

Call to Order

PTO President Rebecca Young called the meeting to order at 12:04pm.

Welcome & Introductions

1. Rebecca introduced herself and welcomed parents and staff members to the final PTO meeting of the 2016-2017 school year.
2. PTO Board Members Becca Johnson (Vice President), Nicole Fowler (Treasurer), and Erin Ferris (Secretary) introduced themselves. Kendra Graf (Communications VP) arrived after introductions.

Action/Discussion Items

1. President's Thank You – Rebecca Young

- a. Rebecca thanked all those who supported her in her role as PTO President and supported PTO – by attending meetings, volunteering at events, and/or serving as a Committee Chair or on a committee – throughout the 2016-2017 school year.

2. Principal's Report – Robyn Jones

- a. The school calendar is full of activity – field trips, programs, performances, tests, etc. – during this fast, furious, and fun time of year. Some dates are listed below, but parents should read the Jonesy News emails for additional dates, times, locations, etc.
- b. May 8th and 9th – STAAR testing for third and fourth graders will take place throughout the school. **CAMPUS WILL BE CLOSED TO THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE ON BOTH DAYS.** (Parents can still drop items off in the office.) While these tests are important (please make sure students get a good night's sleep on Sunday and Monday nights and eat healthy breakfasts on Monday and Tuesday mornings), Mrs. Jones emphasized that they measure only one part of a child's development.
- c. May 17th – “Welcome to Kinder at the Rock” will include information from teachers and a tour of the school for incoming kindergarteners and their parents. Families are encouraged to fill out the kindergarten paperwork ahead of time and bring it that evening to complete the registration process. Please help spread the word, especially to families who don't have a child already enrolled at RP.
- d. May 19th – Fun and Field Day will take place throughout the school and outside in the fields beyond the play structures. Parents who would like to volunteer should contact their child's teacher about how they can help with the indoor activities. If it is determined that volunteers are needed for the outdoor activities, a sign-up link will be emailed and posted to the Facebook page. Mrs. McMurray suggested that parents send a **COMPLETE** dry outfit to school that day; if students get wet during outside activities, coming back into the air conditioned school can be very uncomfortable.
- e. Thanks to the persistence of one third grade student, a recycling club has been formed at RP. Club members placed recycling bins throughout the school, made and put up signs advertising RP's new recycling options, and are taking turns taking the collected recyclables home for pick-up. (Recycling pick-up at private residences is free, while recycling pick-up at schools costs the schools money.)
- f. Staffing for the 2017-2018 school year is taking shape: as of right now there will be six classes in every grade except fourth, which will have seven classes. Mrs. Dean (art), Mrs. Askins (first grade), and Mrs. Gallagher (GT/enrichment) will retire at the end of the year. A retirement party will be held after school on May 18th; parents are welcome to attend and bid these fantastic teachers farewell.

- g. A survey about the climate at RP will be emailed to parents this month. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey as the information drives the campus improvement plan and is incredibly valuable to teachers and administrators.
- h. Last but not least, thank you to everyone who has taken the time to celebrate teachers and administrators during Teacher Appreciation Week and on Principal's Day. The heartfelt notes from students and parents are particularly touching and inspiring.

3. Teacher's Report – Andrea McMurray

- a. Mrs. McMurray thanked everyone for their support throughout the year and in advance for helping the teachers get through these last few busy weeks.
- b. Mrs. McMurray will be stepping down from her role with PTO next year. Thank you, Mrs. McMurray, for your seven years of service as the PTO Teacher Representative!

4. Treasurer's Report – Nicole Fowler

- a. Nicole shared the April Monthly Statement and the Year-to-Date Statement updated as of April 30th. These documents are also available on the PTO website.
- b. Of note:
 - i. The books for the current school year will close out on July 30th with the new fiscal year beginning on August 1st.
 - ii. Despite multiple communications with a representative from corporate, we continue to wait on our \$531 check from the fall McDonald's Spirit Night.
 - iii. It appears that PTO will once again be in a position to provide the school with an end-of-the-year gift from surplus funds. The Board will be working throughout the next few weeks to determine the exact amount available and how to best support the school with this gift. (PTO will buy buddy benches for the playground, and new picnic tables for the butterfly garden are being discussed.)
- c. As always, Nicole and Kristin are always available to answer questions or discuss budgetary concerns.

5. Secretary's Report – Erin Ferris

- b. Minutes are taken at every PTO meeting and will be posted on the RP PTO website within one week of the meeting. Questions about the minutes can be emailed to rockprairieinfo@gmail.com.
- c. A motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting was made by Nicole, seconded by Becca, and approved.

6. Communication VP's Report – Kendra Graf

- a. Committee Chairs should email Kendra (Kendra.graf@yahoo.com) as soon as information about their events (dates, times, volunteer needs, etc.) is available so she can plan how to fit that information into upcoming weekly emails, nine-week newsletters, and the broader social media communications plan. To have an event included in a Sunday/Monday weekly email, the information needs to be in Kendra's hands by Friday.

