

# DuFief ES PTA Meeting

## September 12, 2018

### Minutes

The DuFief ES PTA meeting was called to order by Leilani Micalizzi at 6:20 PM

#### **In Attendance**

Leilani Micalizzi, Brent Mascott, Kim Brock, Siva Venkatachalam, James Noon, Jamie Pflasterer, Aashima Mehta, Kelly Guilt, Jacqui Bardill, Christine Gray, Margaret Yu, SooAnn Roberts, Jeff Gibson, Rosario Van Hart, Selamawit Dawit, Daneille Carrick, Lara Bacanskas, Jill Lin, Mounya Elitilau-Atouf, Reshmi Thayavalliyil, Vei-Chung Ltang, Hui-Ching Liu, Shayan Salahuddin, Xiaoni Zhang, Maria Maslennikov, Bryndyn Weiner, Tzvety Weiner and Mallik Rao.

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

The president moved to vote on the budget. Kim Brock motioned to approve the budget as it stands. The motion was seconded by Danielle. The 2018 – 2019 budget was approved.

The President informed the PTA that the “Back to school Picnic” was held by the PTA which also paid for the SAFARI Ice for all the kids. The PTA also collected proceeds from selling DuFief Spirit wear worth about \$525. The PTA made \$661 from food but paid Potomac Pizza \$ 345

Jamie’s report indicated that she has booked all 3 assemblies for the school year. The first one is on September 27<sup>th</sup> – Shakespeare’s Theater (Tiny tempest); the other two are on December 17<sup>th</sup> (Beats Bows and Remixes) and February 27<sup>th</sup> (Piccolos Trunk).

The PTA has new BLACK T-Shirts and if someone donates more than \$100 they get the T-Shirt. The other free gift this year is the DuFief Shopping bag.

One of the questions that is always brought up is that ‘Why join the PTA’. The PTA is very active at the school. For example the school is having some plumbing and asbestos issues The President contacted the MCCPTA and they immediately advocated for our school and got the school administration to act. And currently, the school administration is working on it and is aware of the issues. Hence for reasons such as this, it is important and useful to join the PTA. So please join the PTA and encourage others to do the same.

The monthly meetings are will also discuss the school reconstruction plans.

Leilani asked Mr. Mascott to ask the Teachers for their wish-list which will be posted. And if parents can pitch in then that would be great.

#### **Membership Report**

PTA membership Update: 49 families and 13 staff have signed up so far

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

Kim reported that we have finished Back to School picnic. Ice Cream social is coming up on October 4<sup>th</sup>, it will be Eric Energy and the kids will get a treat in the form of ice cream

We have Sunshine Committee – we have a 5<sup>th</sup> grade volunteer but the others slots are open right now (one per grade). The Principal echoed that the event is much appreciated by the teachers and staff.

Dragon Fest held at the end of the year, is looking for volunteers.

Silent Auction, which Kim is chairing, but if anyone is good with editing or entry, Kim will welcome volunteers.

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

Mr. Mascott mentioned that the Sunshine Committee is well appreciated, and appreciated the additional funds that the PTA provides to the teachers as mini-grants, etc.

There is some pushback to the construction plan for our school and we are waiting to see what the County Council will approve. If the school did get approved for reconstruction, it will be built to accommodate about 750 students or so, and will take in 300-350 students from Rachael Carson. Students currently in the DuFief/Wootton cluster will remain the same Wootton Cluster. What happens with the kids from Rachel Carson to DuFief is not decided yet.

Our school needs to be considered for reconstruction because we are an old school. For example, during the summer a pipe leak in the PE closet caused loss of all the equipment from that closet.

**Old Business** – No old business was addressed.

### **New Business -**

Debra asked when flyers are going out for After School activities are going out. They have not yet gone out as of the day of the PTA meeting in September. The Principal suggested that Ms Kaiser in the school front office would be able to provide information on After School activities. The PTA can add activities to the website only if requested.

Debra made an appeal for all parents to help out and sign up to volunteer, and pick volunteer forms to fill out and give back to Debra.

PTA participation is low and enrollment has been going down over the years. One reason may be that the learning center population has increased over the years but those parents mostly don't participate with the PTA.

Kathy asked if the PTA do any events for only Parents – and yes for this year, the PTA is holding Casino night in October.

Participants informed that Learning Center parents are overwhelmed and hence may not be focusing

on PTA events. SooAnn Roberts suggested that PTA events need to be more oriented towards learning center population and felt that currently the events were not.

Suggestion – Could the PTA have a PTA meeting dedicated to Learning Center parents? This year Alisa will be the representative to hold the Abilities Awareness event in October. An issue is that outreach to the Learning Center parents is also complicated due to confidentiality issues, a factor that is important to Learning Center parents.

The PTA is very open to hearing suggestions from all to improve engagement and participation from the Learning Center students and parents, and invites all to come back to the October PTA to continue the discussion.

Leilani moved the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58

**Minutes were taken by Mallik Rao**