyer HS all joined together the Chain of Hope and it will be given to Reggie's family.
- ▶ Tabitha plans to have "**Directors Dialog**" feedback sessions with 10 to 15 1st and 2nd year New Tech parents. These parents will be able to ask questions directly to Tabitha on issues they are interested in learning more about. Please look for the am and pm session days and times in HotSync.
- ▶ **Tour season** has kicked into full gear. We have people coming from all over Texas and the United States to see what our kids are doing. It is an awesome opportunity for our learners to demonstrate their oral communication skills.
- ▶ There are many wonderful events in **October**. We are taking the seniors to a leadership seminar, we have the PSAT, New Tech Gives Back Kick-Off, Red Ribbon Week, Senior Picnic, 1st 2010-2011 Lock in, and the list could go on and on. Please continue to check HOTSUNC for information regarding each of these events. Don't forget your learners are off from school Friday and Monday. I know they are ready to enjoy a long weekend and it is coming at just the right time to assist with the "October Wall".

Membership

- ▶ Alison Durkee reported that the **1st New Tech only directory** is at the printer! There are **5 art contest winners** who will have their artwork displayed in the directory. The back cover was reserved for the Senior Logo! Thanks to Dr. Gale Macziewski of Chiropractic of Coppell, Mike/Sally Dunn with Remax/DFW Associates and parents who partnered to pay for ad space for Taylor's Gift Foundation, the cost of printing was cut by 50%! Great job!!
- ▶ Anne commended the Membership Committee for their efforts to include New Tech students in the directory. They used every method possible to get the word out to the parents on the procedure necessary to make sure the information was published. If for some reason you were left out, please contact Alison Durkee @ Alison.durkee@verizon.net, so she can go through the procedure with you for next years publication.

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Community Service

- ▶ **October 6th Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Hill are helping New Tech kick-off the New Tech Gives Back program** for the 2010-11 school years. The learners voted to partner with Habitat for Humanity this school year. New Tech will spend the day learning about Habitat for Humanity, the issue of homelessness and poverty, and how each of us can affect change. They have planned scavenger hunts for the kids and stations for everyone to learn about different areas of interest and needs for this project. There will be 4 grade level floor plans in the gym. Please attend and help remind your veteran learners they need to wear their New Tech Gives Back shirts! There will be a great incentive in place if they wear their t-shirt! It is going to be a great day and I thank Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Hill for all of their hard work getting ready for tomorrow.
- ▶ Bridget mentioned that **Bill White**, candidate for Governor, will be filming from St. Ann's Church so that New Tech School is in the background! Bill White is a proponent of the school and all that it offers.

Fundraising

- ▶ Jacqueline Eslick reported the current total of the Write-A-Check Fundraiser \$12,340. **Please Write-A-Check if you haven't already!**
- ▶ In addition to signing up with Tom Thumb, Rosa's Café is also making a day for New Tech! Part of the receipts will go to New Tech.
- ▶ **MY SCHOOL'S COOL** - Jacqueline Eslick and Karen Bingham are excited to roll out a fantastic opportunity for New Tech to earn up to **\$10,000** by partnering with Vista Ridge Mall. This will run through May 2011. It's so easy and each point is matched with money! Follow these 3 steps and earn our school the TOP COOL SCHOOL! We are competing with (1) Flower Mound HS and several Coppell Elementary School.

1. Turn in All Vista Ridge Mall receipts including the food court & the movie theater. You can turn these in to New Tech (box in the office) OR at the display next to Panera Bread in the mall.

NOTE: Vista Ridge decided **not** to accept copies of receipts. We reported last night that copies were okay because that was our understanding. Now if you want to keep your receipts, you will have to go the mall office and get a point pass to turn in. At some point all the retailers are supposed to have these point passes so we don't have to go to the mall office.

All turned in receipts should have New Tech written down on the back of the receipts.

2. Register for a \$5000 mall shopping spree, become a member of Vista Ridge's "The Club" and receive a \$10 gift card after spending \$75. There is a form at the school for you to complete and return to the school. Earn 100 points for each completed form.

3. **"Like" Vista Ridge Mall on Facebook.** Then write "New Tech" on your status. Earn 100 points for each post.

For other ways to earn points, please contact jeslick44@gmail.com or ksbingman@tx.rr.com
Thank you for thinking outside the box to earn \$\$\$ for New Tech!

Enrichment

- ▶ Sandy and Connie have met with the teachers to ask them if they need help with specific needs, such as lining up a particular type of speaker, setting up a field trip, etc. They also plan enrichment programs for some of the Wednesdays throughout the year. For example, for Red Ribbon Week they will have speakers from MADD, the police department, an ATF agent, and Tabitha will speak as well. Sandy Williamson and Connie Braun will continue to help our learners and facilitators gather information by providing all resources necessary! You may receive an e-mail asking for assistance! Tabitha thanked both Sandy and Connie on behalf of the facilitators for all of their hard work and invaluable assistance.

Volunteers

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- ▶ As Volunteers are needed for special events and other school activities, please access Hot Sync OR contact Debra Rountree. She is available to show you how to access volunteers from HotSync and willing to get them for you. We have many volunteers who are willing to help!

Other Business

- ▶ Plan to attend our next meeting along with your committee members on **November 1st** and review the calendar for all upcoming events!

Anne Tatum left us with this quote from Winston Churchill ~
“Kites rise highest against the wind, not with it”

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 P.M.

Tressa Wolford
Secretary