

**Audubon Charter School
PTO Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2008**

Members Present:

Secret Mbaye	Mischelle Thiels
Michelle Ancar	Undine Jost Zengel
Christine Brennan	Robin Stead
Leila D'Aquin	Laura Carapina
Dahlia Wolfson	Shelley Kelly
Joe Ryan	Loeticia Ducos
Rima Abumousa	Ellen Selvidge
Jeanne Kessler	Janice Dupuy

Meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm.

Minutes from the August meeting were unavailable so they were not approved. They will be presented at the October meeting for approval.

Principal's Report – Ms. Janice thanked everyone for coming and said she'd had rave reviews on the new broadcast system, used during the recent storms. She said they will be meeting with administrators to get comments from them on how to use this system most effectively.

She said there was some roof damage to Broadway from the storms. Audubon is eligible for FEMA funding for a new roof but this won't happen in the near future.

They are about to begin repairs to the bathrooms at Broadway. Looking for a contractor to fix the toilets and sink fixtures, add hand dryers, make ADA compliant, etc. Renovations will happen Nov./Dec. This work is being funded by a grant from Harrah's Casino.

Montessori Director's Report- Ms. Ellen said they experienced the first day all over again after the storm. They are currently undergoing the process of "normalization," a Montessori term for getting into a routine. She reported that some of the Montessori parents want to start a recycling program at school and she has forwarded info on that to Secret.

French Director's Report – Madame Loetitia reported that the French side also experienced the first day all over again after the storm, especially with the Pre-K children. They are all adapting to the new routine now, however.

Sharon Nossiter – FAME Board – Sharon came to explain the new Language/Business High School the RSD is planning to open in the Fall of 2009. The RSD would like Audubon to join an advisory board to help make plans for the school. She wanted approval from the PTO to join this advisory board. The RSD would run this school for the first year, then in 2010 it would become a charter school. They are also looking for input from ISL. The RSD has the money and jurisdiction over facilities to make this happen and Sharon advised Audubon to join the advisory board and see if the end result would be a school that would fulfill our needs, both for the French

and the Montessori students. The Board agreed we should join the advisory board and see where it leads.

Carlos Zervigon – Orleans Parish Master Plan - Carlos, along with other parents and staff, has been attending meetings on the OPSB Master Plan for school buildings. He reported the bottom line for Audubon is that they will keep Broadway campus open, with plans for a major renovation in the near future, for which we would have to vacate the premises for 1 year. The plan calls for shutting Carrollton campus down and returning it to a community use building by the year 2010. Carlos advised PTO, FAME, Administrators and parents to get together to support a plan that asks for the Carrollton campus to be moved to the current Allen campus, near Lusher High School. The lower school would remain at Broadway, with possibly an addition to replace the portables. The Math and Science school that is currently using the Allen campus will need to relocate to a new building to be constructed in the Hospital District, and then the Allen building would have to be renovated before we could move in. This might take several years (renovation is currently scheduled for 2013) but Carlos advised we should have a plan in mind, not just allow ourselves to be kicked out of the Carrollton facility with no plan for where we would be housed. Ms. Janice has already made a request to OPSB that we move to the Allen campus. Carlos asked for representation at all further facilities meetings so we can continue to stay on track with the Allen plan. Ms. Janice reiterated it is important to have a consistent message at these meetings, but we need to be careful and respectful as too much pressure on OPSB could cause them to deny our requests. Carlos has met with Una Anderson and other OPSB members and they will advocate for us. Secret asked Rarebird editors to put meeting dates in the Rarebird so the parents and administrators can attend. The board agreed to support the FAME Board's stance on this issue at this time.

Daughters of the American Revolution – Presentation of Flags –Christine Brennan presented two flags to Ms. Janice from the DAR group. Both flags previously flew over the capital. A presentation of the flags to the school will be made at the general PTO meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Joe said there had been some movement on budget and expenses thanks largely to Robin Stead and the t-shirt sales. Joe asked for clarification on how the requisition process works as far as approvals go. This was discussed at length and it was decided to keep the process as is. New items purchased will be tagged with an Audubon inventory sticker.

Rarebird Report – Deidra Johnson, a co-editor, resigned and asked to have her husband, Derrick, replace her. The board discussed this and decided Derrick would be Rarebird staff, but not in an official capacity as he was not elected to a position. The editors then asked for help in printing up the newspaper. It was decided the editors would ask for parent help at the next PTO general meeting.

Fundraising – Lora Carapina reported fundraising activities were pushed back because of the storm. School pictures were rescheduled for the 17th and 18th. The giftwrap sale will take place between 9/18 and 10/3. There is also an upcoming graphics fundraiser that will allow students to create art that can be turned into gifts like calendars, cups, etc, in time for the holiday season. Fallfest has been pushed back due to storms but Springfest is still on schedule.

Hospitality – There will be an open house at Carrollton on Sept. 23 and at Broadway on October 1st.

Room Parents – Undine Jost Zengel reported they don't yet have room parents for every room but are working on it. They will bring up at the general meeting. She asked for a plug in the Rarebird also.

Membership – Christine Brennan said they are eager to get surveys on volunteering from the Administration. They are trying to open the existing member database and hope they don't have to start from scratch creating a member database. There was a discussion of how new members should be handled. Joe Ryan asked if he could give checks and forms to the Membership Committee.

President's Report - Secret Mbaye discussed the following issues: Athletics are underway; Artsreach starts next week (Sept. 15); 8th grade to do babysitting at next week's general PTO meeting; we can replace French VP from within the Executive Board without presenting to a general meeting. Dahlia Wolfson nominated Jeanne Kessler to be the French VP. Lora Carapina seconded. All approved, none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.