

Member Meeting Goodwater Montessori PTO

Date: Wednesday September 6th, 2023

Location: Goodwater Montessori School - 710 Stadium Dr, Georgetown, TX 78626

Meeting Called to Order By: Michelle Wong, President

Time: 6:09pm CST

Attendance: Total number of attendees was 26 members and quorum was met.

Minutes:

1. Review of PTO Board Meeting minutes from 8/2/23, 8/16/23, 8/28/23, and 9/1/23

Copies of previous meeting minutes were included in packets distributed to every member. Michelle explained that almost every meeting was held to fill vacant Board positions and confirmed that we are now full. Everyone was asked to review for errors and suggest amendments if applicable.

A motion to approve PTO Board Meeting minutes from 8/2/23, 8/16/23, 8/28/23, and 9/1/23 was made by Sara Jefferson. Seconded by Rebecca Huggins. All in favor? YES. YAYS 26 vs NAYS 0

2. President's Welcome and Thank You to 2023-2024 Sponsors

Michelle Wong, President thanked all of our sponsors and all of the members in attendance for their very generous and continuous support.

- Toyota North Austin - Indigo Level Sponsor \$5,000
- Smile Doctors Orthodontics - Dr. Goldenberg - Indigo Level Sponsor \$5,000 (Student & Staff T-Shirt)
- Acrotex Gymnastics Georgetown- Sapphire Level Sponsor \$500
- Farmers Insurance - Robert Hilton - Sapphire Level Sponsor \$500 (Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts)
- White Family \$2000 (Playground initiative)- they continue to give even though they are no longer a family at Goodwater.
- Watts Family \$5000 (Playground initiative)

3. Officers' Reports

a. President's Report - Michelle Wong

Michelle spoke to our "WHY". Goodwater has their own goals and initiatives that they are working towards. In summary these include to keep kids educated, keep doors open and to keep staff paid. The PTO exists to fill in those gaps within charter school funding. These gaps are approximately \$1k-4k per student less than local ISDs. That is why this PTO came to exist, in order to bridge the gap. Parents and teachers saw the need to support their students, staff and school.

2023-2024 Goals/Initiatives

Underlining theme is to build a community.

- Build our playground.
- To be able to have all staff and families join.
 - We didn't push membership much in past years but now that we are established and understand what we've doing, we strive to improve participation.
- Supporting volunteer programs at the school.
 - It is important to make everyone feel welcome. We have found that rebuilding the community after covid has been challenging. We strive to provide purpose and guidance to questions such as, "How do I get involved or Where am I needed?" We now have a

dedicated team that are spearheading data collection and background checks. Shauna Schwanky and Rebecca Huggins are leading these efforts.

- Provide more opportunities for student enrichment.
 - These include but are not limited to stem activities, outdoor education, music theory, bilingual studies, art club etc.
- Provide opportunities for parent/staff enrichment.
 - These include but are not limited to PEP talks. We are inspired to create opportunities to encourage lifelong learning.
- Create awareness and recognition for the school.
 - Goodwater is only 7yrs old and more community recognition with ultimately increase funding. We are still not as well known within community as other schools and have found that many community members don't even know the difference between private vs public charters. We strive to promote our values to encourage recognition. With more contributing members, we can help the community more.
- Partnership opportunities.
 - We always encourage sponsorships and plan to open these up to the surrounding business and also to our Goodwater families. This could be as easy as a corporate matching program or even donating baked goods to our staff. There are endless ways to give back and get involved because sometimes the smallest of things make a biggest difference.
- PTO in kind donations.
 - We will be attaching this to the Goodwater newsletter. This type of initiative can be appealing to busy parents who want to get involved but just don't have the time to commit. In-Kind donations can include direct monetary donations and gift cards. If there is a member that have specific initiatives that they are passionate about, we can earmark these.

b. Superintendent's Report - Bruce Tabor

Dr. Bruce thanked everyone for their continued support. He explained that we have only been here for 7yrs and the PTO has done incredible work within the 2 short years that they've existed. We are facing a difficult time in education and truly rely on the support of families. Staff and students greatly benefit from participating community members and it is truly appreciated. Dr. Bruce also noted the importance of SB 8/HB 100- School Choice and Voucher Program currently in the Special Session. This law will hopefully provide additional funding to public charter schools. He encouraged members to reach out to their local representatives to show their support. He concluded with "I'm here for the students" and reminded everyone that he is very responsive to emails and feedback, both positive and negative. He reiterated the importance of open communication and the importance of volunteering.

c. Vice President's Report - Shauna Schwanky

Shauna introduced herself and provided a PTO membership update. There are currently 82 paid members which total a profit of \$692. To date, we have almost doubled our membership from last year already.

d. Treasurer's Report - Terri Core

Terri introduced herself as a veteran parent of Goodwater, with 3 years under her belt. She provided an update on spirit night and the playground, followed by a brief budget overview. The members in attendance were asked to vote on the proposed 2023-2024 budget.

