

**Buckalew Elementary PTO Meeting
November 3, 2023**

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

- Call to Order: 11:32 a.m.
- Motion to Approve: Taylor Erickson
- Second: Jenny Bardoux
- Unanimously approved

II. Principal's Report – Jill Price

Bond presentation – early voting today is the last day (polls open til 7pm)
Magnolia Event Center is easy in and out.

Tuesday, November 7 – Buckalew is a polling place. Voting will take place in the portables. Will distribute the fliers. I am sorry I missed the Bond presentation due to an unexpected death in my family.

Can't tell you how to vote, but I do encourage you to vote.

Bond includes a new gym for Buckalew, which would give us so much flexibility in our master schedule. Also includes a new elementary in The Woodlands High School feeder zone, which would help with overcrowding across the area.

I have a flier for the Woodlands HS feeder district, and we have a few families that are zoned to the College Park feeder, and I have specific fliers for College Park too.

Stacy Chase, CISD Board Member

Early voting is open today – quick and easy.

If you still need more information, I'm happy to share my perspective, or there is great information on the website.

I know it's a big number. The first assessment for the Bond Committee was \$3 billion, but this is much less.

As a Buckalew parent, I am supporting this bond because I've seen the incredible growth in our area. We see the portables, what's going on at Bush and other elementaries. It's important that we get these new schools built. So vital to provide the level of exceptional education that the district does. That's me speaking as a parent!

Mrs. Price: I want to thank Courageous Catherine, Exceptional Elizabeth, and Terrific Taylor for running our Boosterthon campaign!

III. Officer's Reports – PTO Officers

a. Treasurer – Carrie Foster - Monthly Financial Report

October was pretty quiet.

Large deposit from Boosterthon almost \$8,500 on October 31. Another deposit has already come in.

Hit our membership goal for the year.

Total revenue YTD: About \$28,000

Just getting started with fundraising.

Spending is quiet right now, primarily:

- Books for vending machine
- Hospitality
- School requests / grade level requests
- Classroom technology

b. VP Fundraising – Catherine Boeger

i. Boosterthon

School wide goal: \$40,000

Pushing through social media, email, text blasts

Current total: \$28,100 profit to the school.

Showing kids our progress every morning on announcements.

Goal to reach all states: need 9 more states! Already have three countries (Germany, Indonesia, UK)

Mrs. Price: this is great because we reach outside of just the parents and bring in extended families. Kids love filling up all the states and lots of countries.

Catherine: prizes this year are all Dude Perfect themed. Kids are really excited about them. Crazy trick shot group on YouTube. From Texas.

School and classroom incentives.

- This weekend: \$2 per lap or \$60 flat fee will get a frisbee
- Class that raises the most this weekend: board game day
- Grade level at the end with the most funding: popsicle recess
- Class with the most funding: silly string
- School wide hit our goal: Kona Ice on Boosterthon Day!

Question: When do we get the text messages for the rewards each day?

Answer: From here on, the prize announcements for the classroom will come from the teacher.

Answer: We will also post updates on social media.

Question: Will the teacher tell us about daily goals and prizes?

Answer: Not every day. Each class kind of does there own thing. Teachers choose things they can handle within the classroom. We're trying not to put too

many asks on parents – things they can do within the room.

Catherine: Thanks for posting your star student video! Like and share your friends' posts, because it helps raise their posts to the top of their feeds.

I asked a friend in New Jersey for \$5, and he gave \$355! You never know what people will be willing to give.

Carnival Candy Donations:

We are accepting non-chocolate candy left over from Halloween, please drop it off in the front office! We can give these as prizes for Carnival games.

Question: You said \$28,000 profit to us. Does that mean we've covered our costs?

Answer: It's a sliding scale – the more we raise, the more we keep. That's the amount we get to keep after we pay for Boosterthon's expenses. There will also be the fee to Kona Ice.

Question: What kind of percentage do they take?

Answer: Mrs. Price: We're using a different model now. We used to have Boosterthon run the entire show, so we paid a higher percentage. Now that PTO has been running a lot of this for six years, we keep a lot more.

We're able to use Boosterthon's Character Education program, only a few volunteers, so we get what we need. Before this PTO Executive Board was in place, we tried three different other companies, and they were not well-run. You pay for what you get. Our Carnival is our signature event that we ask a lot of parent volunteers to run.

Question: So you're budgeting 50%?

Answer: No!! We make our budget conservatively. It's a sliding scale, but I think it's about 30%.

Answer: Budgeting is a big job, and we're very conservative in our budget. We have a target number to reach every year to accomplish all our programs and activities. We can't rely 100% on the amounts we got last year.

Last year, it did cost us \$30K to put on the fundraiser. We brought in \$87K and kept \$57K.

Mrs. Price: This is the best quality program with our PTO. Our community really looks forward to the Run event. The staff run it during the day. We get the character education. It's a model that our community has grown to know and love, and we never know what our community is going to be at economically.

Elizabeth: Last year, Boosterthon was our biggest fundraiser ever. We're going to keep moving with it because we get a great response overall.

c. VP Parent Involvement – Sarah Bartnick

i. Spirit Nights – Myranda Wright and Linda Zhao

Marcos Pizza: November 15

First Grade has a special program – decorating boxes in art class. Pizza will come home in YOUR box.

All grades can still order pizza and 20% back to Buckalew PTO.

ii. Buddy the Bear: need a helper on Thursday morning for Boosterthon.

Will be at Boosterthon all of next week – two days at Biker/Walker, two days at Car Line

d. Parliamentarian – Brooke Roberts

Jenny Bardoux is taking a new job and stepping down from her roles on PTO.

Wonderful volunteer. Would like to fill these roles with new volunteers who aren't already as involved! Both of the first roles can be done primarily from home – mostly email and Sign Up Genius.

i. Library Liaison

ii. Volunteer Coordinator

iii. 2nd and 4th Grade Photographers

III. Upcoming Dates

a. November 7 – No School (Election Day)

Mrs. Price: Voting at Buckalew will be in the portables, so you will enter from the side. 7:00a.m. – 7:00p.m.

Stacy Chase: In addition to the bond, there are 14 propositions. Proposition 9 is a cost of living adjustment for Teachers Retirement System. Teachers in Texas do not qualify for Social Security, and they have not had a cost of living adjustment since 2004.

b. November 10 – Boosterthon Fun Run

You can come watch your kids! Your Room Moms should have sent out information.

Mrs. Price: You will have to have a badge to come in! Please sign up to pre-print your badge to help with the lines.

Catherine: if you signed up to volunteer, your badge will already be printed. You can pick up these badges early.

- c. November 15 – Marcos Pizza Spirit Night
- d. November 20-24 – Thanksgiving Break
- e. November 30 – 4th Grade Play Date

Next PTO Meeting: December 1

Buckalew Library

11:30 a.m.

Question: How do they pay for Play Dates?

Answer: Now it's through My School Cash, instead of through us.

Adjourn: 12:11p.m.

Connect with Buckalew PTO:

- Read the Buckalew Buzz via email
- Buckalew Elementary
 - Twitter: @buckalewbears
 - Facebook: Buckalew Elementary, Conroe ISD
- Buckalew PTO
 - Instagram: @Buckalewbearspto
 - Facebook: Buckalew Elementary PTO

Upcoming Meeting Dates

December 1
January 5
February 2
March 1
April 5
May 3