

DuFief ES PTA Meeting

October 2, 2018

Minutes

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

In Attendance

Leilani Micalizzi, Brent Mascott, Kim Brock, Siva Venkatachalam, James Noon, Jamie Pflasterer, Jacqui Bardill, Matt Bardill, Christine Gray, Margaret Yu, Rosario Van Hart, Daneille Carrick, Lara Bacanskas, Jill Lin, Paula Teixeira-Obaidy, Rosario Van Hart, Pam Barrett, Alysa Hinshaw, Christine Lee, Lara Eldredge Schott, Reshmi Thayavalliyil, and Mallik Rao.

President's Report (Leilani Micalizzi)

The President reported that the PTA received its first mini grant from the 5th grade for \$200, which the PTA approved. Mrs Morgon will submit for the reimbursement online. For any 5th grade – that is their big trip to Mt Vernon, due to which the budget was increased since this is the far-away trip they undertake.

The school had some flooding and mold issues throughout the school. The school admin is working on it, the first stage is replacing pipes using Industry Best Practices, and that will be conducted during several weekends during winter, before humidity is an issue

Principal Mascott added that we were not the only school, to have such issues, but many other schools has similar issues due to the hot summer and then the rain that followed. Additionally, there were maintenance crew working during the summer before school reopened. Parents would have received a letter/email from Mr. Mascott, that explained the issue and the plans to remediate the issues identified. The Radon pipes were not affected, and Radon is no longer an issue that the school is tracking.

Back to the Presidents report, coin wars is going to be held next week. Monday is Penny day, Tuesday is Nickel day, Wednesday is Dime day, Thursday is quarter's day and Friday is Dollar's and Checks days. Many prized are planned throughout the week, and the grand price all round winner gets a Popsicle party and extra recess. And the second prize is extra recess.

Casino night is planned for Nov 3rd. Tickets are available online for \$40. And we had received sponsorships and we will have raffle tickets. We have received \$800 in sponsorships so far.

We will have a compost project, during the week of Nov 11th, and we are trying to work with the 4th grade team, since the 4th grade has a related science curriculum. We will have the Montgomery county recycling manager to come and talk to the kids and recycling and composting

They will going to throw all their recycle trash to show how much food is going to be composted and the compost team will pick up the compost.

DuFief is already a Green School right now, and the school are going through the certification process. It involves all the programs that the school is following like recycling, energy efficient, composting, etc.

Later on during the meeting, both the May 2018 and September 2018 meeting minutes were approved without any corrections.

Membership Report

PTA membership Update: 91 out of a maximum of 255 families, and 21 staff members have signed up so far. We have collected \$7,800 pledged against \$11,550 budgeted (membership plus donation). Last year at this time we had 122 families and 22 staff.

1st VP Report, Educational Programs (Jamie Pflasterer)

We had our first assembly last week. The school tried a new format and it worked out great. The assembly was The Shakespeare Theater that performed the “Tiny Tempest”. For the after school providers, Mad Science could not do the after school program, so they have offered to do a show to raise interest and entertain. A time slot is to be decided.

The PTA is still looking for a foreign language coordinator, so if anyone is interested in that program, please contact Jamie (Spanish, French and Chinese) that can be held before or after school.

2nd VP Report, Community Resources (James Noon)

James thanked Paula for bringing in the box tops. The school is going to cover the gift cards for the drawings. In order to receive Dollars for DuFief, members at Harris Teeter have to reregister, and the school itself has to register each year with Giant. Kailey offered to enter the data from the hard copy forms received during the Ice Cream social.

James suggested that for the “Walk to School” the PTA was going back to not giving out water bottles and instead students will receive stickers.

Debra noted for the benefit of all event organizers that while she is the SSL coordinator, she needs 5 days of advance notice to arrange for kids who will volunteer for SSL credits, and cannot arrange for those at short notice.

