

**Galatas Elementary PTO**  
General Meeting  
September 12 at 10am

- **Attendees:** Judy Michelson, Elizabeth Jones, Risha Sugden, Julie Ditton, Katie Leicht, Terri Singer, Megan Anzaldua, Mirada Metrejean, Elena Kambouris, Jessica Buono, Sabre Gaffikin, Megan Thomas, Denae Wilker, Dawn Wright, Gina Soucy, Sonal Patel, Vaida Brusokaite, Yolanda Mace, Renee Brown, Katie Floyd, Kristi Smith, Kristy Futscher, Karla Letness, Lacquanna Caston, Alex Kabli, Stephanie Thomson, Lily Jagtiana, Jordan Daniel, Jenna Chait, Laura Heemann, Jamie Press, Satin Morgan, Rena Taylor, Candace Mathis, Katie Kegley, Dannella Bishop, Jessica Holt, Aida Stoma, Sam Fiedler, Jaclynn Parham, Lourdes Berrondo, Kristin Dorn, Irene Gladden, Jayna Pearson, Meghan Sucher, Sarah Seefeldt, Carrie Cappabianca, Joy Dornick, Michelle Ladner, Sarah Barnes, Lindsay Guier, Robyn Hinojosa, Amy Kamenova, Jan Cornelius, Joey McClellan, Kacie Stehling, Kammie Terry, Kathryn Kouns, McKenna, Pamela Molina, Sonia, Will Ditton
- **Sabre Gaffikin, President called the meeting to order at 10, Second Karla Letness**
- **President's Report: Sabre Gaffikin**
  - Welcome everyone and looking forward to a great year!
  - Introduction of PTO 2023-2024 executive board
    - President Elect and Parliamentarian– Megan Anzaldua
    - First VP, Programs – Judy Michelson
    - Second VP, Fundraising – Jessica Buono
    - Third VP, Membership – Julie Ditton
    - Fourth VP, Corporate Partnership – Katie Leicht
    - Treasurer – Mirada Metrejean
    - Assistant Treasurer – Terri Singer
    - Secretary – Megan Thomas
  - Bond Presentation will take place at the next PTO meeting on Oct 10 – we encourage everyone to attend the meeting
  - Thank you to all of our volunteers and committees who have made our back to school events so successful – Special shout out to:

- Beautification – Sarah Barnes
  - School Supplies – Mirada Metrejean
  - Hospitality – Jan Cornelius – fantastic back to school breakfast for our Galatas teachers and staff!
  - Boo-hoo yahoo breakfast – Sarah Barnes
  - Spirit Wear – Lindsay Guier, Michele Ladner
  - Membership Drive – Julie Ditton
    - Directory is now live
    - Thank you to everyone who has joined the PTO! If you have not joined yet, you still can!
  - Spirit Day – Katie Kegley - Chick-fil-a Spirit Night was a great success!
    - Coming up – Papa John’s Spirit Night – September 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>
  - Corporate partnerships off to a good start – contact Katie Leicht if you own a business and would like to support Galatas (or know any businesses who might want to help!)
  - Thank you to everyone who volunteered as Kindergarten Lunch helpers
- **Principal’s Report: Mrs. Wilker**
    - Welcome and introductions
      - Laura Heemann – Counselor
      - Gina Soucy – School Secretary
      - Dawn Wright – Assistant Principal
        - College Park – Paris float – locks of love bridge
          - Parade 9/13, spread the love through our feeder schools
      - Candace Mathis – Assistant principal
      - Teacher Representatives - Mrs. Bishop and Mr. Lindsay
    - Enrollment – 810 students
      - Largest grade is 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with 189 students, split into 9 classes
      - The Galatas Cottages (portables) are located in front of the school, no student classes are in these portables, coaches are based out there for academics

