

Call to Order

PTO President Rebecca Young called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Welcome & Introductions

1. Rebecca introduced herself and welcomed parents and staff members to the first PTO meeting of the 2016-2017 school year.
2. PTO Board Members Becca Johnson (Vice President), Nicole Fowler (Treasurer), Erin Ferris (Secretary), and Kendra Graf (Communications VP) also introduced themselves. Kristen Howell, Treasurer Elect for the 2017-2018 school year, was introduced by Nicole.

Action/Discussion Items

1. President's Report – Rebecca Young

- a. Boosterthon – our annual fun run and fundraiser that focuses on fitness, character development, and leadership – kicks off on September 7th with the pep rally and lasts through September 16th, the date on which the actual fun run will take place.
 - i. Parents are welcome to attend the fun run; grade-level run times are as follows:
 - 8:00am – Kindergarten, AM Pre-K
 - 9:10am – 3rd grade
 - 10:20am – 2nd grade
 - 12:20pm – 1st grade, PM Pre-K
 - 1:30pm – 4th (possible color run)
 - ii. Volunteers are needed to count laps; a link to the online sign-up will be included in next week's email and posted on the PTO Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rockprairiepto).
- b. Students' t-shirts will be delivered to teachers on September 14th but will be **kept at school until September 16th** when they'll be distributed for Boosterthon. Parent/sibling orders will be distributed the week of September 19th. Volunteers are needed to help sort and distribute shirts; a link to the online sign-up is included in last week's PTO email and will be posted on the PTO Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rockprairiepto).
- c. This year December's Pancakes and PJs will be replaced by "Morning at the Museum" in October, when Dinosaur George will bring in and set up a natural history museum in our gym. On the 28th, students will tour the museum during the day and the museum will be open to the public in the evening. On October 29th, the museum will be open to Rock Prairie families in the morning and PTO will make and serve pancakes, juice, and coffee.
- d. The new library furniture – gifted to RP by PTO using 2015-2016 surplus funds – has arrived. Stop by the library and see the new tables, chairs, and computer desks!
- e. Parents who filled out the purple volunteer information sheet should have started receiving PTO's weekly emails. Please email rockprairieinfo@gmail.com if you feel you should be receiving these emails but aren't.

2. Principal's Report – Robyn Jones

- a. Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and for helping the school year get off to an amazing start. Students are arriving ready to learn, and pick-up and drop-off are going smoothly.
- b. Mrs. Jones added a second thank you to PTO for covering half of the expenses associated with the Dinosaur George natural history museum. Boxtops will cover the other half of the expenses, so keep sending those Boxtops to school!

3. Teacher's Report – Andrea McMurray

- a. As the RP PTO teacher representative, Mrs. McMurray attends PTO meetings and keeps the lines of communication between teachers and the PTO open.
- b. Right now, volunteer opportunities vary from grade to grade and class to class, but generally speaking the opportunities include room parent, helping in the classroom, and helping outside of the classroom with take-home projects. More specifically, the 4th grade ELA team is looking for someone – perhaps a medical professional – who can speak to the students about polio, and Mrs. Springer is looking for assistance in her kinder garten classroom on Fridays.
 - i. For more information on these volunteer opportunities, check in with your child’s teacher or email rockprairieinfo@gmail.com so PTO can connect you with the correct teacher or staff member.

4. Treasurer’s Report – Nicole Fowler

- a. At every meeting Nicole will provide an updated budget and monthly report (covering income, expenses, and bank balances from the previous months) to the PTO.
- b. Nicole shared the 2016-2017 budget – which started August 1st – and the August monthly report, both of which can be found on the PTO website (www.rockprairiepto.com).
- c. Transparency is extremely important to PTO; Nicole is always available to answer questions or discuss budgetary concerns.
- d. This year 25 RP families and many local businesses signed on to sponsor RP and make it possible for all of our students to receive free t-shirts. The families’ names and businesses’ logos will be printed on the back of the 2016-2017 school shirts; please thank our families and visit those businesses!

5. Secretary’s Report – Erin Ferris

- a. Minutes are taken at every PTO meeting and will be posted on the RP PTO website (www.rockprairiepto.com) within one week of the meeting. Questions about the minutes can be emailed to rockprairieinfo@gmail.com.
- b. A motion to approve the minutes from the 5.17.16 meeting was made by Becca, seconded by Nicole, and approved.
- c. RP’s PTO Guidelines are available on our website (www.rockprairiepto.org). Everyone is welcome to – and committee chairs should – read the document, and questions can be emailed to rockprairieinfo@gmail.com.

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 Friday weekly email, the information needs to be in Kendra’s hands by Thursday morning.

