

MINUTES FOR 2/27/23 CPS Board meeting

1. Call to order at 6:39 p.m.
2. Board members present include: Lorraine Perry, Joan Parks Saunders, Jeri Harwell, Sue Tejml, William Collins, Dawn Cobb, Lee Ann Kelly and Alicia McKinley. Also present were Ruthie Cherry and Dayana Johnson of CPS
3. Absent: None on board; Karen Lowery with CPI due to illness
4. A quorum was established. Everyone introduced himself or herself and gave their history to become acquainted.
5. Lorraine Perry went to Austin to present Secretary of State Jane Nelson with the Champion of Children Award on Thursday. She spoke with all Denton County legislators about community-based care, which is being supported by the Texas Child Welfare Board.
6. Consideration of the minutes from the January 27, 2023 board meeting. Motion to approve by Jeri Harwell and seconded by Le Ann Kelly. Passed unanimously.
7. Liaison Reports:
 - a. Community Partners – Lorraine said they are still removing items from a location and the group is also raising funds with popcorn sales.
 - b. Commissioners Court – Dawn Cobb updated the board on upcoming board applications under consideration as the Commissioners Court works to fill the board.
 - c. TCCWB – Denton County Touch a Truck event very popular and Denton County CPS Board appears to be at the forefront of county boards. Legislation on CPS board on the floor on the Senate and House. She will be in Austin for Tarrant County Days and Denton County Days to carry the CPS message. She noted concerns about the foster program and its future. She will send a link to review issues. Having one statewide system of record was one issue brought before the board by Ruthie Cherry.
 - d. Special Events – Joan Park-Saunders discussed a backpack with a seal and CPS board name embroidered on the bag for CPS employees – for gifts, a total of 12
8. Joan Park Saunders made a motion to purchase 12 laptop backpacks at \$33.50 apiece for CPS employees, honoring three employees per quarter. Jeri seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
9. Treasurer's Report. Lorraine supplied a financials report. She explained a current balance of \$16,094. Three outstanding checks were issued for special requests. See attached report.
10. CLOSED SESSION at 7:03 p.m.: Special request for tutoring.
11. Meeting reopened at 7:15 p.m.
12. For the CPS report, Ruthie reported for Karen Lowery that all staff are doing well managing workload and open positions have been hired. Worker of quarter will be announced in March. CPS, a tiny uptick in cases at 287. Caseloads have increased to about 8.7 per employee on average. Dayana reported vacancies in CPS including eight vacancies.
13. No action on Denton County CPS budget
14. CPS Audit with Rob Seay is ongoing
15. Update on news article – Sue Tjempl is writing a story for the *The Cross Timbers Gazette* and suggested photos be used with the article that would likely be on the website. Several members

suggested different topics to include in the article. Sue asked for suggestions for what is needed – ranging from children to teens, toys, books, bags, sheets for single beds, cleaning supplies, safety locks,

16. ELECTIONS:

Jeri Harwell was nominated by Joan Saunders as president and approved for the position by acclimation.

Lorraine Perry for vice president (Joan Saunders) – Nominated by Jeri and approved by acclimation

Secretary – Lee Ann Kelly nominated as secretary (Jeri) – Dawn Cobb as back up secretary – Nominated by Jeri and approved by acclimation

Treasurer – William Collins (Jeri) – Nominated by Jeri and approved by acclimation

Assistant Treasurer – Joan Park Saunders (Jeri) – Nominated by Jeri and approved by acclimation

17. Discussion about upcoming Child Abuse Awareness Month and proclamation, brunch for Commissioners Court. Lorraine Perry to reach out to Cheryl Knight. Also talked about putting banners in libraries. Breakfast from Cartwrights. Dawn to write proclamation.

18. Adjournment at 8 p.m.