- Chipotle Spirit Night 8/26- \$100.68

- Playground Payments - \$10,407 from PTO on 8/22. The reason for the PTO writing a check to the school was to alleviate the liability of the PTO, ensuring the playground was completely separated as a school asset.

Budget Review

A number of line items have stayed the same. (see attached)

- Income vs Expense Discrepancies
- Partnerships: Because we already had several businesses decide to partner with us this year, we have met our initial \$12,000 goal and are increasing it to \$15,000 as we are still seeking additional partners for this year.
- *Spirit Wear*: This was added as an additional revenue initiative outside of the free T-shirts provided to staff and students. We did not have this position last year so this has been added.
- *Spring Fundraiser*: We anticipate blowing this projection out of the water, so it has been increased.
- *PTO Admin Cost*: Since we were just getting started as an organization last year, we didn't have a ton of expenses. This year, we have already produced business cards, signs, banners, website, etc. We also anticipate requiring a software license to handle a lot of our new initiatives. We also use these funds to provide refreshments at member meetings This is the cause for the large increase.
- *Teacher of the Month*: This has been removed since it was voted to be too competitive in nature.
- *Playground*: This was decreased since we only owe a balance of \$18,000 after initial deposits were sent to the vendor.
- *Outdoor Education*: This was increased since we have to replace a lot of the trees and plants that died due to the recent record-breaking heat and droughts. A member suggested reaching out to The Arbor Day Foundation for donations. Michelle Wong will follow up.
- The PTO will carry over \$2,000 as per the bylaws.
- No errors were recorded.

A motion to increase the PTO Admin Cost from \$100 to \$2,000 was made by Shauna Schwanky. Seconded by Sara Jefferson. All in favor? YES. YAYS 26 vs NAYS 0

A motion to move money from the Teacher of the Month program to just Teacher Appreciation was made by Shauna Schwanky. Seconded by Sara Jefferson. All in favor? YES. YAYS 26 vs NAYS 0

A motion to add a line item for free student and staff t-shirt expenses was made by Shauna Schwanky. Seconded by Maria Melo. All in favor? YES. YAYS 26 vs NAYS 0

A motion to add a line item for spirit night income was made by Shauna Schwanky. Seconded by Rebecca Huggins. All in favor? YES. YAYS 26 vs NAYS 0

A motion to move all proceeds from the 2023-2024 spirit nights into the playground initiative was made by Shauna Schwanky. Seconded by Olivia Guerra. All in favor? YES. YAYS 26 vs NAYS 0

A motion to rename the playground initiative as special projects was made by Kandace Ayala. Seconded by Olivia Guerra. All in favor? YES. YAYS 26 vs NAYS 0

A motion to add a line item for special projects was made by Shauna Schwanky. Seconded by Olivia Guerra. All in favor? YES. YAYS 26 vs NAYS 0

A motion to move the playground initiative under special projects was made by Shauna Schwanky. Seconded by Olivia Guerra. All in favor? YES. YAYS 26 vs NAYS 0

A motion to increase spirit wear was made by Maria Melo but was vetoed. Michelle Wong reiterated that this is just an initial budget. We will view both the proposed budget and approved budget side by side moving forward. As we continue to see the Influx of money we can later determine and vote on where to put it. We can always revisit it.

e. Teacher Liaison update - Melissa LeGrand

Melissa introduced herself as a veteran Guide of the Mockingbird Community in lower elementary. She has been at Goodwater for many years, even before there was a building purchased and staff were meeting and planning at San Gabriel Park. She is truly committed to the school and to the children. She expressed concern regarding staff turnover and retention. Just last year, out of 10 elementary teachers only 4 returned. This year has started out strong and really positive. The feedback from staff so far is that they feel very appreciated by the PTO. They honestly cannot believe the love they feel. New teachers are a little hesitant because they are still trying to learn the ropes. There is also a lot of hope for the LVC position within communities. Returning teachers are really excited to have parents in the classroom again every day. Overall the staff appreciates all of the continued support and are excited about this year.