Old/New Business

1. Fundraising – Rebecca Young

- a. As of right now, the fundraising plan for the 2017-2018 school year is as follows:
 - i. Boosterthon in September
 - ii. Catalog product sale in October and November
 - iii. New/TBD in-house fundraiser with an educational component in the spring
- b. In an attempt to better distribute the fundraising workload, Rebecca is establishing a new **Fundraising Committee**. These committee leaders, along with any others who would like to join them, will collectively coordinate Boosterthon, the fall catalog product fundraiser, and the spring TBD fundraiser. This structure will disperse the work among a larger number of volunteers, and also create an opportunity for newer-to-the-committee parents to learn from those who have worked on the fundraisers previously. Because she has

coordinated Boosterthon for the last four years, Melissa Melnyk will “mentor” the committee during the 2017 Boosterthon event. We already have a few parents on board for the committee but we will of course welcome more; those with questions about or who are interested in this opportunity can email Rebecca.

2. Board/Chair Positions Needed – Rebecca Young

- a. The Board for the 2017-2018 school year is as follows: Rebecca Young (President) and Erin Ferris (Secretary) will remain in their positions, Kendra Graf (Communications VP) will move to the Vice President position, Kristin Howell (Treasurer-Elect) will step into the Treasurer position, and Jessica Ziegler will join the board as Communications VP. Nicole Fowler and Becca Johnson will step down after many years of generously serving on the Board. Thank you, Nicole and Becca!
- b. A few Committee Chair positions are still open/available. Anyone with questions about or interested in the positions below should email Rebecca ASAP.
 - i. Yearbook Chair or Co-Chair
 - ii. Boxtops Chair or Co-Chair
 - iii. Sponsorships Chair or Co-Chair
 - iv. Spirit Nights Co-Chair
 - v. Fundraising Committee members

3. Food Drive – Rebecca Young

- a. Thank you to all of the parents and students who brought in food and monetary donations, the students who helped collect food each morning during drop-off, and the students who helped load the food on Monday morning. Thanks to everyone’s hard work and generosity, RP donated 1,572 lbs. of food to the Brazos Valley Food Bank!

4. Butterfly Garden – Jessica Matthews

- a. Thank you to everyone who came out for our second butterfly garden service day! Lots of work – clearing, cleaning, planting – was accomplished and the butterfly garden is looking better than it has in years!

5. Leadership CSISD – Erin Ferris

- a. Erin shared a little about her experience participating in the Leadership CSISD program, which provides community members (parents, educators, administrators, small business owners, etc.) with an in-depth look at the “goals, operations, and culture” of CSISD. She highly recommended the program to parents, and PTO will share information about how to apply for the 2017-2018 school year as soon as it becomes available.

6. 2017-2018 School Year Preview – Rebecca Young

- a. Rebecca provided a brief overview of what kinds of events and activities to expect throughout the 2017-2018 school year.
 - i. Spirit Nights – dates/times/restaurants TBD
 1. Spoons in June (“catch up with your school friends”)
 2. Chuck E. Cheese in August (“get ready for a great school year”) – flyers for this spirit night be will handed out at Welcome to Kinder at the Rock
 - ii. School-Wide Family Events – dates/times TBD
 1. Sock hop
 2. Planetarium (set up in the gym, similar to Dinosaur George)
 3. Bingo/fall book fair
 4. STEM night/spring book fair
 5. End of year family fun party
 - iii. Fundraisers – see above
- b. Parent Survey – As PTO continues planning for the 2017-2018 school year, a survey asking for parent input will be distributed. PTO would like to know what kind of events parents want to see at school, where parents would like to have spirit nights, how PTO can better connect with parents and families. etc. so that each year can be better than the last. Please

watch for this survey – email, Facebook, the Jonesy News – and fill it out when the time comes. Thank you!

7. Staff Appreciation – Becca Johnson

- a. This week is National Teacher Appreciation Week! HEB generously donated little goodies for each day, and thanks to our Teacher Appreciation team, teachers will receive a number of other treats throughout the week (Bahama Bucks at Tuesday’s staff meeting, Sonic drinks on Wednesday, gift card and coupon goody bags on Thursday, and lunch from CFA on Friday).
- b. A list of daily themes for those who like a little guidance or need a few ideas came home in student folders last week and can be found on the PTO Facebook page. One of the best possible ways to thank teachers, however, is with notes of appreciation from or pictures drawn by students.

8. Notes of Thanks – Rebecca Young

- a. Rebecca once again thanked all those who helped – in so many different ways – make this a great year for the RP PTO. See everyone next year!

Other

1. The school calendar for 2017-2018 is available on the CSISD website:
http://www.csisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=165195&type=d&pREC_ID=570019.
2. Don’t forget to register your Kroger card for **Kroger Rewards!** (Visit www.kroger.com, click on “Community”, and then select “Community Rewards”.)
3. www.rockprairiepto.org
4. rockprairieinfo@gmail.com
5. www.facebook.com/rockprairiepto

Adjourn

PTO President Rebecca Young adjourned the meeting at 12:54pm.

Submitted by Erin Ferris on May 4th, 2017.