

# TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015

## MINUTES

### **Dufief Elementary School PTA Minutes**

November 3, 2015

The PTA Meeting was called to order by Yonat Lurie at 9:15am.

#### **In attendance:**

Yonat Lurie, Marcy Waxman, Jenn Nakashima, Clara Ely, Marcy Waxman, Huijun Shang, Jacque Flaherty, Ghiante Sesay, Reshmi Thayavalliyil, Lisa Gatons, Kim Brock, Erika Davis, Xiaoni Zhang, Brent Mascott, Debora Brakarz, Siva Venkatachalam

#### **Approval of October 6, 2015 Minutes (Marcy Waxman)**

There were no changes to the minutes as presented.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Marcy Waxman (seconded by Jennifer Nakashima) and passed unanimously.

#### **President's Report (Yonat Lurie)**

*Shirley J. Lowrie Award* – This award is a thank you for teaching award. The PTA would like to nominate Mrs. Peretzman for this award. Yonat will get the packet together to submit the nomination, letter from principal, and letters from the parents. If any parent would like to work on this, contact Yonat.

*School Directory Update* – The school directory went to print yesterday. It should be out in 7 – 10 business days.

*Spirit days* – Yonat would like to have a monthly DuFief spirit day on the first Friday of each month. The PTA could sell spirit wear, and the children could wear blue and gold that day. The PTA could encourage the children to participate by class, and the class with the most children dressed up could win for that month. It could become a class competition. We will start this the first Friday of December.

*Dragon's Breath* – The Dragon's Breath went digital this month and was emailed out to parents. Email Silva if you did not receive it. The PTA does the newsletter every month, but now that it is digital, we are thinking about doing it 2x per month. If we have enough content to do a second one, we will do it. Benefit of a digital newsletter is that we can make it more up to date.

#### **Treasurer's Report – (Yonat Lurie on behalf of Rob Kemp)**

On behalf of Rob Kent, Yonat Lurie handed out an October 3015 expense and income sheet. The PTA has not yet received the bank statements, and therefore the spreadsheet is not reconciled. We received money back from the moon bounce for the Back to School picnic.

### **1<sup>st</sup> VP Report, Educational Programs (Jennifer Nakashima)**

*Afterschool Programming* – The fall semester of after school programs are wrapping up. We will see advertisements for winter programs soon. There has been movement on the piano program coming back with an acceptable teacher, and we need a parent to be the coordinator. Because it is an MCPS program, the parent volunteer reserves the room, not the program. The PTA takes liability for the piano, not the vendor. We can ask Trisia Banaszewski if this program is exempt from following these rules. Regarding STEM Academy, any vendor is allowed to come to any school as long as they pay for the room and do their own advertising. For example, MSI advertises and the school has no control over this. STEM can do this as well, and we just need enough kids to sign up. College Gardens Elementary loves the STEM Academy, and has had no problems.

*Reflections* – The Reflections competition is coming up. This is the national PTA competition for the arts. This year's theme is "Let your imagination Fly". The deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>. The school collects all entries for Dufief in November, then to County in December, then to State, and then to Nationals. The submissions will go up in the hallways. There is an awards breakfast for students who participate in January. Teachers are the judges so as to be as neutral as possible. A flyer will go home to parents in Dragon's Breath, and will also be on the PTA website. There are rules about dimensions, and there is a category for sculptures this year.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report, Community Resources – (Yonat Lurie on behalf of Leilani Micalizzi)**

*Sunshine Committee* – Each grade is taking leadership of a month for the Sunshine Committee. The Girl Scouts are doing November and doing survival kits for teachers for parent teacher conferences. December 18<sup>th</sup> is the cookie exchange, and Shannon Mac is organizing it.

*Original Works* – Art and order forms came home last week. And, you can order for the holidays. It will be shipped to the school, not your home.

*Barnes and Noble Bookfair* – Save the date for December 5, 2015 from 2-6pm. Please save your shopping for the bookfair, and ask friends and family. A teacher will do an activity, or read a book with the children every half hour.