4. Committee Reports

a. Volunteer Coordinator - Rebecca Huggins

Rebecca introduced herself as a veteran parent of Goodwater, with 4 years under her belt. She has 5 kids, 3 of which are currently at Goodwater. She provided an update on the new LCV program. Volunteer opportunities and Raptor.

- She is working on coordinating the Lead Community Volunteer or LCV program. This is our equivalent to a "room parent". Parents are encouraged to be the main point of contact with Guides, to streamline communication, coordination and classroom efforts. This will typically consist of fundraisers, parties, reading times, etc.

- She will be connecting volunteers with proper placements wherever needed. There are plenty of opportunities but Library and Orchard help being priority. Katie is in the orchard every morning from 8-10am and Rebecca encouraged parents to join.

- She reiterated that you must get background checked through the Raptor system to volunteer not only at the school but on field trips as well. There is a link directly on the school website. It is only \$5 to receive clearance for the entire.

b. Parent Enrichment Chair - Maria Melo

Maria introduced herself as an extremely passionate veteran parent of Goodwater and provided an overview of what parent enrichment actually entails, including PEP talks. She also provided a Free T-Shirt update.

- *PEP Talks*: The Parent Enrichment Program or PEP strives to support each other with the goal to enrich and encourage all parents. This year we plan to host 3 total PEP talks. This month we will get to know each other. Our 1st scheduled event is on Friday 9/29 @ 6pm at Plaka Greek Café in Georgetown.

- *Free T-Shirt Update*: Because it took us so long to collect sizes from all students, as well as waiting on our sponsor check -we missed our deadline/opportunity for ordering the color changing shirts we hoped to get. We were originally planning for UV-light sensitive color changing shirts. However, as stock decreased and demand increased, the prices and timeline became unsatisfactory. The PTO has decided to go with a light blue tie-dye shirt, which coincides with our blue and green Goodwater logo.

c. Student Enrichment Chair- Valencia Kidd

Valencia could not attend in person, but Michelle Wong spoke briefly about her ongoing efforts to enrich the lives of students but bringing in exciting activities such as martial arts, soccer shots, etc. We will provide an update next week.

d. Enrichment Club- Art Club Coordinator- London Breban

London could not attend in person, but Michelle Wong spoke briefly about her ongoing efforts to enrich the lives of students through art club. Michelle also shared an exciting Lantern Walk event that London was hoping to provide. These initiatives are popular and are done to welcome the change of seasons. London plans to have students make lanterns in each community and then meeting at Berry Springs Park at dusk for a community event. November 11th was a proposed date, but we may need to revisit this. The members at this meeting agreed to move forward with this program.

e. Outdoor Education Chair- Megan Lopez

Megan introduced herself as freshly appointed parent that is very passionate about the outdoors. She expressed the importance of feeling safe in nature and the positive effects it can have on our nervous systems by naturally calming down and regulating. She is very excited to share her passions of mess and mud with the students.

f. Sunshine Committee Chair- Olivia Guerra

Olivia introduced herself as veteran parent of Goodwater passionate about spreading joy. She explained the importance of The Sunshine Committee and its responsibilities such as supporting the staff through food and fun.

- The most recent initiatives consisted of a staff breakfast, dessert bar and a Sunshine Cart. The Sunshine Cart consists of a decorated rolling cart that provides snacks and smiles to teachers, directly delivered to their classrooms "flight attendant style." Many of these are cultivated through sponsors. We decorated it and rolled through the school. Flight attendant style
- Olivia encouraged members to join, and see her after the meeting, as it's so easy and fun to share the joy.

5. Unfinished (old) Business

a. Playground Update- Michelle Wong

- The total required for phase 1&2 of the Swiss Tree Fort is \$18,407. Goodwater received a \$10,407 check from the PTO on 8/22. This enabled the school to send a 50% down payment check for \$9,203.50 on 8/25. Construction will begin in October as planned and the remaining amount due will be invoiced and paid when they are ready to ship.
- We initially planned for the installation to coincide with Fall Break, but due to shipping delays, this may not happen as planned. Regardless, this will get installed with the help of volunteers. Michelle reached out to the Church next door and their youth leaders were more than willing to assist, as this would also help them with their required community hours.

