

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015

MINUTES

DuFief Elementary School PTA Minutes

October 6, 2015

Feasibility Study Report

The WMCRP architects summarized notes from the previous feasibility planning meeting. Within the next few months a decision will be made by MCPS regarding the size and design of the school. The website is now up to date with notes from the previous meetings: www.dufiefes.wmcrponline.com. Some highlights of the goals and objectives for the new building include: maximize student drop off car queue, include courtyards, include a large canopy for (40-50) students, and incorporate existing artwork in the new school. Several options for building and surrounding area design were reviewed. All options include 2 possible scenarios (one with a smaller number of students and the other with larger number of students). Option 1 is to retain the existing building. Option 2 is a two-story (partially one-story) replacement building. Option 3 was another two-story (partially one-story) replacement building with the entrance further back from the road (with the idea of preserving some of the green space in front of the school). Options 2 and 3 have zones for the school (zone for academics, zone for activity, etc.). Weighing pros and cons, option 2 seemed to be the option of preference. Next steps: WMCRP will prepare a document with an analysis of the current building, full education specification with the basis of the revitalization, cost projections, and summary information. The document will then go forward for board of education approval, then for budgeting and finally, the design phase. Design and permitting can take up to 1.5 years. Construction will take about 1.5 years. January 2020 is the projected start date for construction and August 2021 is the projected end date. If anyone has questions, please contact Mr. Mascott over the next few weeks or so.

PTA meeting

The meeting was called to order by Yonat Lurie at 7:09pm

In Attendance

Betsy Balicao, Jenn Nakashima, Jennifer Flynn, Daniel Russ, Erika Davis, Anahita Yousefi, Saurabh Channan, Natalie Knight, Kim Brock, Andrea Kleinbrussink, Silvia Bradley, Lauren Su, Allyson Mitchell, Aashima Mehta, Nathalie Noon, Leilani, Micalizzi, Flermon Basra, Chen Zou, Rod Allsopp, Sandra Toledo, Lika Fu, Xian Wang, Rob Kemp, Yonat Lurie, Brent Mascott, Flor Clark, Danielle Carrick

Approval of September 1, 2015 Minutes

No changes to the minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes from September 1, 2015 meeting was made at 7:11pm and passed unanimously.

President's Report (Yonat Lurie)

Teacher appreciation and recognition awards: The county offers lots of awards. Please take a look at the website (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/community/awards/>) or booklet for awards and think about proposing someone to honor. Please get in touch with Yonat Lurie to nominate someone.

PTA directory: Please respond to the directory email to confirm information. Please be in touch with Shubha Jamburajan if you haven't received the email. Confirm by Oct. 16th. So far, 82 families have confirmed their information for inclusion in the directory.

Yearbook: This year, we will be using the Walsworth yearbook company. It is a larger yearbook, with a lower price and a lower minimum order. If you'd like to help with yearbook, be in touch with Huijun Shang. Please share photographs of DuFief school memories and events with the yearbook. Note that when taking pictures, make sure the pictures are high resolution if you're using your phone.

Things for the common good: We are now collecting shoes to donate to another country, old markers so they don't go in the landfill and food for the Manna Food drive. All collections are in the front of the school (near the main office).

Box tops: Continue collecting Box Tops and ask for them from family, friends, etc. So far this year, we have made over \$230 for the school (money goes directly to the school, not PTA).

Treasurer's Report (Rob Kemp)

The current budget was distributed. By the next meeting, the budget will include all revenue figures (including direct donations and PTA membership). Jennifer Nakashima made a motion to add a line item for Dragons on the Run to the budget. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Dragons on the Run will be added to the "programs and school activities".

1st VP Report, Educational Programs (Jennifer Nakashima)

Extracurricular activities have started this week. The first PTA assembly (Hal Tripkin) with Percussion Discussion was held on Sept. 24, 2015. Katy Karis is working to bring the Marine Corp band in for career week and another big activity for the end of the year. All of the contracts are in place for the mobile artist (for artist in residence) to come in February 2016. Redevelopment of the author in residence program is being thought of for the future (not this school year).