*Silent Auction* – The silent auction will be the same day as the Talent Show. First meeting is this Friday at 9:30am at Lauren Su's house. Yonat would like to see an online fundraiser as well.

### **Membership Report – (Yonat Lurie on behalf of Heather Handel)**

Based on the online form, membership is approximately 130 paid memberships, and \$4,500 in direct donations. Our goal is \$8,000 in direct donations. The membership directory will come home to people who have joined the PTA. Heather will put personal notes in back packs this week for families who have

not joined. Parents are having trouble paying their membership dues and donations on iPhone or iPad because the PayPal link is not compatible.

### **Yearbook Report – (Hui Shang)**

This year we decided to switch to a new company called Walsworth, instead of LifeTouch. Walsworth is cheaper, the size of the book is larger, and there are more creative tools to use. There is an app to upload photos, and you can upload 10 pictures at a time. We will continue to use LifeTouch for the school portraits, which will be in the yearbook. Mr. Mascott negotiated the price. The sales deadline for yearbooks is January, which is earlier than the LifeTouch deadline, which was in April. The PTA could charge parents \$20 for each yearbook, and will be paying \$16 to Walsworth for each yearbook.

### **Ability Awareness Committee Report – (Jacque Flaherty)**

We had Ability Awareness Week the first week in October, and it was successful. Members of the PTA expressed interest in having general information on the learning center to be able to answer questions from their children. The PTA could do a link to an explanation, or information sent home to parents in their folder. There are a certain number of schools that have Learning Centers. The school does ability awareness so that kids understand what the Learning Center is, and there is a gifted and talented program in the Learning Center. Also, it may be helpful to the children to understand what the Learning Center is. The kindergarten kids don't go to Specials together, but the older Learning Center children go to Specials with the other classes in their grade.

### **MCCPTA Delegate Report – (Yonat Lurie on behalf of Daniel Russ)**

At the MCCPTA Delegate's meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>, the delegates voted to end the debate on MCCPTA priorities. The priorities passed, but Dan Russ did not vote for them.

### **QO Cluster Capacity Report – (Debora Brakarz)**

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Interim Superintendent put out a recommendation that the overcrowding come to Dufief, and that Dufief be expanded to accommodate those students. However, nothing is final as it was only a recommendation. Debora went to the Rachel Carson PTA meeting. The parents of that PTA did not like the recommendation, and their main reason was that they don't want to separate the school. And, it is unclear whether the children that come to Dufief would continue in the Wootton Cluster, or go back to the QO Cluster. The Rachel Carson PTA proposed that a new school be built instead. They believe the recommendation is a "band aid" solution, and they believed it would affect traffic. They also suggested re-boundary the school cluster lines. However, the lowest cost option is to send the kids to Dufief. There is property available in the Lakelands that is owned by City of Gaithersburg, and the County. The Mayor of Gaithersburg wants to go forward with having a new school built and some re-boundaries. The Rachel Carson PTA would like to know what DuFief thinks about the recommendation.

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

Mr. Mascott reported that regarding the Rachel Carson school issue, the interim Superintendent made the recommendation. The County Council determines whether they want to keep the amount of money the same, but the Board of Education determines whether there will be a new school. Every year, the Superintendent makes a recommendation for school projects, and the County Council funds the projects. The Ability Awareness Week was a great week, there was great presenters who showed how they are overcoming their disabilities. The Barnes and Noble event schedule is tentatively set, and the teachers are starting to work on this. Sometime in mid to early February, we are going to have a Reading and Math night. We are going to model this from the reading night last year, but this year it will be reading and math. A save the date will go out for this. Today is the first day of the second quarter. Parent conferences are coming up next week. Report cards will be going out next week.

**Old Business** – Nothing reported.

**New Business** – Next PTA meeting is on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 from 7:00-8:00pm in the Media Center.

Motion to adjoin by Yonat Lurie (seconded by Lisa Gatons) at 10:15am and passed unanimously.

To be approved on December 1, 2015.

Minutes taken by Marcy Waxman