6. New Business

a. Vote on New Spirit Wear Chair

- Michelle presented a new Spirit Wear Chair candidate named Deserie Mensch. Deserie was previously the Treasurer, but due to conflicting time commitments, had to resign. She would love to stay involved at Goodwater within this role.

[A motion to vote Deserie Mensch as the new Spirit Wear Chair was made by Sara Jefferson. Seconded by Maria Melo. All in favor? YES. YAYS 26 vs NAYS 0](#)

b. Fundraising Information

Michelle reminded the PTO members in attendance that all of our fundraising efforts are separate from anything the school is doing. We have 2 main initiations, 1 in the Fall and 1 in the Spring.

- *Fall Festival:* Selene Kuhn is your new Chair.
 - This is scheduled on October 27th. There will be 2 sessions- The first will be during the day for just the students and the second will be opened to the public from 5-8pm. This is the first year that we are offering a second session, as previously this was hosted by our 6-8th graders. In the past our adolescents created markets and sold eggs and other orchard items. This year every community will get involved in the making of handmade goods, as a class project, to then sell at the market(s).
 - Tickets will be sold and purchased by parents and communities will all get a chance to come down and shop. This will be a fun and large event with lots of eager students participating, as well as the local community. We are excited to also showcase our partnerships with GPD, GFD, etc. The kids truly appreciate this event and are looking forward to it.
- *Spring Gala:* This is our largest fundraiser and revenue generator. It is scheduled for Friday April, 12th 2024. Location is still TBD are we are scoping potential venues - but we are

strongly considering Garey House located inside Garey Park. The agenda will consist tentatively of a silent auction, guest speakers, charter school professionals, Montessori professionals, keynote speaks, etc. This event will also include a reception, dinner, bar, and music. We need to start working on this right now. Immediate needs consist of putting together sponsorship decks and gathering donations.

7. Announcements

a. Upcoming Dates

- 9/13: Sunshine Committee Staff Breakfast at 7am at Goodwater
- 9/13: Understanding Montessori for Parents at 6pm at Goodwater
- 9/14: Understanding Montessori for Parents at 6pm at Goodwater
- 9/18: No School- Staff Development Day
- 9/20: Spirit Night at 5-9pm at Hat Creek in **Round Rock** (venue change)
- 9/28: Coffee with Dr. Bruce at 9:30am via Zoom
- 9/29: Pep Talk at 6-7:30pm at Plaka Greek
- 10/2: School Board Meeting at 6:30pm at Georgetown Library- **(changed from library to school)**

What's important to you and your families. Share your perspectives.

b. Survey for Future Member Meetings

Michelle stated that our meetings are currently being held on Wednesday evenings. We plan to survey all members to determine what works best for most of the group. When minutes go out, a link to a survey will be attached. Michelle stated that members will have a choice between 3 dates and that it will be very quick and easy to participate.