Books and bagels needs a second co-chair, so the PTA is seeking volunteers. There was a discussion around ideas for Books and Bagels (Nov 14th) and instead of Donuts with Dads, the suggestion was to do something like Math’s and Muffins or something similar. No decision was taken on the name of the event. And again volunteers are welcome to co-chair the event.

The school will organize Read-athon thanks to Greg Prebbels who has done a lot of legwork for getting the event organized. On Nov 12th to the 26th. Child age specific material will be sent home and children will be encouraged to seek a flat donations. And children can logon to a website for reading and parents can help spread the word and get some more donations. Notices will be sent out couple of weeks before the event, via email, giving a heads-up to parents.

Book club time counts towards Read-athon time. And even if parents reads to them, even that counts.

The books and bagels event will be coordinated as a kickoff for the Read-athon.

3rd VP Report, Social Events (Kim Brock)

Coming up this week is the Ice Cream social during which the PTA will have Eric Energy and Carmen's Ice which the Barrett family is sponsoring. The Ice Cream event is from 6 PM to 6:30 PM, with Eric Energy coming in at 6:30 PM-7:30PM. We need to get a morning announcement from the school.

We can have a membership table, right next to the Spirit wear. So volunteers will be needed to man the membership table.

That is the only social event until March when the PTA will host the talent show.

The PTA needs volunteers for the Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 4th grades. The PTA also needs a co-chair for the 5th grade Sunshine Committee. The event is very much appreciated. Chairs get to pick the theme for the Sunshine Committee event.

Treasurer's Report (Siva Venkatachalam)

The PTA got the audit done – huge thank you to Jackie, Peter and Marie who audited the 2017-2018 year. The audit had to be completed by October 31st. The PTA will send that in to keep the PTA in compliance. The PTA still needs to complete the audit for the 2016-2017 year to be fully compliant.

Back to school picnic got us \$707 but we went over with our costs by \$170, because it was hard to estimate something like Safari Ice that was tried for the first time. Volunteers are requested to submit receipts for their reimbursements at the earliest. And the mini-grants are first come first served so hopefully the teachers should submit their requests, and some are coming in

The annual budget for this year is lesser because the PTA had over allocated funds over the income, and budgets were never balanced. The only saving grace was that parents did not apply for reimbursements. This year on, the PTA balanced the events against the income generated, and hence events had to be cut out of the budget.

The membership forms will be updated to reflect what events the PTA pays for.

Principal's Report (Brent Mascott)

The kids really enjoy the ability awareness week. And for someone who gets to go to the class rooms, the kids really see everyone as students at DuFief and that in itself is really powerful for the kids.

Open house is on next Monday and starts at 9:10. So parents are advised to just wait in front of the building until 9:10 for doors to open, and feel free to stay as long as you want. Interim reports will be sent home on the Monday after. There will be no visitor check-in and check-out for the open house or the Halloween party.

Kiss and ride – there seems to be lots of cars parked at the far end of the parking event. The school has called the county but nothing has happened and cars are parked in that last 5-6 spots (which is actually public parking) for longer periods of time.

The school has started the new visitor management system. Parents are encouraged to come to the office to check out.

The following year, all MCPS schools are moving to a literacy and math curriculum. For the next year DuFief was selected for the Pilot Reading program and later this year teachers will get trained on that curriculum.

MCCPTA (Steve)

Patty Winters presented on "Brave and Bold" which is a project to reduce student drinking and substance abuse as well as help parents to avoid enabling drinking. The group was founded after the DUI crash a few years ago in which 5 students from Magruder High School were killed. As part of the program, there is a "recovery high school" where students who have a substance abuse incident and can finish their high school program in an environment which provides additional support and more involved substance abuse prevention programs. Maryland is the first state in the nation to have a recovery high school. There is a movie about addiction recovery called Generation Found and there is a free showing at Regal theaters in Rockville on Tuesday, October 16th.

