

**Buckalew Elementary PTO Meeting
May 10, 2024**

Call to Order: 11:33 a.m.

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes – Elizabeth Kutka

Motion: Catherine Boeger

Second: Tiffanie Lung

Passed: Unanimously

II. Principal’s Report – Jill Price

Thank you, Elizabeth Kutka for being our president, taking it over mid-year unexpectedly right before Boosterthon three years ago. Thank you for your years of service to our school.

We could not run our school without every single person here – you all do so much, and we rely on you.

Enrollment: we have been sitting at a consistent place from last year to this year. We’re not expecting major growth for next year. Our classrooms are under the 22-student capacity. We expect to be right around the same numbers for next year.

Gym should be complete by August 2025. The proposal says it will be in our current back parking lot. We expect that to start this summer – they will alter our parking lot and probably the fencing around our playgrounds. I will share more as I know. We will probably have to adjust our carline pattern, but it will be okay!! The architects know the impact of altering our carline on Alden Bridge. As of now, we don’t see the playground being moved. If they do, the district will absorb that cost.

There will be a new campus as part of the bond that will absorb most of the overcrowding in the TWHS feeder zone. There will be more information coming about the rezoning in the fall.

Stacey Chase, School Board Member and Buckalew Parent:

Tune in to the school board meetings for more information on the bond.

There’s a specific section with updates every month.

Thank you to everyone here – there are a million ways to invest your volunteer time and a million worthy causes. The news is full of stories about

school districts that have to make cuts, but because of the good work of volunteers like you, CISD is in a good position. Thank you so much for what you do.

III. Officer's Reports – PTO Officers

a. Treasurer – Carrie Foster

i. Monthly Financial Report: See April document – includes May month to date through today.

Revenue: \$182,000 for the year (124% of our budget)

Carnival: Net \$35,000 after expenses

ii. Proposed 2024-2025 PTO Budget

Budget is very similar to this year for committee expenses – small adjustments based on actual spending.

Biggest adjustment is the Fund Buckalew expenses.

We are adding the Weekly Reader subscriptions as a line item.

Question: Does “Staff Needs” include surplus stock of school supplies?

Answer: That will be an additional expense if we have funding.

Question: Technology – how is that budgeted? Do we know what we need to replace?

Answer: Some of that is subscriptions, like Dreambox.

Mrs. Price: All technology has to be approved by CISD and align to TEKS and meet security requirements. \$8,200 just for Dreambox subscription for the campus. These subscriptions add up fast for students.

For Chromebooks and I-PADS- currently we are awaiting the 2023 Bond Prop B Rollout for iPads. We received 98 Chromebooks for the determined operating system for Chromebooks to be replaced.

We received 38 Chromebooks that PTO purchased from their vote.

All are in current classrooms now. IPADS will be our next receipt from the bond prop B – they distribute this on a phased basis across CISD.

Question: What about teacher computers?

Mrs. Price: Those are provided by the district, and there is a plan for that in prop B for replacements

Question: What about when the teachers ask for something more advanced? What about Smart Boards?

Mrs. Price: I regularly ask the teachers what they need. Something like Smart Boards would be an item advertised in fundraising efforts if they felt this was an important instructional need. They also can use their grade level play date money for something like that if it was determined to be a need or want.

Question: I see Spirit Wear and School Supplies are revenue-generators. Could we do those at cost to make them more accessible? We're over budget, and I've heard people complain about the cost.

Answer: These have always been revenue-generating projects for us, and we do rely on that funding.

Audrey: The teacher shirts include their PTO membership – they get the kids' prices. They get the shirt and membership for \$18.

Mrs. Price: We used to do a field day shirt that was separate and the feedback then, was that parents wanted to purchase them to wear more than one time (Field Day), so they then were a choice in the beginning of the year to wear all year long.

Addie: We polled several schools in the area, and our pricing is lower than other schools.

Audrey: We're only making a small amount on the shirts, just a couple dollars per shirt. It just adds up quickly because we sell so many.

Mrs. Price: we don't really push the specific shirt – the emails now say Buckalew shirt. We can be more proactive about saying "Buckalew shirt."

Audrey: a lot of our "special items" don't make any profit at all (umbrellas, pajamas)

Addie: maybe we could start a "Swap Shop" for people who have outgrown their shirts to donate.

Stacey Chase: With our \$40,000 surplus—I know we approved some significant projects in the fall. Is there a plan to do something with the rest? With the bond, we'd talked about making play grounds more accessible.