8. Open to Floor

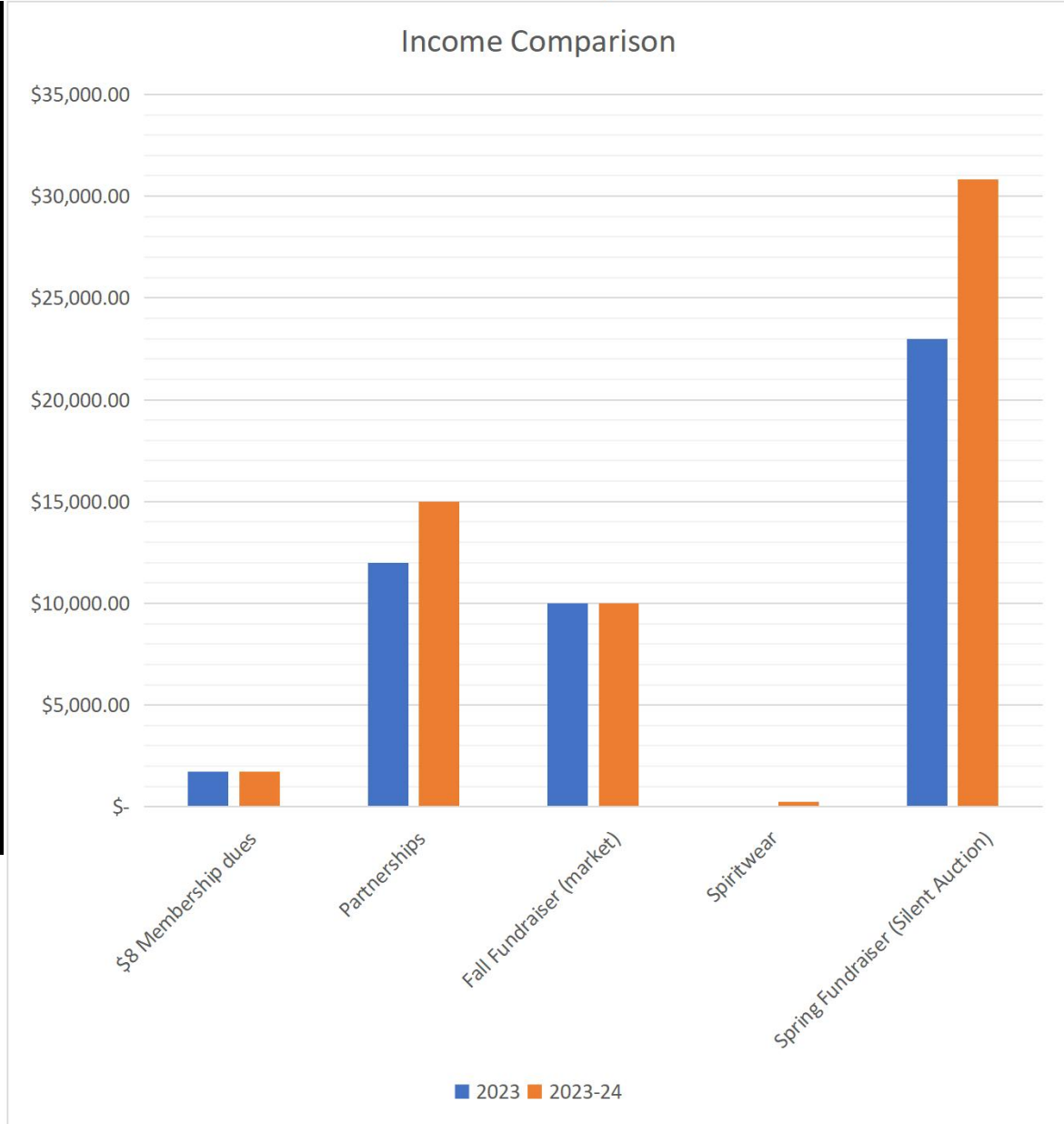
- Teri Core stated that she has just temporarily stepped in as Treasurer, as there was an immediate need. Her dedication to Goodwater was commended. If anyone else would like to be considered for this position, please reach out to Michelle Wong, President.
- A PTO member mentioned the need to have more participating dads, especially within the classrooms. Michelle stated that potentially a Dads on Duty program or something similar would be a good way to get more male presence into our community. We need to look into this further and figure out how to garner interest and involvement. Perhaps through a scheduled meet & greet for dads in the near future.

Meeting Adjourned At: 7:26pm CST

Minutes Compiled By: Dana Martin, Recording Secretary

Goodwater Montessori PTO Income Comparison

Income	2023	2023-24
\$8 Membership dues	\$ 1,727.00	\$ 1,720.00
Partnerships	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Fall Fundraiser (market)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Spiritwear	\$ 250.00	
Spring Fundraiser (Silent Auction)	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 30,817.00
Total	\$ 46,727.00	\$ 57,787.00
Expenses	2023	2023-24
Insurance	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Staff Appreciation	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
PTO Administration costs	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,000.00
Student Enrichment	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
Teacher of the Month program	\$ 900.00	\$ -
8th grade Summer trip	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
Field Trips	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Playground Fund	\$ 31,600.00	\$ 18,000.00
Outdoor Education	\$ 1,840.00	\$ 3,000.00
Spirit Wear	\$ 2,487.00	\$ 2,487.00
Parent Enrichment	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Fundraiser Cost	\$ 500.00	\$ 20,000.00
Carry over	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total	\$ 48,727.00	\$ 57,787.00



Goodwater Montessori PTO Expense Comparison

Income	2023	2023-24
\$8 Membership dues	\$ 1,727.00	\$ 1,720.00
Partnerships	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Fall Fundraiser (market)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Spiritwear	\$ 250.00	
Spring Fundraiser (Silent Auction)	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 30,817.00
Total	\$ 46,727.00	\$ 57,787.00
Expenses	2023	2023-24
Insurance	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Staff Appreciation	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
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