



Meeting Date: March 26, 2019 at 6:30pm

Meeting Location: Kolter North Cafeteria

Members present: 19 (See attendance sheets)

- **Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 6:33pm by Gretchen Rossitto
- Gretchen Rossitto made a motion to approve the minutes of our November 2018 PTO meeting. Amanda Sorena seconded. None opposed. Motion passes.

- **Principal Reports**

- Principal Report – Julie Dickinson
 - There is a proposal in front of HISD to make changes to the funding of Magnet programs. At this point in time, Kolter does not fit into any of the categories outlined in the plan. If the plan passes, it would likely take the "Magnet" out of the Kolter title, but Ms. Dickinson assured us that the Kolter programs would not change. It would simply mean we would no longer be getting additional funding for those programs. It will be funding challenge, not a program issue. People will still be able to apply for the school.
 - She stressed again that this is only a proposal and no vote or changes have officially happened yet. Things are in flux with HISD and she will keep us updated.
 - The other proposed HISD change is to the Pre-K program. Kolter is one of only two HISD schools with a thriving tuition based pre-k program. After some discussion with the HISD board, moving forward, Kolter plans to reserve a few spots for children who meet the criteria of Military families, ESL, or other needs based qualifiers. The remaining spots will be open for applications of zoned families, just like we have done in the past. The Kolter pre-k program is not changing, but they will evaluate over time how many spots will go to qualified families and tuition based families.
- No Place For Hate – Meghan Murphy
 - Meghan Murphy gave an update on the Kolter Ambassador's rolls in the "No Place for Hate" program that launched at Kolter. The Ambassadors shot and developed videos with situations that they think are common at schools and framed them up with suggestions for how students can handle these situations in a more positive or inclusive way. These videos will be shown in the classrooms this week and are on the Kolter Elementary School Facebook Page.
 - The Ambassadors also made self portraits on display in the hall and are working on talking about diversity being a strength in their morning meetings.
 - Everyone, including parents, are being asked to sign the "No Place For Hate" Promise, which reads:
 - I promise to do my best and to treat everyone fairly
 - I promise to do my best to be kind to everyone – even if they are not like me
 - If I see someone being hurt or bullied, I will tell my teacher
 - I promise to help others feel safe and happy at school
 - I will be part of making my school NO PLACE FOR HATE.

- **Building Report – Julie Dickinson**

- Progress is being made with the foundation and teacher parking lots poured. All 246 piers are in place.
- Ms. Dickinson and HISD will be meeting at Kolter North soon to discuss what can be transferred

from Kolter North to the New Kolter building. They will also be working on purchasing the furniture in preparation to move.

- Ms. Dickinson confirmed that there is a \$86K budget to purchase Library items
- Ms. Dickinson is also discussing the technology budget for a new lab with HISD. All of the tech donated to us from ARAMCO will come with us, but she believes we will need more in order to accommodate our kids and future needs.
- **Building Timelines**
 - Still targeting a completion date of January of 2020 with a move over Winter Break of 2019-2020
- **Future Communication**
 - Ms. Dickinson will be starting her monthly meetings with HISD for updates in March 2019
- **Kolter Garden Proposal – Pilar Hernandez**
 - Pilar Hernandez make a Power Point presentation (see attached) on her vision for what the new Kolter garden can be. She believes that we can create similar elements to what Kolter had, but in a new and more functional way to incorporate the children and the neighborhood.
 - There is currently no HISD budget for the Garden, so we will need to raise money as a community if we want to see Pilar's vision become a reality.
 - First steps are to see if we can find a Landscape Architect to help price out the plan. From there, Pilar and the PTO will be looking for volunteers to champion grant writing or fundraising to cover the costs.
 - You can email pilarhernandez@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.
- **Kolter PTO Recruitment – Melissa Bayne**
 - The Kolter PTO is looking for volunteers to be on the board, chair events, be on committees for the 2019-2020 school year. If you have any interest in being more involved on an organizational level with our PTO, email Melissa at melissabayne@hotmail.com
- **Kolter File Day – Meg Groesbeck**
 - Field Day will be April 18th. Be on the look out for a sign up link to volunteer. It should be another fun, messy day with a visit from the Bellaire Fire Truck. Be sure to send extra clothes and plastic bags to change take home wet items.
- **Bootherthon Success – Gretchen Rossitto**
 - Gretchen Rossitto thanked Jessica Gottschalk and her team for working tirelessly for 2 weeks on the Bootherthon to make announcements, deliver prizes, and have a successful Fun Run day.
 - The event brought in \$56,000 for our school!
- **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm by Gretchen Rossitto.

Meeting minutes compiled by: Amanda Sorena, Kolter PTO Secretary 2018-2019