PTO Meeting Agenda - November 2020

I. Welcome
Erin welcomes everyone and calls the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

II. Principal’s Update
Ms. Patin wants to thank Erin Salisbury for all of her support and encouragement this year. She also thanks Mallory Rissmiller, Louise Le and Jay Blackman for their work with Spooky Spectacular as well as Kat Liddle and Amber Blossom for a wonderful bookfair. Ms. Patin also acknowledged Maggie Dundon and Jo Ann Cresap for managing the school store out of their car trunks as well as Jill Storch for the food and treats she has provided to the teachers. All these things make a tremendous difference.

Ms. Patin shares good news that HISD is bringing technology. Twain gave out a lot of technology over the past seven months and now HISD is circling back around to give Twain additional devices. Ms. Patin shares that it is World Kindness Day on Friday. Vicky is decorating a board out front and encourages all to walk by and think about who has been kind to you and to whom you have been kind. The following Friday will be Storybook parade around the track. She explains that everyone will socially distance and that it will consist of mini parades all day long. Ms. Patin reminds everyone that it is almost selection time for the next six-week period. Twain has currently only received about 100 responses so far. Please only respond if you are changing your mind and remember that you must stick with that decision for the next six weeks. The deadline is Friday, November 13th.

Ms. Patin shares that originally, she was so worried about the children wearing masks all day long, but she reports that the students are doing terrific with the masks and social distancing and how proud she is of them. They are setting an example for everyone else.

III. Michelle Rawson’s Update
Ms. Rawson shares that GT Testing lasted longer than anticipated today and she thanked all the parents for their patience. Ms. Rawson explained that Twain is automatically GT Testing Kinder and 5th with the CogAT test then the Iowa Test this week. For 1st through 4th grade, you must request to be tested. She then explained that the district has many assessments to evaluate students. This year students will take it 4+ times. It gives the teachers information they need to know and set goals. The students took it once during virtual and another test will be administered soon. She encouraged parents to ask about the growth during parent/teacher conferences. You can look at the results and lots of other tests to see growth. Snap shots start next week. Students (1-5) test in reading, math, and language arts with the addition of science for 5th grade.

Ms. Patin added in that the 5th graders who were already determined GT and therefore not re-testing were in the cafeteria this week and were going to do lessons with two teachers. She said in and watched Mr. Bonn teaching a writing lesson. She shared that it
was terrific, and the kids were so awesome, and it renewed her educational energy. She
reminds parents that lots of great stuff is going on and we cannot lose sight of that.

IV. Nurse Hill’s Update
Ms. Patin first shares that she has a template that she is required to send via email every day that Twain has a new presumed positive case. She also thanks Nurse Hill for doing an amazing job.

Nurse Hill first goes over definitions involved with pandemic and how we are doing at school. Twain has only had one confirmed case. All the emails the parents are receiving are just presumed cases – meaning children who are showing 1 or more symptoms – fever, chills, headache, running nose, vomiting, loss of taste, shortness of breath, etc. Nurse Hill than starts with contact tracing with the help of teachers and staff to find out what activities the student has been doing. They look at the distance from the child to others, their contact in lines, in Specials, in recess, etc. She and the teacher then talk about the level of confidence of contact and evaluate behaviors like mask wearing. After discussing it at length, they decide who has been exposed – **has been within 6 feet 15 minutes or more (cumulative)**. Right now, most of the kids that have been sent home are the ones directly around the presumed case. When that happens, you will be contact directly by Nurse Hill, Ms. Patin or Ms. Rawson. If someone becomes confirmed positive, then we get another whole school letter. Those people directly impacted will be contacted by those 3 administrators. For presumed positive that comes back negative, they will call exposed people and tell them to come back. They must be fever free and feeling healthy for 24 hours, negative Covid test and letter from doctor giving an alternate diagnosis. For presumed positive that comes back positive, the whole school gets a letter and dashboard gets changed. Those children who have asked to stay at home are then informed they have to stay home 14 full days from date of exposure. You will be told the exact date of exposure.

Nurse Hill thanks the parents who have been so kind and understanding. She shares that it is difficult to make those calls. She also thanks those parents that are keeping their kids home who are under the weather. Lastly, she thanks Ms. Rawson and Ms. Patin.

V. President’s Report
- **Treasurer’s Report** – Erin shares that Spooky Spectacular started some new traditions with great feedback and made some money for our school. We moved the lanyard sale for the fall fundraiser. She shares that Corporate and F&F funds are healthy.
- **Month of Literacy** – Next Friday, November 20th is Storybook parade. Be thinking of costumes and books. Ms. Patin saw the joy of Halloween and wanted to extend it.
- **Teacher Appreciation** – November is a month of thanks for our teachers. Jill Storch shares that you should have gotten an email from your room parents. We are surprising the teachers with video of kids saying thank you to the teachers and administrators. We are hoping to share with them on Nov. 20th but we need more! We are also providing thanksgiving meal on Wednesday. We gave them pumpkin petifores last month as well.

VI. Fundraising Reminders and Updates - Remember all the ways you can help through Boxtops, Randallas, Amazon Smile, etc. If you still want a lanyard, you can reach out Holly through Knot Stranded to order. Shout out to Houston Orthodontics for the masks they provided. A big thank you to Mary Katherine Barbour for all of her work.
• **Book Fair** - Kat Liddle wants to thank Amber Blossom and Erin Salisbury for all their help. Book Fair has turned into literacy month. Book fair was last week and all online and did surprisingly well with all that is going on but only earned 1/5 of what we usually do. We will do more throughout the year including a holiday shopping event at Barnes and Noble. This week we have had author visits and kids are loving them. Virtual kids and in person kids both can enjoy them. The PTO helps give authors the presentation fee to make this possible. Next week will be parade events. Amber Blossom reminds PTO that book fair is unique fundraiser because direct funnel into the library.
Kat Liddle shares that Name that Book will still happen this year.
Erin Salisbury shares that UIL and track still moving forward too.
• **Bash** – Kaitlyn Garza shares that Bash will be virtual this year and the theme is Harry Potter (Hogwarts). It will look different but will be more kid centric this year. There will be ‘House of Twain’ – each grade will have their own house. The Bash committee still needs volunteers – reach out to them at huckleberrybash@marktwainpto.org!

**VI. Executive Team & Board of Director Updates**
• **Yearbook Cover Entries and Uploads** - The 20-21 yearbooks are on sale on the PTO website. They are $35 until November 20th then goes up to $40 after that. We will not be ordering as many extra this year so make note of final date to order. This year we are relying on parents for picture. Get pics to Katie Patterson by email or text or image share app. Cover contest theme is Twain Together. If you need a book from last year, we still have some.
• **HISD Liaison** - Camora Kuo informs that there is a lot going on but not a ton with elementary, more middle school and high school level and there will be more of an update after tomorrow’s big meeting. The district got approved to send rapid covid tests to school.

**October minutes approval – Mary Katherine motion, Anne McAllister second. Approved.**

Kristin Hamilton – Reminder that buying event at Fundamentally Toys this Saturday.

Mandy Loper – Trying to be creative with Pershing information for 5th graders. They are considering creating a video. Please reach out to her if you have questions.

**VII. Shout Outs**
Everybody! For being wonderful, helpful and keeping us moving forward.

**Motion to adjourn by Jay at 7:25. Katie Patterson second.**