Mrs. Price: We've done some work with the playgrounds to make them accessible. This was one of my goals. I was surprised to learn that the approved vendors don't have the materials for the accessibility we can afford for playground structures. The mulch is a surprising barrier – for wheelchairs. The foam/sponge flooring vs mulch for playgrounds was proposed and then cut out in the bond package. I would like to wait until our construction package (gymnasium) is more complete before we invest in the exterior – there is a possibility that our playground and fencing will be adjusted.

Question: What is the anticipated expense for Spirit Wear?

Answer: We do have to give some money to Elite Swag to set up the order, but then we receive that back in the sales.

Question: How much would it cost to cover t-shirts for every student?

Answer: There are 740 kids, and shirts are at least \$17-18 at cost.

Question: Field trips. The second graders went down town, which is awesome. But the buses were so long, we didn't get much time there. Can we use charter busses?

Answer: The charter busses at Mitchell are the single biggest expense for the PTO!

Vote to Approve 2024-2025 Budget

Motion: Sarah Bartnick

Second: Catherine Boeger

Approval: Unanimous

iii. Proposed Spending

See "Additional Spending Document"

We project that we will have \$16,000 left at the end of this year after paying out expenses.

We met with the school for wish list items, took a survey of members and teachers.

- 5 new classroom projectors: \$5,375
- Grade level funding including Specials and Special Education:
Total of \$10,625
 - o \$1,700 Kindergarten
 - o \$1,700 1st Grade

- \$1,700 2nd Grade
- \$1,700 3rd Grade
- \$1,700 4th Grade
- \$1,700 Specials
- \$425 SPED

Questions: The survey didn't yield a lot of ideas?

Answer: We did, but this gives them the most flexibility.

Mrs. Price: Yes, everything will still go through an approval process with a justification, as does every purchase. This is a way to say that we don't want to ask parents to get things, but teachers can buy for their classrooms what they may ask from parents throughout the year, or often times pay for out of their own pocket.

Motion: Chelsea Depoy

Second: Celita Lewis

Approval: unanimous

School Supplies: Jill Rider

All the lists are finalized. We will send out the information as soon as possible.

Mrs. Price: Parents have a choice to order PTO Supply Packs that are a one stop shop and delivered as a convenience or there will be a CISD published list for all schools that you will see in stores like Target and Walmart to buy individually.

Jill: Teachers LOVE getting the supply packs! You'll be able to purchase through mid-June.

b. Parliamentarian – Brooke Roberts

i. Nominate the following executive board officers for 2024-2025.

1. President – Brooke Roberts
2. VP Fundraising – Chelsey Martin
3. VP Communications – Felisha Hennessey
4. VP Parent Involvement – Christine Schaible
5. Co-Treasurer – Carrie Foster
6. Co-Treasurer – Rachel Simpson
7. Secretary – Janelle Kemp
8. Parliamentarian – Anna Russell

Motion: Sarah Bartnick

Second: Jill Rider

Approval: unanimous

- ii. Open board positions for the 2024-2025 school year
 - Rewards Chair
 - Carnival (Outdoor Entertainment, Silent Auction)
 - Community Partners / Outreach
 - Boosterthon
 - Swap Shop
- iii. Transition of roles to incoming board members
- iv. BOGO Book Fair
 - The last week of school.
 - Volunteer sign up list went out.
 - Next week, we will send out e-Wallet information.
- v. Lost and Found: items donated through The Woodlands Methodist Church to lower income schools in Houston.

c. VP Parent Involvement – Sarah Bartnick

- i. Gift Crowd – Teacher and Staff End of Year Gifts
 - This is a new online option with no cost to teachers, staff, the school, PTO, or donors.
 - Completely anonymous.
 - Room Moms: please send out the emails over the next week. The school cannot request donations, only PTO.

Question: Why is the deadline May 16?

Answer: We want to make sure people redeem the gifts before the end of the year, but we can adjust that deadline if the participation is low.

- ii. Spirit Nights
 - Great success at Marcos and Chipotle.
 - Kona Ice: Thursday, May 16 after school.
- iii. Flag Presentation

Adjourn: 12:36

Meeting Attendees:

Jill Price

Elizabeth Kutka

Brooke Roberts

Sarah Bartnick

Catherine Boeger

Carrie Foster

Felisha Hennessey

Amanda Lee

Vicky Christaki

Jill Rider

Addie Greer

Myranda Wright

Audrey Innerst

Anna Russell

Katie Bonilla

Stacey Butterfield

Ashley Heinen

Stacey Chase

Brandi Sherman

Tiffanie Lung

Celita Lewis

Chelsea Depoy

Kristen Stocker