

DuFief ES PTA Meeting

November 8, 2018

Minutes

The DuFief ES PTA meeting was called to order by Leilani Micalizzi at 7:01 PM

In Attendance

Leilani Micalizzi, Greg Barron, Kim Brock, Siva Venkatachalam, James Noon, Jamie Pflasterer, Jacqui Bardill, Debra Brakarz, Matt Bardill, Anahita Yousefi, Saurabh Channan, Rosario Van Hart, Mounya Atouf, Lara Eldredge Schott, Christine Gray, Margaret Yu, Jill Lin, Paula Teixeira-Obaidy, Alysa Hinshaw, Christine Lee, Aashima Mehta, Shelly Cottine, Anthony Taylor, Shayan Sahuddin, Toby Salahuddin, Farina Khan, Marie Villalta Lerma, Betty Ball, Lawrence Sinkho, Rob Allsopp, Marcilla Witting, Gregg Baron, Diane Morris and Mallik Rao.

President's Report (Leilani Micalizzi)

The PTA approved a \$250 mini grant for the 1st grade chairs. Casino night on November 3rd was very successful. It was a joint fund raiser between the DuFief PTA and Westleigh Recreation Club and held at Westleigh Recreation Club. The PTA had lots of sponsorship from family companies such as the Meso kitchen truck. Thank You Matt Bardill for help from Total Wine. The PTA raised \$1,800, half of which goes to the Westleigh Recreation Club and half to the PTA.

We had a speaker from MCPS Recycle come over to speak to the kids about recycling and composting. This launched a week-long activity for kids to learn about composting and how to recycle food waste. The other advantage is that the school received well labelled new recycle bins, and bottle recycling bins. The PTA has talked to Mr. Barron is interested in incorporating composting into the activities at DuFief.

There has been increased incidents of kids getting hurt on the Monkey bars over several years, most recently Leilani's daughter fell from the monkey bars and broke her arm in two spots. Someone from MCPS school and safety is going to come and inspect the monkey bars and provide recommendations. If it is deemed to be not safe, then they will decide if the play equipment has to be replaced sometime in July 2019. If it deemed to be safe, then the other suggestion on the table is to add rubber mats under the monkey bars to reduce serious injuries to kids.

The parent supported the PTA's request to put mats under the monkey bars, by voice vote.

The meeting minutes for October 2018 were approved without any correction. Motion to approve the minutes was moved by the Debra Brakarz, seconded by Paula Obidy.

Membership Report

No Report

1st VP Report, Educational Programs (Jamie Pflasterer)

Mad Science is going to perform a free assembly on January 3rd. Our cultural arts assembly will be in December and the other one in February.

The announcement for the PTA reflection have been made and the PTA is waiting for entries to come in. The last date is Nov 22nd. The PTA is in compliance and hence can participate in such county events such as Reflections.

Aashima Mehta has sent out requests for volunteers for International night on the 7th of Feb. And she is talking with groups for participation. The plan is for 4-5 groups each performing for about 5 minutes, followed by international booths that are run by parents.

2nd VP Report, Community Resources (James Noon)

Greg Reboltz will be organizing the Readathon in January. A personal page will go with each student to collect a one-time donations. The event will go on for 2 weeks. The challenge is to read or be read to for 5 hours. Competition of money raised per student per class. The grand prize is the Principal Mr. Barron has agreed to take a pie on his face.

The Books for Bagels is next Wednesday, November 14th, is at 8 AM. Volunteers are needed for the event and for the cleanup after

Later this month, Dining for DuFief will be held at Chipotle on Nov 27th. DuFief receives a third of the proceeds.

3rd VP Report, Social Events (Kim Brock)

Sunshine Committee on Monday is sponsored by the 4th grade. The PTA still needs Chairs or Co-Chairs for K, 1 and 3 classes.

Kim is looking into an on-line bidding site to employ for the Silent Auction. Normally, moving the auction from on-site to on-line should increase the collections by about 30%.

Treasurer's Report (Siva Venkatachalam)

The PTA is in compliance as of last year's audit and this year. We have paid our dues, insurance, and taxes have been taken care of. Being in compliance allows our PTA to participate in events such as Reflections, etc.

Coin wars fundraiser, the PTA collected \$2,500, which was more than last year.

The compost project is not in our budget right now, so the PTA voted to add it as a line item.

The PTA president proposed a motion to add a line item for 'school community projects'. ? seconded it.

Principal's Report (Mr. Barron)

The principal introduced himself with a presentation (presentation on PTA website)
His leading guidelines include Belief in relationships first, Strong work ethic, Everyone's needs to have equity And he believes in Dedication, Rigor, Relationships, Relevancy and Results.

He will be acting principal for the rest of the school year.

Ms. Melissa Brensson is the new special-ed supervisor assigned to the cluster.

He also informed the PTA that per the MCPS CIP DuFief remains on the approved list for renovations. He promised to restart the monthly newsletter and provide weekly updates via email to the parents.

MCCPTA (Steve Pawlish)

No report

Wootton Cluster Report (Matt Bardill)

Tonight is the Cluster meeting, and mainly represented by the cluster to get Wootton back on the list for renovations. A major push is definitely thru ADA, because the sidewalks are not wide enough, and near the bus stops. The meeting had over a 100 parents and at least 6 students spoke.

There has not been a decision on the parking lot situation.

Old Business

The last two PTA events, we have had to call emergency services. Parents are urged not to park in the fire lane. The PTA is also looking into the car pool line and kids not using the cross-walks. Parents are urged to drive slowly, use cross-walks, and do not fly thru the STOP signs.

The PTA will put out some safety instructions with the school again.

New Business -

The PTA introduced Diane Morris, the Area Associate Superintendent of MCPS for the Wootton Cluster, and the new Principal Mr. Greg Barron. Diane explained how the next permanent principal will be selected through a structured interview process and local parents at DuFief will be represented during the interview process. The permanent principal will be selected prior to the start of next school year.

While answering a question regarding the Gifted and Talented program at the Elementary School level, she explained that MCPS is increasing the concept of cohorts within the local schools, where their schools have sufficient participants at the local school itself.

Leilani moved the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17.

Minutes were taken by Mallik Rao