

# DuFief ES PTA Meeting

## February 06, 2018

### Minutes

The DuFief ES PTA meeting was called to order by Leilani Micalizzi at 7:04 pm.

#### **In Attendance**

Leilani Micalizzi, Brent Mascott, Debora Brakarz, Kim Brock, Toby Salahuddin, Siva Venkatachalam, James Noon, Rod Allsopp, Yonat Lurie, Paula Teixeira-Obaidy, Jamie Pflasterer, Margaret Wu.

The December 2017 meeting minutes were approved as corrected, the only change being a name spelling correction.

#### **President's Report (Leilani Micalizzi)**

The Mini-Grants requested by the teachers for Family Learning Night totaled \$285 and were all approved by the PTA Board of Directors. The budget for the class Valentine's parties is set at \$3 per student as proposed, as not many parents requested reimbursement for expenses with the class Halloween parties and thus there is sufficient money left in the budget.

#### **Membership Report (Toby Salahuddin)**

The PTA now has 29 teacher and 159 parent members.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> VP Report, Educational Programs (Jamie Pflasterer)**

The Science Fair will be held on March 20th. Ian Pflasterer will do a science demonstration during the fair, but Jamie asked for help finding another adult volunteer in order to have one more demonstration. However, one demonstration may be enough but we still need adult volunteers at the actual Science Fair.

The Urban Artistry assembly held on February 1st was a success and highly enjoyed by staff and students alike. The last assembly of the academic year will be on March 8th by Under the Sea, who will present sea animals with screen projections.

The International Night and Chinese New Year celebration on January 25th was a success. There were 11 countries represented, 150 "student passports" made, 5 different acts showcased (including American ballet, Lithuanian dance, Chinese instrumental, Indian drumming), lots of good food, the traditional Chinese dragon parade, and lots of praise by attendees. Volunteers who hosted country tables can submit for up to \$20 in reimbursement.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report, Community Resources (James Noon)**

Dining for DuFief at Paisanos in January netted \$193, even though it was a snowy and icy night. The next one will be at Chick-Fil-A on February 21st. The next ones after that will be held at Panera,

Cheeburger Cheeburger and Potomac Pizza.

The Donuts for Dads event in December was very popular: 20 dozen doughnuts and 70 cups of coffee were consumed. Marcy Waxman did a great job organizing. The last socializing gathering at the school will be held in May and the name is still being decided upon.

The Barnes and Noble fundraiser netted \$1,087.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> VP Report, Social Events (Kim Brock)**

Bingo Night was cancelled this year in order to focus planning and financial resources on Dragon Fest. For next year, the PTA is considering the idea to cancel Movie Night and swap it for Bingo Night since both Movie Night and Bingo Night events did not make the Top 5 events when we polled the parents in the Fall.

The Artist in Residence is in place and ready to go, and will begin to work with the 5th graders over the span of a week sometime in early March.

Silent Auction will be held on March 2nd from 6-9:10 pm and planning is in full swing. The PTA has received many donations so far (about 80 companies and 100 donations) and a good amount is still expected to roll in. We will need adult and SSL volunteers to help sell food and auction items on the day of, and a Sign Up Genius was set up for this purpose.

Talent Show (**Yonat Lurie**): Will be held on March 2nd from 6:30-9 pm. The 30 presenter slots have all been filled. Presenters have 1 minute for solos or 2.5 minutes for group acts, and the DJ is booked. Any student can participate in show's finale, even if not presenting in the show, and there is a video teaching the finale's choreography online. There is a separate Sign Up Genius in place for the finale. The dress rehearsal will be held on Monday, February 26th from 6-6:30 for the finale, and from 6:30-8:00 for the individual acts, beginning with kindergarten. Performers' music should be ready to be handed to the DJ on the night of dress rehearsal. Yonat asked for volunteers to help with the staging. Mr. Mascott was coy on whether the staff will present an act.

Dragonfest (**Leilani Micalizzi**): Will be held on April 28th from 4-6:30 pm, with rain day scheduled for May 18th. There will be an obstacle challenge, soccer, face painting, crafts, bounce house, cotton candy, popcorn, DJ, food trucks (Spunky Soul Foods, Safari Ice and Potomac Pizza), and more. All activities are included in the price of the wrist band (including cotton candy and popcorn), but not the food trucks.

### **Treasurer's Report (Siva Venkatachalam)**

The treasurer reported the income from the following:

Student directory sales: \$450

Barnes and Noble day: \$1,087

Original Artworks fundraiser: ~\$1,000

Expenditures since December amounted to ~\$1,600. The Valentine's parties have been budgeted at \$3 per student, since there were not a lot of expenditures from Halloween parties. Tax donation

letters are ready to be sent out, and patrons automatically receive one for donations to the PTA in the amount of \$75 and above in direct donations (but any donated amount may receive a letter if requested).