Budget discussion: There was an embezzlement scandal a few years ago and the treasurer stole around \$40k. Last year, the board planned to operate on a very tight budget due to the lost funds, but the board pursued the treasurer and was able to recover the funds last year. Thus, the MCCPTA is starting in a positive cash position of nearly \$40k.

The board expanded the "Health and Safety" budget from \$850 to \$4500 to screen a variety of programs on cyber safety and substance abuse including some documentaries (although they didn't say how they would be screened).

The web-hosting expenses went up from \$250 to almost \$900 because they are now using constant contact (although they didn't say what marketing they were doing with it).

Payroll costs went up substantially from \$4800 to \$13k because the board is hoping to have a part time employee become full-time

- They added about \$300 to send someone to the national PTA meeting.
- Finally, the budget was approved after some discussion about proper parliamentary procedure.

The board reviewed the "Proposed 2018-1029 MCCPTA Advocacy Priorities". These are the "guiding principles" that guide the MCCPTA's decisions and objectives. The draft will be shared with us later in

the week and they are looking for feedback from the local PTA's by October 5th (ideally, the 8th at the latest, which is the date of the board meeting).

- Curriculum: push to make sure parents are involved in the update of the curriculum
- Facilities: look for opportunities to fill empty seats in underutilized schools
- Wellness: supports expansion of available wellness resources
- Communication: provide communication to parents in their native language
- Diversity and Inclusion: provide quality education regardless of race, creed or ability
- There was mention of class size but it wasn't in the draft shown.

Each of the committees made a pitch for members. The committees and the contacts can be found on the MCCPTA website ([here](#)).

- The advocacy committee is seeking members from the east and north parts of the county because they have representation from two clusters in the southwest part of the county but not from other parts of the county. The advocacy committee follows bills working through the state legislature.
- The fields committee is also seeking members. The PTA is going to pay for a grass expert to help the county make sure the fields are in good shape. I

MCCPTA Presents provided a session on Revenge Porn that can be viewed on the MCCPTA youtube channel. That session happened before the delegates assembly.

The MCCPTA website has a "blue book" link which lists contact information for anything related to the schools, including the state and county governments. It also has the schedule for PTA meetings across the entire county.

Wooten Cluster Report (Matt)

Mr. Mascott accompanied Matt to the Wooten Cluster Report. It was reported that the Wooten facility needed some updates. Amendment got passed where in DuFief is still in contention for the facilities upgrade, while other schools are no longer on the facilities upgrade list. They talked about the New high school in Downtown Crown with a proposed budget of \$136 Million. It is not decided if it will be Magnet Program School or if boundaries will be redrawn. The school will be up and running within 6 years, and any decision on the school boundaries will be made 18 months before the school opens.

Board of Education Meeting discussed that if they were going to redo boundary lines, diversity was moved up to the most important factor. The issue is that the Board was not transparent and the vote was very rushed. No decision on redistricting have been taken yet.

Some improvements around Wooten such as sidewalks, cross-walks and walkways are being undertaken. The school partnered with the city of Rockville. Update on Yorkshire – redevelopment in that space is going to happen with smaller amount of homes and a community center. But that takes away parking spaces that are currently used by students at Wooten.

The parents at DuFief need to show support for the Capital expenditure program for the DuFief school

to be prioritized.

It was also reported that some of the school buses are overcrowded and children have to sit on the bus floor.

Old Business – No old business was addressed.

New Business -

Regarding increasing participation of parents from the learning center suggestions included that the PTA should keep the Learning Center students in focus and find ways to reach out to related parents. Principal will ensure that learning center teachers will send out updates on events that are coming up.

The PTA is going to have a learning center representative from the PTA and she will socialize events with learning center parents.

Regarding 2nd lunch or snack, all snacks are on the approved list from MCPS.

Its ability awareness week – which started with the Assembly that served as the event kick-off this week. The media center also has books on autism, and kids in wheel chairs.

Leilani moved the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12.

Minutes were taken by Mallik Rao