

Call to Order

PTO President Rebecca Young called the meeting to order at 12:03pm.

Welcome & Introductions

1. Rebecca introduced herself and welcomed parents and staff members to the fourth PTO meeting of the 2016-2017 school year.
2. PTO Board Members Nicole Fowler (Treasurer), and Erin Ferris (Secretary), and Kendra Graf (Communications VP) as well as parents and staff members in attendance introduced themselves. Becca Johnson (Vice President) was unable to attend.

Action/Discussion Items

1. President's Report – Rebecca Young

- a. See Old/New Business

2. Principal's Report – Robyn Jones

- a. This evening (Tuesday, December 6th) John Tanner, founder of TestSense.com, will speak to CSISD Board, faculty, and staff members as well as parents and community members about how the STAAR tests work and the implications for state accountability. This presentation will be held at 6:30pm at the CSISD Transportation Center on Rock Prairie Road. More information can be found here: <http://www.csisd.org/apps/news/article/643747>.
- b. This week's Jonesy News email includes information about a variety of upcoming dates and events, including the second school-wide enrichment day of the year: *Global Celebrations*, in honor of and to learn more about the many cultures we have represented at Rock Prairie.

3. Teacher's Report – Andrea McMurray

- a. Mrs. McMurray extended a thank you from all of the teachers for the incredible Thanksgiving Goodies of Gratitude!
- b. Mrs. McMurray serves on the committee for the above-mentioned *Global Celebrations* enrichment day. Anyone who is interested in volunteering for or presenting that day can email her at amcmurray@csisd.org or pick up a flyer in the office. (Information was also emailed and sent home in folders to parents.)

4. Treasurer's Report – Nicole Fowler

- a. Nicole provided those in attendance with the Year-at-a-Glance and Monthly Statements, both updated as of 12.1.16. These documents are also available on the PTO website.
- b. Of note:
 - i. November candle sales went extremely well – see below for details.
 - ii. Yearbooks were paid for in full in November to receive a discount; order forms will go home with students in January.
 - iii. All but one of the fall Classroom Cash grants have been paid out.
 - iv. Though we haven't yet received the check, the McDonald's Spirit Night brought in nearly \$600 (bike drawing sales, pie sales, percentage returned to us).
 - v. Field trip expenses will pick up in the spring.
 - vi. Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Jones are working on determining whether or not Dennie Lee will return to Rock Prairie this year. His visit is a notable line item in the PTO budget, so we don't yet know if/how that money will be spent.
 - vii. The recent NSF checks and fees stemmed from the candle fundraiser. The fees will remain as expenses, but the checks themselves have cleared.
- c. As always, Nicole is 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@yahoo.com.
- c. A motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting was made by Nicole, seconded by Kendra, 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 weekly email, the information needs to be in Kendra's hands by Friday morning.

Old/New Business

1. Fundraising – Rebecca Young

- a. The **Candles and Moore product fundraiser** kicked off on Monday, November 7th and ran through Friday, November 18th. Candle sales went extremely well and resulted in slightly more money raised than was budgeted. Candles should arrive on either Wednesday, December 14th or Thursday, December 15th, and volunteers will be needed to help sort all of the candle orders and deliver the smaller orders to classrooms. Pick-up for larger orders will begin on Friday, December 16th and will run through Tuesday, December 20th (during certain windows of time.) An online sign-up to volunteer will be emailed and posted to the PTO Facebook page as soon as the delivery date and time are finalized.
- b. In an attempt to better distribute the fundraising workload, Rebecca would like to set up a new **Fundraising Committee** that would include a representative from each grade level. These parents, along with any others who would like to join them, would collectively coordinate Boosterthon, the fall product fundraiser, and the spring spell-a-thon fundraiser. This structure would 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 would "mentor" the committee during the 2017 Boosterthon event. Parents should talk to or email Rebecca with questions about or if interested in this opportunity!

2. Classroom Cash Teacher Grants – Rebecca Young

- a. The CSISD Education Foundation generously provided more than \$16,000 in grant funding – for outdoor classroom materials, robotics materials, a little learners' library, kindergarten play centers, flexible seating, and Osmo educational systems – to Rock Prairie last month. The Education Foundation is also considering offering PTO grants for guest speakers, programs, etc. in the future.

3. Spirit Night – Rebecca Young

- a. Our next Spirit Night will take place on Tuesday, December 13th at Taco Casa. Diners can visit Taco Casa at any time throughout the day, but must tell the staff they are with Rock Prairie. A Facebook event – that can be shared and to which others can be added – will be created and posted to the Rock Prairie and Rock Prairie PTO Facebook pages this week.

4. Staff Appreciation – Rebecca Young/Mica Ham

- a. Thank you to everyone who helped make Goodies of Gratitude a success! More than enough goodies were donated, so substitute teachers and student teachers were also able to take a dessert home to their families and second round desserts were raffled off.
- b. December's appreciation event is a catered lunch on Thursday, December 15th. All staff members will also receive a holiday gift from PTO.

5. Variety Show – Rebecca Young/Erin Ferris

- a. The Rock Prairie 4th grade variety show will take place in January. Auditions will be held on January 9th, rehearsals will be held during fourth grade CAMP time (first thing in the morning), and two performances will be held on Thursday, January 26th. Anyone with free time in January and who would like to help is welcome to join the Variety Show team – email Erin (erinlerris@yahoo.com) or Rebecca with questions or to get involved!

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. New **PTO shirts** are coming soon!
3. **PTO needs:**
 - a. For 2016-2017: Fundraising Chair/Co-Chairs
4. **Upcoming PTO meetings:**
 - a. NO JANUARY MEETING
 - b. Tuesday, February 7th, 6:00pm in the cafeteria
 - c. Tuesday, March 7th, 12:00pm in the library
 - d. Tuesday, April 4th, 6:00pm in the cafeteria
 - e. Tuesday, May 2nd, 12:00pm in the library
5. **School-wide party dates:**
 - a. Tuesday, December 20th
 - b. Tuesday, February 14th
6. www.rockprairiepto.org
7. rockprairieinfo@gmail.com
8. www.facebook.com/rockprairiepto
9. The meeting in its entirety can be seen here:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCga3W3kTvvDRuvWZHyUwPxQ>

Adjourn

PTO President Rebecca Young adjourned the meeting at 12:32pm.

Submitted by Erin Ferris on December 7th, 2016.