

Leigh Home and School Club
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2019

1. Introductions & Welcome: 7:06pm

2. Admin Reports

a. Principal's report – Kara Butler

The administration is going into classrooms on A days during tutorial to give students a sense of what's expected (respect between everyone) and to encourage them to follow the school's values and connect with the school community. This is the first time the administration has done this, meeting with the kids in small, class-size groups to try to make the kids feel more connected to the school and to feel like they can reach out to the administration.

Also, Kara let us know that substitutes have been found for all the teachers who are out on medical leave and parental leave.

b. Teacher's report – Celeste Smiley

See her written report for full details. There will be a link to her written report in the HSC newsletter.

- As part of preparing for the school year, the teachers heard a presentation on using the appropriate pronouns for students in the classroom.
- There is a new electronic system to scan students into tutorial, using the 5-Star Students program. Parents can sign up for this if they'd like to see where their students are going during tutorial.
- The teachers have received their new classroom furniture and there are some growing pains – the new furniture is bigger than the old furniture and things are a bit crowded. Some teachers like the furniture but many do not, especially because it allows the students to slide around the classroom on their chairs.
- CHSTA (teachers union) update: the district and the union agreed on a new 3-year contract in June. Highlights of the new contract include a new way of tracking activity duty (extra duty for teachers) which the teachers feel is more consistent and equitable between the teachers in terms of the amount of extra activity duty each teacher is assigned. Also: special ed teachers weren't able to get case loads reduced in this contract, but "case

logs” were eliminated and teachers are now limited to 9 assessments per year, which reduces the special ed teachers’ workload. Also there were some increases made to teacher compensation, some of which are dependent on the parcel tax passing.

- Theater is gearing up for its first production of the year, Freaky Friday, which opens 9/6.

3. Associated Student Body report – James Carlton, ASB vice-president

- Leadership Room moved from Room 72 to Room 16. Room 72 is going to become the main Leigh office.
- We have a new activities director, Mr. Roe.
- Events coming up: first in-school rally is this Friday, promoting our Back To School Dance which is Saturday. The theme of the dance is back to the 90’s and there will be a student DJ. Homecoming is the weekend of Sept 20; the homecoming rally will be Sept 19 after school. Students can pick up homecoming t-shirts at the student store the week before the homecoming game; it’s included if you already bought the ASB package; if students didn’t get a homecoming shirt, they can wear a shirt in their class color, which is freshmen white, sophomores golden yellow, juniors forest green, seniors black. Students get spirit points for their class for wearing these shirts; the classes are in a friendly competition to accumulate the most spirit points.

4. College & Career Center Report – Nathalie Goricanec

- Jr/Sr College Night will be Sept 11, 6:30-8:30pm. Leigh alumni are encouraged to come and sit on the college panel at College Night, so if you have a child who’s an alum please let them know and encourage them to contact Ms. Goricanec.
- CUHSD College Fair will be Sept 18 from 6-8pm at Del Mar; this event tends to be very crowded at 6pm when it first opens but by 7pm it’s very quiet and you can easily talk to any college rep.
- Financial Aid info night at Leigh will be Oct 16 from 6:30-8:30pm. Career Expo will be March 18 at Westmont High.
- Coffee & cookies with Mrs. G. is every Friday 12:45-2:15pm starting Aug 30. This is a time that she sets aside for parents to come talk with her.
- Unfortunately we won’t be offering SAT Prep classes with Future Path Prep anymore because over the summer Future Path Prep closed down; they weren’t able to keep up with the College Board’s constant changes to

the test, and so far Mrs. G. hasn't been able to find any other SAT prep classes that charge reasonable prices.

- Senior Guidance Presentation: Leigh admin team will soon be visiting every Senior student Social Studies class to talk about what they need to do during senior year before they graduate; presentation will be shared on website afterwards.

5. **Heart Screening Update – Jennifer Sarmento**

Jennifer came to the HSC meeting on behalf of her nonprofit Kyle J. Taylor Foundation, which works to increase awareness of sudden cardiac arrest, in memory of Kyle, who went to Leigh. The foundation is organizing free heart screenings at Leigh, Oct 19th, 9am-4pm in the gym. They'll be doing EKGs to check for heart problems that might not show up at a regular pediatrician visit. This event's at Leigh but it's open to any youth between the ages of 12-25. You need to sign up in advance online. Also looking for volunteers to sign up to help set up this event the afternoon before, and taking things down after the event; there will be a sign-up sheet online. They are also looking for volunteers with medical experience to help with screenings (height, weight, blood pressure, etc). The reason this is important is because about 80-85% of cardiac issues that affect youth can't be detected through a stethoscope, but an EKG can detect a lot more of them. Undetected cardiac issues are the #1 cause of death on school campuses.

