

Cline Elementary
August 21st & 22nd, 2019
PTO General Meeting Minutes

Our PTO Co-Chairs Brooke McClary and Victoria Merkys welcomed everyone to Orientation night, and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the first PTO meeting of the 2019-2020 school year. Then introduced themselves and then handed the stage over to Principal Clifford.

Message from the Principal and AP – Mr. Clifford introduced himself to the audience, and welcomed everyone to Cline’s Orientation night. He asked for a show of hands for those who were new to the district, and quite a few new families were in attendance—he welcomed them to Friendswood, and to the Cline campus. Mr. Clifford thanked the PTO and their continued efforts through fundraising, charity, and Parent-Teacher relations for all they give back to the school and the students; he then explained how their fundraising efforts are imperative and integral to the success of our campus and its students. Due in part to the PTO’s fundraising endeavors, there is a new marquee out in front of the school, the library and technology center within the library have been revamped and updated, as well as numerous classroom books/ipads/furniture having also been replaced and updated. These feats have been made possible through the charity and donations of wonderful Cline campus families, local business sponsorships, and annual fundraising events held at our school.

Mr. Clifford explained that the parent-teacher connection is a powerful one, because a child’s learning doesn’t end when he/she leaves the classroom. Both components are necessary for a child’s continued academic success. Our campus is lucky enough to have a large body of participating parents and families who see to it that each child’s potential is fulfilled, and our teachers do the same within the classroom. Friendswood is a wonderful place for your children to flourish, and the PTO is wonderful organization that you can be a part of, to ensure that this tradition of excellence continues.

Our new Assistant Principal, Mrs. McCarty, introduced herself to the parents. She shared that prior to her new position, she had been a 3rd grade teacher at Cline

for several years...and before that, she taught previously at a different district. Her experience in the previous district differed from the climate in Friendswood and at Cline, in that it did not have the same amount of parental involvement on campus—they didn't even have a functioning PTO. Mrs. McCarty has learned first-hand how wonderful it is to have a group of parents who work so hard to give back to the campus, faculty, and students.

One of Mrs. McCarty's roles as AP is to oversee the campus safety initiatives. With this, she shared that there will be a mandatory Volunteer/Room Mom meeting scheduled for Sept 6th at 9am in the cafeteria—it will follow directly after our monthly September PTO meeting. This meeting is for all who wish to either Room Parent, attend class parties, help at any “during the school day” activities, and for all weekly/regular volunteers that will be on campus. In addition to attending this meeting, there will be mandatory background checks done by the district on each individual as well. All of these measures are to ensure the safety of our students, and to keep the Cline campus as safe as possible. In this current climate of school violence, FISD takes extra precaution to ensure the safest environment possible for everyone who is on the campus at any given time.

Other Special Speakers – Kelly Browning, the FISD Community Education Director, wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of the Community Education curriculum for the fall semester, offered through FISD. The class information sheets have already gone home with students, but she has extra copies, as well as the front office, for those who are interested in signing their children up for these wonderful classes. They are all offered after school, and cover a wide variety of activities—everything from sports, to crafting, to academic enrichment. Class dates, times, and locations vary, so please read over the options carefully. Those who choose to enroll can do so on-line, or through the FISD Annex building here in Friendswood. Enrollment is open now, but spaces are limited—so time is of the essence.

Executive Board Reports:

Co-Chairs – Brooke McClary welcomed everyone to our first PTO meeting of the 2019-2020 school year, and thanked them all for taking the time to come, listen, and get all of the most current and pressing Cline Campus information! Brooke then introduced the 2019-2020 PTO Executive Board members: Victoria Merkys—

Co-Chair, Audri Kutchinski—Vice President, Amy Kutchinski—Treasurer, and Bridget Hill—Secretary. Many of our board members are returning members, and/or parents who have served in different capacities for the PTO in previous years.

