Stratford PTSA General Meeting

February 28, 2017

SHS Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Kim Selzman, President, at 6:33, and we had a quorum present.

Brandy Demeris presented the minutes from the September 7, 2016 General Meeting. Meredith Lamberton made a motion to approve the minutes and Karen Alexander made a second. The minutes were approved as presented.

Cindy McGinty reported that we have a balance of $112,042.50 and total expenses of $\_\_\_\_. We have

$105,814.74 in cash balance.

Kim thanked everyone for coming and said that we need to start the process of getting business handled for next year. She said the Nominating Committee is being put together and we need 5 members and 2 alternates. She has 4 members that are listed on the agenda, and we need one more alternate for the nominating committee. We have eight officer positions that need to be filled and a slate has not been put together, but we have quite a few people willing to step in except for the position of president. Meredith Lamberton agreed to be the regular member for the nominating committee and Anna Farris will be the alternate. Our meeting in April will be an election meeting and our installation of officers will be on May 10th for the Awards Night for grades 9-11.

Sparta Fund is money that is available and can make a big impact on our students’ education. The initial funding was $41,500. We have spent $2,200 for a stipend for the power reviews that occurred in December for those teachers that helped, $600 for backpacks for students in need, and $465 for t-shirts for the Anime Club to grow their membership, No Place For Hate competition prize $105, $3,525 for travel expenses for the Business Professionals of America, Teacher of the Year Award $100, floor mats for $1991.95, $12,713 for Mac computers for art, two teachers asked for dry erase markers in the amount of $479.60, $3,131.70 for graphing calculators, $499.34 for updates to the aquatic science, $180 for books, a game called The Payday Game $70.68, and possibly paying for the Naviance Conference in the amount of $6,000. The Sparta Fund has provided many things that would not have been awarded otherwise.

Karen Alexander reported that the deadline for PTSA Scholarships is March 31, 2017. We also have an Anton Segal Scholarship, funded by Hungry’s, for a junior. Scholarship applications are online. She thanked the membership for those who helped contribute to the scholarship fund.

Anna Farris said they are in the beginning stages of looking at Lifetime Membership Awards. They are looking for people who have kept the ideals of PTA for kids in Spring Branch and Texas. These are open to staff, students, and parents. It is a nice way to recognize these people.

Diana Bates is working on the Big Form and directory for next year. Meredith Lamberton asked if we would consider adding a line item to the Big Form for a donation to the Spring Branch Education Foundation. Kim responded saying that we have not allowed others to do that and it has been a difficult way to allocate those funds, but Diana and her new group are considering moving away from their current software that was the problem. It might be something that could be considered.

Beth Cole reported that the Spartan Scoop is going fine.

New Business:

Meredith Lamberton reported that she attended PTA Rally Day yesterday in Austin. Parents for Full and Fair Funding have asked for three things: a special session to recalibrate or reconsider the recapture funds, not to pass the voucher request, and to eliminate the STAAR test. As a result, Dan Huberty announced today that school vouchers are dead.

Patricia Economides works for SBISD in the Bilingual Department and serves as a counselor for new immigrants. She spoke about refugee students we have at our school and how we can help them adjust better and be a part of our community. We have about 35 families in the SHS feeder schools and 23 have students at SHS. They are from many different countries. She is looking for mentor families that are established and could pair up with a refugee family to help them fit into the community and the school. They come through a resettlement agency and have a case manager, but need someone to help them adjust. They do not want it to be any kind of a financial burden on the mentor family. There are already a few families who have helped some, but it would be easier if we still had more. She brought a sign-up sheet and Kim agreed to put it on the website and in the newsletter.

Ellie Pena and Mary Mouton, junior class students, came to speak about The Big Day. This year it will be on April 22nd. They had 800 sign-up last year and they are hoping to get even more this year. A Day on the Field at Thornwood Elementary will be a safe day for kids to spend with football, soccer, lacrosse, and cheer athletes. They need help with getting people signed up and parent volunteers. There is a sign-up on the Stratford website and students who sign up by March 31st get a free t-shirt and Chick-fil-A breakfast.

Mr. Gex said he really appreciates the laptops the kids have received in the classrooms. Spring Show is April 6-8, April 11th is a human trafficking speaker, and April 18th is the Tommy Tune Awards. He also talked about the move to alphabetical homerooms that will roll out in April and be in effect next year. This should help alleviate the counselors load. He is considering doing a counselors boot camp for juniors in the summer so they can get their college applications done.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.