Old/New Business

1. Boosterthon – see above

2. Staff Appreciation – Becca Johnson

- a. Thanks to HEB donations, teachers received treats each day during the first week of school.
- b. PTO also gifts birthday cards and \$5 gift cards from Sonic to teachers and staff members during their birthday months.
- c. Sonic Drink Day on September 21st will mark the beginning of our monthly Staff Appreciation events. Volunteers are needed to help pick up and deliver drinks; a link to the online sign-up is included in last week’s PTO email and will be posted on the PTO Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rockprairiepto).
- d. More information about October, November, and December’s Staff Appreciation events will be shared via the weekly emails, website, and Facebook page as it becomes available.

2. Room Parents/VIPS – Becca Johnson

- a. We are in need of both a Room Parent Coordinator and room parents for some classrooms. Anyone with an interest in serving as Room Parent Coordinator should talk to a member of the Board, and those with an interest in serving as a room parent should check in with their student's teachers to see if the role has been filled. More information about the room parent meeting will be shared via the weekly emails, website, and Facebook.
- b. Parents who would like to volunteer in the classroom, assist with school-wide events, and attend field trips need to visit the CSISD website (www.csisd.org) and fill out the volunteer application as soon as possible. Volunteers must complete this application EVERY year.

3. Sponsorships – Rebecca Young

- a. Our current Sponsorship Chair is serving for the last time, so we are looking for someone to fill this role for the 2017-2018 school year. The job involves emailing and following up with potential sponsors (usually businesses that have sponsored RP in the past) during the summer months.

4. Community Events – Mariann Gaston

- a. Our first spirit night of the year will be held at Chick-fil-A (by Lowe's) on Tuesday, September 13th from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Receipts need to be dropped in the provided bucket in-store or left with the CFA employee at the window for drive-thru orders. Volunteers are needed to staff the receipt table; a link to the online sign-up is included in last week's PTO email and will be posted to the PTO Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rockprairiepto).

5. Campus Events

- a. Butterfly Garden – Jessica Matthews
 - i. Jessica shared her vision for bringing RP's once vibrant butterfly garden back to its former glory and eventually creating an outdoor classroom within the garden. To kick off the fall semester, RP will host its first-ever butterfly garden service day on Saturday, September 10th from 9am – 11am. The city is donating a seed packet for every child who attends, so please register via the online sign-up (shared in last week's PTO email) if you plan to attend.
 - A special thanks to the community businesses that have donated or offered wholesale prices on plants and to the local garden clubs that have volunteered to assist as this project moves forward!
- b. Book Fair – Rebecca Young
 - i. Our fall Book Fair will take place the week of October 10th – 14th (preview day October 7th).
 - ii. Hours of operation will be shared via the weekly emails, website, and Facebook page when they become available, though we know the Book Fair will be OPEN on October 10th and 11th even though school is closed. (Please don't send unattended children to the Book Fair while meeting with teachers on those days.)
 - iii. A link to the online sign-up (lots of volunteer shifts will be available) will be shared via the weekly emails, website, and Facebook page within the next few weeks.
 - iv. We are still in need of a Book Fair Coordinator/Co-Coordinators; talk to a Board member if this position interests you!

Other

1. Don't forget to register your Kroger card for **Kroger Rewards!** (Visit www.kroger.com, click on "Community", and then select "Community Rewards".)
2. **PTO needs:**
 - a. For 2016-2017: Room Parent Coordinator/Co-Coordinators, Book Fair Coordinator/Co-Coordinators, Fundraising Chair/Co-Chairs
 - b. For 2017-2018: Sponsorship Chair/Co-Chair
3. **Upcoming PTO meetings:**

- a. Tuesday, October 4th, 12:00pm in the library
 - b. Tuesday, November 1st, 6:00pm in the cafeteria
 - c. Tuesday, December 6th, 12:00pm in the library
 - d. Tuesday, February 7th, 6:00pm in the cafeteria
 - e. Tuesday, March 7th, 12:00pm in the library
 - f. Tuesday, April 4th, 6:00pm in the cafeteria
 - g. Tuesday, May 2nd, 12:00pm in the library
- 4. School-wide party dates:**
- a. Friday, October 28th
 - b. Tuesday, December 20th
 - c. Friday, February 14th
- 5.** www.rockprairiepto.org
- 6.** rockprairieinfo@gmail.com
- 7.** www.facebook.com/rockprairiepto
- 8.** The meeting in its entirety can be seen here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfy4wgCWHLI&feature=youtu.be>

Adjourn

PTO President Rebecca Young adjourned the meeting at 6:44pm.

Door Prizes

Congratulations to our winners!

Submitted by Erin Ferris on September 8th, 2016.