

February 24, 2025

Palm Elementary - February Minutes

Meeting begins 4:00 PM

Introductions:

Rhoda Coleman	Principal
TA Vasquez	Co-Chair Grandchild - Student
Judy Garcia	Parent - Student
Megan Kelley	Co-Chair Staff - Librarian
Alyssa Ybarra	Aunt - Student
Anna Rodriguez	Staff - Counselor
Dr. Laura	Community Representative
Tidwell	Grandchild - Student
Meza	Staff - Reading Support

Approval of Minutes

- Last meeting discussed protocols on AISD website in regards to immigration and security
 - Processes for staff, who is responsible for what
- Ombudsperson: Beverly Reeves
- SPED Ombudsperson:
- School would send out a note to parents to ask them to update personal information

Changes in AISD

- There will be changes in AISD due to \$100 million dollar deficit
 - “Robin Hood” - Property rich districts have money sent to the state that is then disbursed to poorer school districts
 - This will not change until action is taken in the legislature
 - Items cut due to the budget (ex. IXL and other programs)
- Budget/Finance Office have been holding community meetings
 - Tax revenue that was expected is lower than what came in
 - **INSERT UPCOMING MEETING DATES**
<https://www.austinisd.org/budget/get-involved>

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- Ideas to explore to lower the deficit without touching campus staff
 - Selling AISD property
 - Moving district staff to virtual
 - Hiring Freeze to begin on March 1, 2025
 - (possible) spending freeze on March 14, 2025
 - Anticipated cuts could include Title 1 funds
 - Decrease number of students who receive free/reduced lunch in the district so less money to split between Title 1 schools
- Working with the comptroller to see what money is on the table and how much will go to AISD
- Important to communicate what programs/etc. That you would like AISD to preserve
- Legislature is considering the voucher bill during this session which could decrease the funds given to public schools
- Immigration and ICE
 - Chief of AISD police does not expect ICE to come on to school grounds
 - ICE is expected to collaborate with AISD police and other local forces

Staffing at Palm

- Hiring in AISD works by recommending someone to hire, and HR goes through the process to hire via with paperwork
- PSS - Angie had accepted PSS and a recommendation put in for an Admin Assistant; Recommendation for hire was not moved forward by Talent Strategy
 - Budget for PSS has not been allocated from the city yet (50% city; 50% AISD or other funds)
 - ?? - Can you have a PSS part-time in terms of funding?
 - Currently: Three added PSS coordinators to take care of non-Title 1 schools
 - Potential structure: One coordinator responsible for one vertical team + PSS made into a year-round position
- With hiring freeze starting on Sat., uncertain if a recommendation could be made for the Admin Assistant position by then
- (City of Austin is going to be cutting staff at departments and are looking at their own budgets)
- We would love to partner with parents and community members to support the school by helping with jobs that they can do like making copies, organizing, etc.

Upcoming Events

- Lion King musical coming to Palm this May
 - Seeking support for costumes, background, microphone clips
 - Parents who can call and ask for donations
- Fundraising
 - Preference mentioned for “no fundraising” fundraisers by parents
 - Donations requested, but families unable to do so don't have to

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- Purchases can only be made out of certain groups of funds
 - Ex. underwear for students who have accidents, balloons and decorations for celebrations
- PTA is having mostly advisory members do the volunteering compared to other members
- Request volunteer help for Teacher Appreciation Week
- Field Day - March 13th
 - Requesting feedback from parents about the event
- TELPAS coming in March
 - Assessment given to students identified as an Emergent Bilingual
 - Home Language Survey indicates what language the parent speaks the most, the one the child speaks the most, and what language they learned first
 - LAS links + PreLAS assessment can also identify Emergent Bilinguals
 - TELPAS assesses the progress of students learning English in the fields of listening, reading, writing, and speaking
- Black History Month
 - Cultural committee is hosting events
 - Door-decorating contest (need judges for Friday) Theme is HBCUs
 - Dr. Laura
 - Judy Garcia
 - 5th grade Living Museum on Thursday
 - Storyteller from ArtSmart had to reschedule due to illness
- Read Across Palm - March 7th
 - Guest readers come in and read to classes
 - Elementary Associate Superintendent, Executive director, volleyball players from UT
 - Volunteers needed to help walk volunteers to the rooms
- PBIS - Panda Store
 - Goal is to reinforce the positive with panda points to go to the panda store
 - Panda store was temporarily sold out but has been replenished with items like pencils and erasers
 - Gift cards can be used to buy many things and there is little oversight
 - Accept donations for panda store like footballs, toys, etc.
 - Idea: – including things in the store that they can use to give presents to someone else or outfits/clothes
- School Garden
 - Eagle Scout Project in the school garden
 - Teachers can be assigned beds
 - PTA is opening up the garden on Mondays after school for families
 - Mr. Vazquez will be having a gardening club after school
 - In collaboration with a Langford teacher
- Swing Space Updates
 - A lot of collaboration between Palm and Langford including school shirts
 - Most confusion is coming through deliveries like UPS, or DoorDash

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TO-DO:

REQUEST FOR A DIGITAL WISH LIST AND VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEETS FOR
UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHEDULE MEETING FOR FIELD DAY COLLABORATION

CONTACT PARENTS AND REQUEST VOLUNTEERS

Meeting closed at 5:05 PM