



POE ELEMENTARY PTO
5100 Hazard Street
Houston, Texas 77098
www.poepto.org

**PTO Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2010**

Principal's Remarks:

- First week of class going well.
- Rankings discussion: Poe is a Recognized Level School. District-wide, there are some new goals, including the following: all children will be reading at grade level according to Stanford test results per child; campus goal to maintain our currently high level of TAKS results; also have a goal to focus on Math for all student groups; we also are striving to increase our Commended performance level numbers for all groups; also will be striving to attain a 98% attendance goal. Current enrollment is 730.
- Introduction of new teachers and staff reps at PTO meeting. Breakfast in the Classroom Discussion: Problems getting kids to class from cafeteria in time for announcements; very chaotic in the mornings; kinder parents concerned that they don't get to walk their child to their class – just drop them off in cafeteria. Most of the problems are with kinder. Claudia will get the headcount on Friday for how many kids are eating b'fast at school. Suggestion made to push the opt-out. Will talk about opt-out at Curriculum Night and have the forms there.
- Ms. Ondruch talked about drop-off/pick-up procedures. Stressed that car-riding students be picked up in the front in the pick-up line.
- Ms. Garcia spoke about the new GT program. Goal is to create better thinkers, one student at a time. Over 100 new students applied for GT this year and will be tested. A profile will be compiled for each student using Renzuli system. For GT students, they will be using a curriculum called "Scholars and Knowledge" which will overlay the existing CLEAR curriculum that all Poe students use. Thus, rather than being pulled out in a once/wk basis, the GT children will be getting daily accelerated learning, encouraging higher-level thinking. GT students will journal their learning for teachers and parents to see progress. Special projects will be given and diversified to keep the GT experience ever-changing and fresh. There will also be at least one GT fieldtrip and a GT Expo to deepen their learning experience and showcase that to parents. In their daily assignments, GT assignments will be notated by a different icon, encouraging higher-level thinking processes. Email Ms. Garcia with questions at bgarci11@houstonisd.org. She will be compiling a Top 10 list for her Curriculum Night break-out session on GT.
- Questions on 2:55 time for which parents can enter the building at pick-up. Ms. Gonzales addressed that the purpose for the new procedure is to ensure that the teachers can have a full instructional day without interruption from parents trying to enter the classrooms before the dismissal bell. She took questions regarding concerns with the new procedure, which will be discussed and re-addressed at next meeting.
- Question about Curriculum Night and children attending. Preference is to not have children attend as it tends to be distracting to parents.

It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District and Poe Elementary not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status, or political affiliation in its educational or employment programs and activities.



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President's Report:

- Tammy gave opening remarks, welcoming new and old PTO members. Also introduced Exec Board and Board members who worked hard over the summer (publicity, grounds, uniform sales, ice-cream social, etc.). Big thanks to all of these individuals for their efforts to make our school ready for our kids to return this year.
- Recognition to Melisa Regan for Poe Website.
- Recognition of great Poe Staff.
- Uniform sales are going gang-busters with sales of over \$20k!!! Thanks, Angie Synek and Kathy Kahanek (and their kids!).
- Poe Directory: Che Smith working hard to get parents to go online to enter their child's information, as well as his team. Need to get more ad sponsors, so contact Che or go online to www.surveymonkey.com/PoeDirectory2010 to sign-up.
- Poe Yearbooks: New chairs, Cathy Moore and Kenna Bonner have been working hard to get the purchased ones to their owners and determine how many are left for sale.
- Margaret Cooper & Leah White were Ice-Cream Social chairs and did a great job of coordinating and welcoming back our Poe families.
- Grandparent's Day this Thursday! Lunch available for purchase in cafeteria for students who want to host their grandparents for lunch.

P&L Report:

- YTD Report: Beginning of fiscal year, so not much to report; uniform sales on target.

VIPS

- Membership: 163 families currently members of PTO; please join up if you haven't already!
- Background check for volunteers: Regarding background checks: for returning members, they just need to sign the returning VIPS list that will be available in homerooms for Curriculum Night and take their driver's license by the office to be scanned. Only new VIPS members need to have background checks run.
- Drop off/Pick up Schedule and Meeting the New Volunteers: Parents concerned that there is very little face time with teachers and other parents due to breakfast in the classroom procedure and new process for pickup where parents aren't allowed in the building until 2:55pm. Ms. Gonzales to discuss this with teachers and report back.

Merchant Rebates:

- Amazon link applies kickback directly to Poe.
- Kroger – have to renew card every year, so please do so if you shop at Kroger's.
- Papa Johns & Gugliani's will be honoring discounts all week now, not just Tuesdays.
- For online shoppers, check out Onecause.com.

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Carnival:

- Sat., Oct. 30 at Poe Playground.
- T-shirts on sale now and can be worn every Friday in Oct. Order forms on PTO board or on-line.
- Volunteers needed to be booth chairs for the different classrooms.
- Need a Food Chair (need someone who can work with various food vendors, as well as the City Health Dept.).
- Please bring soft-drinks for the food booths.
- Need stuffed animals and happy-meal prizes for several booths.
- Will have our bazaar, so if you want to show off your wares, look on-line for forms, and on the PTO Board in the front of the school.

Auction:

- Feb. 25, 2011 at Rice. Mardi-gras theme! Woo-woo!!!
- Mary Kat Lewis, Brooke Reeves, and Janet Flood chairing this year's event.

Fine Arts Career Expo:

- Sept. 27-Oct. 3: The Expo will be all week long this year! Artists will come into the ancillary classrooms, two per ancillary, so that by the end of the week, students will have met up to 10 artists (40 mins/ea).
- Need volunteers to help with displays of artists' work on the stage, as well as slide-shows in the cafeteria and front monitor.
- Kids will be journaling their reactions to the artists.
- Contact Ayesha Tiscareno via email at ayeshapai@sbcglobal.net for more information or to sign up to volunteer or share your artistic skills.