

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015

MINUTES

DuFief Elementary School PTA Minutes

December 1, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Yonat Lurie at 7:01pm

In Attendance

Danielle Carrick, Bethany Dame, Sandra Toledo, Allyson Mitchell, Shanna Zhou, Yengwei Chen, Yonat Lurie, Brent Mascott, Suzanne Messing, Lori Cooper, Lisa Gatons, Debora Brakarz, Rob Kemp, Aashima Mehta, Chen Zhou, Jenn Nakashima, Agnes Chen

Approval of November 3, 2015 Minutes (Danielle Carrick)

No changes were proposed to the minutes. Allyson Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2015 meeting. Jenn Nakashima seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously at 7:05pm.

President's Report (Yonat Lurie)

Teacher's Awards/Recognition: Mrs. Peretzman is being nominated for a county-wide teacher's recognition award. Yonat Lurie is collecting nice stories about her to compile into a letter from the parents. Mr. Mascott will work on the letter from the teachers.

PTA Directory update: If you did not receive a directory, you did not officially join the PTA. If you would like to join, you can still do so.

Barnes and Noble bookfair: The bookfair is Sat., Dec. 5, 2015 This is anticipated to be our biggest fundraiser. Teacher wish lists will be there. Also, you can shop online for 5 days afterwards.

Treasurer's Report (Rob Kemp)

Most of the checks being written out are reimbursements for Halloween parties. It is essentially status quo for the budget. We are basically where we should be. All direct donations are tax deductible and letters will be sent to you to verify you made the donation

1st VP Report, Educational Programs (Jennifer Nakashima)

Be on the look-out for winter programs that will be starting up soon. Various volunteers run the different educational programs after school, but all of them are requested to work with Jennifer Nakashima to make sure that the schedule can support the program. Classroom reservations need to be done by the person/group holding the class (not the PTA). Also, keep in mind that anyone can come in and do a class; the PTA does not necessarily endorse them. The piano class is running into problems, including issues with reserving classrooms through MCCPS.

2nd VP Report, Community Resources (Yonat Lurie reported for Leilani Micalizzi)

The Original Artworks will be delivered soon. \$508.75 was made for the PTA as of the date of this meeting. The box tops competition will be changed as follows: Box tops should now be adhered to "box tops collection sheets", the sheets turned in to the classroom teacher, and the classroom with the most number of sheets turned in by January 8, 2016 will earn a popsicle party. Dec. 10 will be the next Dining-For-Dufief event at Chick Fil A in Kentlands.

3rd VP Report, Social Events (Aashima Mehta)

Entries for Reflections are still coming in, but it looks like we will have more entries this year than any other year. Last year, two of the first graders art work were selected by the county. January 6th, breakfast with Mr. Mascott is the reward for participating in Reflections.

January 8, 2016 will be the Dufief ES winter dance, sponsored by Helen John.

International night is scheduled for January 28, 2016. The Metropolitan ballet will perform two dances. Possibly also an Indian dance company or an Israeli dance troop will perform. Another idea is to have the kids do a fashion show with international clothing.

Membership Report (Yonat Lurie for Heather Handel)

We are encouraging last minute donations by the end of 2015. Remember, the donations are tax-deductible.

Website (Bethany Dame)

There are several options for website hosting. Our current vendor is Aabaco (formerly Yahoo small business). We are looking to make a switch to a different vendor to hopefully increase capabilities at a lower cost. There are pros and cons to each. Bethany Dame presented a table that summarized the pros and cons of 5 options. For instance, WordPress.com is a very easy format that a user with basic knowledge about how to maintain a website should be able to use. Transferring the domain name will likely be the hardest part of making the change.

Spiritwear Committee (Allyson Mitchell)

We will be introducing some new items for spiritwear (and a new name instead of "spiritwear"). New products will be debuted in January 2016 and will be first sold at the Winter Dance. Five new items include: Nalgene water bottle (\$15), reusable grocery tote (\$5), zippered cinch pack (\$10), folding chairs (\$20), and sweatshirts (price TBD). Cafepress.com will be disbanded. The plan is to start taking orders at the winter dance or the week leading up to it. The order form will have a picture of the actual product and Allyson will look into getting sample products to have for display at the winter dance.

Chinese New Year – In house field trip (Agnes Chen)

In house field trip will be in early February. The county and school are promoting multicultural programs. In the past, several Chinese families at Dufief have held Chinese New Year luncheons for the teachers. This year, an in-house field trip for the 2nd graders will be held during the Chinese New year. It will be a "Journey to China" and will be held on one day between the dates of Feb. 7 and 22, 2016. The event will be less than 2 hours and will teach the students about Chinese culture. They are working with the second grade teachers to coordinate the event.

Principal's Report (Brent Mascott)

There is lots of work being done with Ms. Pape; bucket filling and class compliments are all being done on a routine basis. The week before Thanksgiving was career day. The bookfair at Barnes and Noble will be nice mix of events.

The board of education has endorsed the recommendation to build the larger size school for Dufief and have Rachael Carson students join Dufief after construction is completed. 2020 school year is when they will likely start looking at the boundaries to decide which of the kids from Rachael Carson will be joining Dufief.

Brownie (one of the bunnies in the courtyard) passed away last week.

Some upcoming events include: Google Expeditions will be coming to work with second through fifth graders on Dec. 7, 2015; Family Night, Reading Night will be Feb. 11, 2016; Science Fair will be March 22, 2016.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting

Next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016, 7-8pm in the Media Center.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:49pm by Jenn Nakashima. Allyson Mitchell seconded the motion.

Minutes to be approved at the next full PTA meeting (February 2, 2016).

Minutes taken by Danielle Carrick