Brooke then thanked several of our numerous committees, they include: our Spirit Store Chairs Lindsey Ray and Tammy Cartwright, our Gardening Chair Stephanie Reddick, our Box Top Chair Aniko Swett, our Small Fundraisers committee Kylee Moorman and Jessica Wicks, our Recess Buckets Chair Steve Brennan, our amazing Hospitality Committee Amy Chism, Lindsay Hutchins and Callie Rhodes, and all of our CLINEFEST Co-Chairs Kristan Giamatteo, Bea Grado, Victoria Merkys, Amie Bell, Judy Wiggins, and countless other committee members who don't take the summers off when it comes to keeping Cline well supported.

Our PTO meetings will take place in the cafeteria on the first Friday of every month, with all except the September meeting, starting at 9am. Please make it a point to attend these meetings (even if you do not belong to any committee) just to stay up-to-speed on the current issues and events going on at Cline. If you haven't already done so, please sign up to be a member of the Cline PTO through our website, you will also be able to pay your annual dues on line as well. This website will always keep you updated on all current Cline events and fundraisers, in addition to being the only place that you will be able to sign up to volunteer for holiday parties and other campus related events for your child's class. The class party sign-ups will go "live" after the Volunteer/Room Mom meeting that occurs on September 6th. All parents wishing to fill volunteer roles must have attended one of the two mandatory volunteer meetings offered, in addition to having passed the FISD background check.

Treasurer – Our Board Treasurer Amy Kutchinski could not be here this evening, but she has posted the current budget for the 2019-2020 school year on our PTO website for your viewing.

Committee Reports:

Box Tops/Pop Tabs – Our Committee Chair Aniko Swett explained the purpose of Box Tops, and the how useful their fundraising is to our campus' income. Box Top

clipping has now gone digital, and no longer do you have to painstakingly clip each and every Box Top from your kitchen. The “Box Tops for Education” app can be downloaded for free to any Apple or Android phone, thus eliminating the need to clip—although clipped Box Tops will still be accepted, and can be turned in to your child’s teacher at the end of every other month, with the first collection date being August 30th. This committee is still in need of a few volunteers who would be willing to count Box Tops just a few nights out of the school year. Time commitment is minimal, and the financial reward could be big for Cline. Please contact Aniko at anikoswett@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping serve on this committee.

CLINEFEST – CLINEFEST is our schools largest annual campus-wide fundraiser of the year, and it’s quickly approaching! CF is comprised of three distinct events, and many volunteers are needed in order to execute and ensure repeated success. Thanks to the efforts and success of last year’s CLINEFEST, the PTO was able to purchase all of the Cline Elementary Teacher requested grants for their classrooms, and a check was also given back to Cline in the amount of \$120,000!

Our CLINEFEST Sponsorship Committee Chair, Judy Wiggins, explained that both businesses and families are needed and appreciated—no donation is too big, or too small. There are still numerous sponsorship/donation opportunities available, and to see what your options are, you can refer to the Cline PTO website, our CLINEFEST Facebook page, or contact Judy directly at judywig@yahoo.com. There are Carnival, Auction Night and Fun Run options still up for grabs! Don’t miss out on the chance to donate to Cline, and either have your family name or your company name visible to all of those in attendance for CLINEFEST 2019—it’s a great way to advertise and to give back.

CLINEFEST Socials Committee Chair Meg Dunne explained the importance and role the Socials provide to our campus. These “social events” can be (yet are not limited to) a specific grade level celebration, a mom’s only event, a dad’s only event, an event/experience for families, or an event for couple. These socials afford the school funds and income, while providing the purchaser of the ticket a guaranteed great time—no matter what the event! These events are not school or PTO sponsored, rather they are events paid for by a group of hosts, wherein the cost of the ticket to attend, goes directly back to the school. All hosts assume

the shared responsibility to plan, pay for, and execute the social—and a limited (or unlimited) number of spots to attend will be available for purchase. Last year, over \$18,000 was raised for Cline by the selling of tickets to these various social events. We need both parents to purchase tickets, and parents who are willing to join with other parents to help host these events—there are so many wonderful events already planned, but more are needed! Contact Meg Dunne or Heather Baker for any questions you may have on what socials will be offered, or if you and a group of other hosts would like to host your own. These social spots will be offered at the Auction Night event, as well as the Carnival—but be aware that some of these socials sell out quickly!