6. **Booster Reports**

a. **Spirit Boosters – the treasurer for Spirit Boosters reported tonight.**

- Spirit Boosters supports the Leigh cheerleaders.
- They have now completed their 501(c)(3) application so that they can become a legally separate entity from the Home & School Club.
- The cheerleaders just chose their competition team, which is a team of 32 girls that will compete in various competitions culminating in a national competition in Anaheim in February.
- Spirit Boosters will pass their budget in September because they weren't ready to pass the budget until the comp team was formed and they knew how many uniforms and other items they would need to buy.
- Upcoming fundraisers: the printed program for the Football Games is their big fundraiser, and they are currently selling ads for it so if you have a business they encourage you to advertise in the program. They'll also be selling merchandise at games; it will be different than the Sports Boosters

merchandise. Popcorn fundraiser in September; selling baked goods and coffee at the PAPA Rummage Sale; in October they will sell candy apples; the Junior Cheer Clinic will occur Oct 15-18 the week prior to the Pink Football Game for children ages kindergarten and up; sign-ups are on the Spirit Boosters web page.

b. **Sports Boosters – Kristina Williams**

- She didn't submit a written report but told us that the Sports Boosters' goal is to support all the competitive sports on campus (except cheer and band which have their own boosters). Fundraisers include Sports Boosters membership drive – buy a gold card which will get your family of 4 into all the home games for football, basketball and more; they also host all the snack shack; and they sell merchandise. They'll be selling merchandise at Back to School Night, all the home games, and they're working on setting up an online store.
- Next Sports Boosters meeting is this coming Monday night 8/26 at 7pm in the Leigh library.

7. **HSC Goals & Objectives for 2019-20 – Aine (see her written report for details)**

- Aine read the HSC's mission and explained that our main focus this year will be building community and increasing parent engagement.
- HSC and all the boosters will have a welcome event from 5-6pm on Back to School Night, with food, bands, booster tables and more.
- HSC fundraising focuses on its Annual Giving Drive (direct donations) and corporate matching, as well as Amazon, and it leaves the other fundraisers to the boosters. HSC officers meet regularly with officers of other CUHSD HSC officers to brainstorm and share ideas.
- We encourage parents to engage by reading the HSC newsletter, attending HSC meetings.
- More ways to get engaged: help with Registration Day, Book Room (put barcodes on books; you can sign up to do that), Back to School Night, help in CCC, help with Campus Beautification Day Oct 26, help with HSC's Staff Appreciation activities, help plan the Grad Night event that HSC puts on for seniors, and the Leigh Stampede 5K Run/Walk at the end of the school year (May 30, 2020) needs a ton of volunteers for all different kinds of jobs so they will find a task that you'll like to do.

- How to volunteer: go to the HSC website LeighHSC.org and go to the 3rd button down where you can get volunteer information. Last year's Stampede made \$11,000 which we divided evenly between HSC and the 3 booster clubs, since the boosters helped so much with the event.
- How do we raise money?
Last year 2018-19 we raised \$28K through Annual Giving, this year our goal is \$30K. We also raise money through Corporate Matching (last year raised \$7K), Amazon (last year \$3.7K), and individual large donations (last year raised \$56K).
- How did we spend money in 2018-19?
 - Classroom resources \$8.2K
 - Department donations \$15K
 - Staff grants \$6K
 - Staff appreciation \$3K
 - Speakers for student assemblies and parent education \$5.5K
 - Library upgrade \$25K
 - Technology \$11K
 - Campus beautification \$4K
 - Funding for new Computer Principles class \$10K
 - Misc: AED, t-shirts for Link Crew Leaders, communications, etc.
 - Going forward for 2019-20 our funding priorities are (in no particular order):
 - Library furniture
 - More technology in classrooms
 - Mental health – social/emotional
 - Classroom resources & staff grants
 - Positive school climate (staff appreciation, etc)

8. HSC Board & Committee Reports

- a. **Treasurer** – Amy Hogg went over the proposed budget and financials to date for the 2019-20 year. The budget and all the backup financial materials are on the HSC Google Drive, and Amy will share them with you if you contact her at treasurer@leighhsc.org.
- b. **Communications** – Aine explained that students get the Student Daily Bulletin which you can see on SchoolLoop; HSC can put information in there to advertise HSC events such as the Longhorn Stampede. Also you can read Kara Butler's Weekly Email that goes to all parents. Also we email HSC newsletter monthly to all parents who opted in during school registration. We also have the Leigh HSC website.

c. **Parliamentarian** – Aine reported that Gretchen is working with the whole HSC board on the HSC bylaws, which are very old. This year we're going to clean them up and make them more relevant.

d. **Staff Appreciation** – Carol Hofheimer reported that the Staff Appreciation committee's mission is to show the staff some love by providing them with luncheons several times a year; you can volunteer to make food for these; also they make special treats and gifts for the teachers.

9. Volunteer Opportunities – sign up sheets for these will be in the newsletter, or you can sign up on the Leigh HSC website, 3rd green button on the home page. Or just email Aine, president@leighhsc.org.

- Back To School Night Parent Welcome, Aug 29
- Campus Beautification, Oct 26
- Stampede, May 30
- Grad Night, June 3

10. Stacey Brown - Leigh rep from the CUHSD school board.

She is here at tonight's HSC meeting. Stacey said she's happy to be here. She's happy that the successful signing of the 3-year teacher contract helped fuel a successful start to the school year. She said CUHSD's biggest issue right now is that the district's expenses are rising faster than its revenue, and that's why they're planning to put a parcel tax on the ballot. To pay teachers and administrators competitively, in order to retain them, we need to pass this parcel tax.

11. Meeting Adjourned 8:40pm