- A safety audit was completed at Galatas, the students did an amazing job. Please continue to help us keep our school safe and never open doors while at Galatas. All volunteers should check in at the front office and provide ID.
  - The Galatas playground shade structure was damaged in the June 2023 storm. Thank you to the PTO for providing monetary support to replace the shade so our students can enjoy the playground.
  - A thank you to the PTO for all the wonderful back to school events referenced by Sabre in the President's Report
  - Upcoming events – College Park Parade, The Woodlands High School (Sept 27<sup>th</sup>), Fall Pictures (9/14), Read for a Better Life (Kicks off Sept 20 – district wide event). We will have students from both College Park and Woodlands High School coming to read to our Galatas Greyhounds. We also have Book Fair and Movie Night coming up in the Fall!
  - Watch Dogs – Dads of Great Students – help in different capacities on campus, go into classrooms, go out to recess, have lunch with students, program launches on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> (lines up with Papa John's Spirit Nights!)
  - Science Day is coming! Always a great event for all the students – the theme this year is Potions.
- **Galatas Secretary Comments: Gina Soucy**
  - Introduction – Mrs. Soucy is a longtime Galatas PTO supporter both as a past Galatas parent and now as an administrator
  - Room parents – please make sure to email Mrs. Soucy prior to sending communications to your class
- **Treasurer's Report: Mirada Metrejean**
  - Provided the current statement of financial position, income thus far has been driven primarily by membership dues and spiritwear
  - Provided the budget vs actual to see how the budget is allocated for the 2023-2024 school year
- **Committee Reports**
  - Programs – Judy Michelson
    - Walk to School Day – October 3<sup>rd</sup>
      - Encourage everyone to participate, even if you live farther away, park at Cattail park and walk to school from the park

- Be on the look out for sign up for volunteers – we will need help chalking the walk prior to the walk to school day and to serve as crossing guards the morning of
      - Thank you to Diana Adams for coordinating this year
    - Science Day – October 31<sup>st</sup>
      - Theme this year is potions – volunteers needed! Volunteer signups (both to be on the planning committee and to help out day of will be coming)
    - Upcoming – Book Fair – Oct 16-20
      - Bedtime Story Night – Stephanie Alfonso
      - Lots of activities planned
      - Storybook Parade on Friday October 20th
    - Red Ribbon Week Oct 23-27
  - Michelle Ladner – Calling all library volunteers! There will be a training on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am in the library. If you are a new volunteer or just want a refresher course this is a great opportunity to familiarize yourself with library procedures so you are ready to volunteer this school year –
    - Please also consider participating Birthday Book Club – donate a wish list book to the library in honor of your Galatas student’s birthday!
  - Katie Kegley – Papa John Spirit Nights – Sept 18-21<sup>st</sup>. Please use promo code TXFUND and 20% of sales will be donated to Galatas (Papa John’s Location 8000 Research Forest Dr #105, The Woodlands, 77381) – for pick up or delivery
- **New Business**
  - Karla Letness shared a reminder to reference the Galatas PTO Facebook page, Instagram page, or PTO website as a great way to stay connected and receive information. All the volunteer opportunities are listed on the PTO website with the links to volunteer.
  - Aida Stoma asked a question about how to redeem Springetti 2023 packages. Winners of packages that have not yet been fulfilled will be reached out to directly and activities will take place prior to Springetti 2024.
  - Terri Singer requested anyone connected to Exxon Mobil to please make sure you have signed up as an Exxon Mobil Volunteer as this helps Galatas receive grants.
  - Mr. Lindsay – brought up a question regarding a Santa Suit which Mrs. Wilker will meet with him about.
  - Lindsay Guier gave a thank you to everyone who has purchased spirit wear. Orders are being fulfilled and should be distributed soon.
  - Risha Sugden and Elizabeth Jones – Springetti 2024 Coordinators - an email should be going out to past volunteers soon to see who wants to help out with the 2024 Springetti fundraiser. There will be lots of volunteer opportunities for

new volunteers as well! Springetti should be April 5, 2024 (date is the same as some other local schools which makes the need to secure vendors a priority). As a reminder Springetti is Galatas' big spring fundraiser and is a school carnival type environment. The theme this year is Game Shows.

- Sam Fielder brought up some suggestions to start Teacher Appreciation planning earlier, will coordinate with Teacher Appreciation committee to see how new ideas can be implemented.

**Sabre Gaffikin called for the meeting to close at 10:48am, Second: Elena Kambouris**

- **Upcoming events:**

- September 14<sup>th</sup> – Picture Day
- September 18-21<sup>st</sup> – Papa John's Spirit Night Fundraiser
- September 26<sup>th</sup> – 6pm PTO Social at Sixty Vines
- September 28<sup>th</sup> – 9am Newcomer Coffee
- October 3 – Walk to School Day
- October 10 – 10am October PTO Meeting