(Auction Night): This is our CLINEFEST Adult-only event, and will take place on Saturday, October 5th at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center from 7pm to 12am. You can look forward to a plated dinner, live and silent auction, wine pull, liquor wagon, socials shopping, and student gifts—just to name a few! Consider booking a room under our room block and making it a staycation with your spouse—where you will enjoy yourself, in addition to raising funds for your child’s school and teachers.

(Carnival): Our carnival is not just a campus tradition, but has become also a community for years. It’s an all-encompassing carnival—filled with games, rides, a dunk tank, cake walk, bounce houses, yummy snacks, delicious meals, spirit wear shopping, and much, much, more. Ride tickets purchased for the event will also be able to be used towards our Cline Basket Raffles, which are a HUGE hit with our kiddos, and will go on display in the school’s front foyer starting September 17th. Everyone will be a winner at the CLINEFEST Carnival! This year’s carnival will take place on Saturday, October 26th, from 9am to 2pm at the Cline campus.

(Fun Run): This year our Fun Run team has been working hard to give the students and their families a new and unique experience and it’s sure to be quite the sweet treat! The Fun Run will take place on October 26th, starting at 6pm, and as always, participants will have the choice between running the 1K or 5K run. Registration for our Fun Run will open on September 13th, with the cost being \$20 for students, and \$30 for adults. The introduction of obstacles will add a new and fun feature this year—with sponsorship opportunities to have your business or family name next to the obstacle.

But don't worry, because if running isn't quite your thing, we will be hosting a ghoulishly good trunk-or-treat event in our parking lot as well! And for a mere \$50, you can purchase a premier parking spot and the opportunity to offer a trunk full of treats to our little Ponies—but beware that these spots are limited, and will no doubt sell out fast!

****Every Wednesday between now and the end of CLINEFEST, students and faculty are encouraged to wear their CLINEFEST shirts to show spirit and ramp up excitement for our school's largest annual fundraiser! Be sure to join the CLINEFEST Facebook page, and up-load your child's picture every Wednesday—as well as to stay up-to-speed on the latest CF news and announcements.**

Small Fundraisers – Our next small fundraiser will held at Chuck E. Cheese on September 13th. Please spread the word to all fellow Cline families, as well as other community members—and don't forget to mention that you are there to support Cline Elementary in order for proceeds to be given back to our campus.

Dates to remember:

August:

- 30th – Spirit Day
- 30th – Box Top/Pop Tab collections

September:

- 2nd – Labor Day, student holiday
- 3rd – CLINEFEST Auction NIGHT tables go on sale
- 6th – PTO Meeting at 8:30 am in Cafeteria; with Room Mom/Volunteer meeting @ 9am
- 6th – CLINEFEST Auction Night individual tickets go on sale
- 13th – September's Small Fundraiser @ Chuck E. Cheese
- 17th – CLINEFEST baskets will go up on display
- 20th – Student Holiday
- 25th – 3rd Grade family breakfast (7:30-8am)
- 26th – Kinder family breakfast (7:30-8am)
- 27th – Spirit Day, Box Top/Pop Tab rewards

October:

- 1st – 1st Grade family breakfast (7:30-8am)
- 2nd – 2nd Grade family breakfast (7:30-8am)
- 4th – PTO Meeting in the Cafeteria @ 9am
- 5th – CLINEFEST Auction Night @ Moody Gardens (7pm-12am)
- 14th – Student Holiday
- 25th – Spirit Dat
- 26th – CLINFEST Carnival (9am-2pm), and FUN RUN/CANDY CRAWL (starting @ 6pm)
- 30th – Fall Party (1:15-2:15)

Adjourn