There was some uncertainty about whether the proceeds from Safari Ice for the Back to School event have been received, but it was confirmed that they were received from Soul Food.

The treasurer asked how the proceeds from the school-linked supermarket cards are received, since she had not received anything so far, and Yonat Lurie clarified that the proceeds from Harris Teeter are sent by check directly to the PTA, but only after they reach a certain total; she estimated based on last year's total that the PTA might receive ~\$500 by the end of the year. The proceeds from Giant are sent by check directly to the school.

### **MCCPTA Delegate Report (Rod Allsopp)**

The MCCPTA meeting was held on Tuesday, January 30th. 7 new board members were introduced, including the replacement for the ousted MCCPTA treasurer. 3 new bylaws were introduced, including allowing 2 consecutive 1-year terms for members. A loan for up to \$3,000 was approved for Greencastle E.S. to pay for a forensic audit (related to the investigation of the ousted treasurer). The MCPS career readiness programs for middle and high schools were discussed, and Spanish immersion options for elementary schools were discussed.

James Noon raised the question of an email sent to the neighborhood listserv NextDoor in January by Niel Harris from the Gaithersburg City Council mentioning about MCPS having narrowed down possible sites for a new elementary school in the Rachel Carson ES district, including near the Kentlands. It was generally mentioned among those present that this is what the Rachel Carson PTA wants. However, Mr. Mascott pointed out that the MCPS CIP is established and the DuFief improvement is certain, so anything like this will have to wait for at least a whole year and he has heard no conversation about a new ES site in any conversation about budget. The general consensus was that the email from Harris was constituency outreach.

### **Wootton Cluster Report (Debora Brakarz and Lauren Su)**

The County Council Education Committee met the day before and made clear the grim financial situation for education in the county. MCPS staff also pointed out the issue of two Board of Education policies that need to be updated before they can make decision about the next building projects.

The Board of Education's FY19-24 CIP recommendation testimonies by the schools to the County Council were taking place today and tomorrow, and the Wootton cluster's day was tomorrow, February 7th. The Board recommended \$1.83 billion and the County Executive recommends only \$1.75 billion, so the Board wants the schools to testify in support of their higher recommended amount. Wootton's testimony is mostly focusing on calling back attention to facility improvement, since the new focus has been putting weight mostly on capacity issues, and on reminding the Council that Wootton HS was next in line to be modernized but has been yet again pushed back because it's not over capacity, even though the facility has a lot of problems. Mr. Mascott pointed out that the focus shift to capacity is the reason why the DuFief improvement is certain.

## **Principal's Report (Brent Mascott)**

Report cards go home on Thursday. Because of some delays and snow days, the younger grades' window for MAP testing was pushed back, so some grades might not have received those yet, but all the upper grades have.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held all next week and he asked for volunteers to sign up to help.

Family Learning Night will be next Thursday, February 15th, from 6:30-8 pm, and this year staff will incorporate STEM and technology in the activities, not just reading and math.

Valentine's Day parties will be held next Wednesday, February 14th starting at 2:30 pm, and if there are any questions please e-mail your child's teacher.

On March 1st the school will receive the preliminary staffing report for next academic year. The school already received the projected numbers for students, and for Kindergarten it is 42 students, which is an encouraging number. The staffing report will be revealed to the current staff first and announced to the parents only over the summer, since many changes can occur until then.

Kindergarten orientation will be held on Wednesday, April 18th. Mr. Mascott asked for everyone to help spread the word to new parents and to advise them to register, even if they are not sure their child will eventually attend DuFief. Yonat Lurie will post an announcement to the NextDoor listserve.

The Artist in Residence program will be held on the first week of March. The name of the artist is Vicky Keating, and she will help the 5th graders make a glass mosaic on the windows opposite the media center (the bunny enclave windows). This mosaic will be stored and brought back when the new building is built. There is also a mosaic by her at Stone Mill ES.

Ms. Eisenhower will go on maternity leave starting in March through the next academic year, and her replacement has been identified but has yet to be confirmed.

**Old Business** - Debora Brakarz will invoice and report to the President and Treasurer the amount of Target gift cards that have been given to volunteer event coordinators and school janitors after events so far (from a total of \$300 that was bought in September of 2016 and carried over to this academic year). The system for handing these out will also be re-evaluated, since the vast majority of the volunteer coordinators abstain from accepting the gifts.

**New Business** - No new business.

Since there was no further business, the meeting stood adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**Minutes were taken by Debora Brakarz**