2nd VP Report, Community Resources (Leilani Micalizzi)

Sunshine committee's fall festival for teachers and staff is Oct. 22. The 4th grade girl scouts troop will be taking care of treats for the Parent teacher conferences. The Souper-bowl for teachers and staff is scheduled for Feb. 5, 2016. The Chinese New Year luncheon will be during the 2nd week of February. Wed., Oct. 7th is the Ledos dining for DuFief. Paisanos is the next dining for DuFief (it will be dine in, carry-out, or delivery) on Nov. 10th.

Art works fundraiser: The kids are finishing their artwork for the Art Works fundraiser. In a few weeks, you'll get the code for accessing your child's artwork and you can order pillow cases, etc.

Spiritwear (Allyson Mitchell)

In the past, t-shirts have been sold at events. A few years ago, we went to online ordering. However, sales have not great. We will try going back to selling merchandise at events where we can showcase items. Five items (sweatshirts, water bottle, sports folding chairs, cinch bags, and reusable tote) will be introduced in the near future at the sales. Two other items, a Dragon charm for girls and something for boys (possibly a dragon keychain) are being thought of for future items. If anyone has ideas for items for boys, please contact Allyson. Another idea is to turn the outside mural into a poster. A more definitive plan will be determined by December (in time for holiday sales).

3rd VP Report, Social Events (Aashima Mehta)

Please come on Friday, Oct. 9th for the PTA sponsored family night (free snacks, water, movie for everybody). The movie will be Despicable Me 2. Kindergarteners will have the PTA sponsored "apple festival" on Oct. 15th. PTA sponsored Books and Bagels will also occur on Oct. 15th.

Membership Report (Yonat Lurie for Heather Handel)

Memberships now are being taken via 2 methods: 1) Paypal link or 2) when confirming directory information there's an option to pay membership. So far, 111 memberships (20 of which are from directory) are in. Heather's plan is to send home personal notes to join the PTA after Oct. 16th (deadline for confirming directory).

Wootton Cluster Report (Lauren Su)

The first meeting of the Wootton Cluster was last Wed. (Sept. 30). There are four meetings per year when all schools that feed into Wootton gather and discuss what's going on at the schools in the cluster. Mr. Mascott reported that there was lots of discussion about the condition of schools since several of the schools (including DuFief) are in need of repair and renovation. Some of the schools shared that they are not in line for getting renovations done. For example, Falls Mead had an addition put on, but that put them at the bottom of the list for getting renovations done even though renovations for the rest of the school are needed. Other elementary

schools also have situations similar to that here at DuFief for Kindergarten (where we have 32 students, but they are divided into two classes for the core subjects).

MCCPTA Delegate Report (Daniel Russ)

The first meeting of the MCCPTA was held and the advocacy priorities determined. County-wide issues that the MCCPTA will be working on include: Mitigating effects of enrollment growth (enrollment growth is much faster than any other county in MD), supporting school construction and capital improvements, and taking steps to close the achievement gaps. Please let Dan know if there is anything county-wide that they would like the MCCPTA to undertake soon.

QOHS Cluster Capacity Forum Report (Yonat Lurie)

The summary of the forum was posted online. Discussion at the forum included options for how to relieve the overcrowding at Rachael Carson ES.

Principal's Report (Brent Mascott)

The start to the school year has been great. Recognition and rewarding the students with class compliments and bucket filling has really been very successful. Abilities awareness week is going on this week. "Left-stronger" came to talk with the kids and play instruments. Throughout the week, individuals with disabilities will come and talk with the students. Fire drills and lock-down drills will continue throughout the year. The October newsletter went out today. Some upcoming events include: 1) Oct. 12th is Open House day (come in at 9:10am), 2) Oct. 30th are the Halloween Parties and Parade.

Abilities Awareness (Betsy Balicao)

Several speakers will be coming. Some from previous years and others will be new, including Miss Wheelchair Maryland.

Old Business

Anybody who wants to help with the Silent Auction, please see Lauren Su.

New Business

Jennifer Flynn asked about information for applying for grants. Yonat Lurie will send her the information.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 3, 2015 (in the morning)

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:05pm (Dan Russ made the motion and Allyson Mitchell seconded the notion) and was passed unanimously.

To be approved November 3, 2015.

Minutes taken by Danielle Carrick