

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016

MINUTES

DuFief Elementary School PTA Minutes
April 5, 2016

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

In Attendance

Jennifer Nakashima, Aashima Mehta, Xiaoli Jiang, Rob Kemp, Lika Fu, Brent Mascott, Yonat Lurie, Daniel Russ, Erika Davis, Mallik Rao, Debora Brakavz, Danielle Carrick, Leilani Micalizzi, Rod Allsopp, Kim Brock, Lauren Su, Marcy Waxman and Siva Venkatachalam.

Approval of January 3, 2016 Executive Board Minutes and February 2, 2016 Minutes (Marcy Waxman)

No changes were proposed to the minutes from the January 3, 2016 Executive Board or February 2, 2016 meeting minutes. After a vote on each set of minutes separately, both sets of minutes passed unanimously.

President's Report (Yonat Lurie)

- a. Yearbooks – We are in final week of putting together yearbooks. Parents must have submitted pictures by yesterday.
- b. Shopping Dollars Programs – Giant program final earnings for this school year were \$3,569.67 to the school with 185 families participating. Mr. Mascott used these funds for Artist in Residents program. Harris Teeter earnings are \$469.62, and we are still earning for this year. Giant program ended for the year on March 17th, and will start up again next school year.
- c. Mini Grants – The Mini Grant Program is closed. We allocated all \$2,000 to our teachers. This money is being used in classrooms.

Treasurer's Report (Rob Kemp)

Other than the Silent Auction, all expenditures were regular for March 2016. The Silent Auction earned \$7200 this year. We doubled the amount we planned to earn.

1st VP Report, Educational Programs (Jennifer Nakashima)

For the Silent Auction, the PTA members preferred to have it in the media center. We will do a Buy It Now price on the teachers lunches and parking space next year.

We are wrapping up the last quarter of after school activities. Because the PTA could not get full coordination of the vendors, we are not going to continue to do so next year. Zumba and Imagination Studios just cancelled. Karate may cancel unless they get 6-7 children. If you want a specific class offered by Dufief, the PTA will not be coordinate it as an official PTA class. The PTA will support parents who are trying to get certain classes into the school. Also, if you want a class to move forward, please sign up your child quickly before the vendor cancels the class. Parents can use the Facebook Group to see if other parents are interested in a certain class. In the future, we can use companies that organize the vendors, which is the role the PTA was trying to fill. These companies may be paid by the vendors, so the PTA will look at this over the summer.

2nd VP Report (Leilani Micalizzi)

- a. Dining for Dufief – We've raised \$789 so far this school year. The next event is April 19th at Ledo's.
- b. Sunshine Committee – On April 22nd there will be breakfast for staff. There will be another event for staff on Cinco De Mayo, which is May 5th.
- c. Tag Sale – The Tag Sale is on May 7th. We are coordinating it with DuFief Community Yard Sale. You can rent a table for \$25.00. The PTA is not paying for the space – it is up to the school to reserve a space if there is a rain date. There is enough room for about 15 tables, and we may use the staff parking lot as well. If people want to donate things to the sale to have the school sell them, we can have volunteers who get SSL hours. The PTA will contact Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts to see if they are interested in selling snacks at a table. The Westleigh HOA will decide if it will join.

3rd VP Report, Social Events (Aashima Mehta)

- a. Bingo Night is April 15th. There is a pre-order form for pizza.
- b. Dragonfest is May 21st. Aashima will confirm who will run Dragonfest.
- c. Volunteer Orientation - There is a sign up for volunteers for Kindergarten Orientation on April 13th. Lori Cooper is in charge, and needs volunteers to help new families.

Nominating Committee 2016-2017 (Jennifer Nakashima)

Two months from the end of school, the PTA is required to have a nominating committee to organize positions for the next school year. There must be 7 people on the committee. Jennifer made a motion to the following PTA members to serve on the Nominating Committee: Jennifer Nakashima, Aashima Mehta, Leilani Micalizza, Qin Su Fan, Hui Suang, Siva Venkatachalam, Clara Ely, and alternates - Karen Mason, and Deborah Brakarz, Erika Davis, and Guiante Sesay. The motion was seconded by Yonat Lurie, and was approved unanimously.

Wootton Cluster Report (Lauren Su)

Brian Rabin is the Cluster Coordinator and he is giving testimony tomorrow to Montgomery Council asking that they fully fund the County's budget. His testimony will be that Montgomery County per pupil spending has decreased and there are larger class sizes. Lauren will put the letter regarding his testimony on the PTA Facebook page.

MCCPTA Delegate Report (Daniel Russ)

- a. Health Resolution - There is a Health Resolution that was passed by the MCCPTA for improving school lunches. Dan doesn't think it will get implemented. It is about putting salad bars in the schools, which is hard to implement because it is expensive. No one wants food with preservatives in it, but they don't want food to go bad.
- b. College classes at Wootton - In the next couple of years, there will be college level courses at Wootton, which will be taught by Montgomery College teachers. Such classes will be free for Title I schools, but not for Wootton. The credit attained by Wootton students will be accepted by all Maryland colleges for college credit. This is different than AP classes because you get college credits.
- c. Property Taxes - MCCPTA wants to know how local PTA's feel about trying to overturn the Ficker amendment. The Ficker Amendment does not allow the County Council to discuss raising the rate of property taxes unless 9 members of the County Council approve. They want to change this to 7 members. If the repeal is approved, they will be able to discuss property tax rates. The MCCPTA wants to get involved with this issue because they want more money for the schools, although that would mean an increase in property tax rates. Yonat suggested that this issue be posted on Facebook to encourage discussion. There are 150-160 families on the Facebook group.

Principal's Report (Brent Mascott)

Dr. Jack Smith is the new Superintendent of Montgomery County schools. The end of the 3rd quarter is this Friday. The kids will take report cards home on April 22nd. Kindergarten orientation is April 13th. We have 34 students enrolled already. For Grades 3, 4 and 5 – PARCC Assessments starts on May 9th. The students will be tested in the mornings. The Volunteers Breakfast is on May 24th from 8-8:45am.

Old Business

The PTA is trying to coordinate an Internet safety program for students to teach them about the possible dangers of social media.

New Business

Mallik Rao asked whether Google can access information through the children's Google Chrome and/or Google passwords. Montgomery County IT specialists told Mr. Mascott that any tool that teachers and students used are protected. Google cannot share, access, share any information on Google Chrome. This is through the MCPS account.

Next Meeting

Next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 in the Media Center.

A Motion to adjourn was made at 8:01pm by Yonat Lurie. Daniel Russ seconded the motion.

Minutes taken by Marcy Waxman