

DUFIEF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016

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

In Attendance

Yonat Lurie, Brent Mascott, Jennifer Nakashima, Debora Brakarz, Suzanne Pape, Reshmi Thayavalliyil, Eve Nunes, Fran Solovieff, Andrea Kleinbussink

Approval of October 4, 2016 PTA Minutes (Debora Brakarz) 9:15

Yonat Lurie noted that the date on the minutes for the meeting was wrong and this will be corrected. Reshmi Thayavalliyil made a motion to approve the minutes and Jennifer Nakashima seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

President's Report (Yonat Lurie) 9:16

a. Corporate Sponsorships

This issue came up after the Movie Night, which was sponsored by Toby Salahuddin. It was proposed that the PTA continue to accept sponsorships for events, the downsides are deciding how to choose the sponsor and the particular problems that a sponsor might bring up. One idea is to only accept sponsorships from a DuFief family, but rules and regulations would still be needed. The idea to survey other schools and lawyers was brought up. All agree the PTA wants to pursue corporate sponsorships, the PTA should begin to survey other school PTAs, and to come up with a set of rules and regulations.

b. Directory

It is still being reviewed, and most likely to be approved today.

c. MiniGrants

This year the MiniGrants total is of \$1,000, less than last year. The estimated distribution is of about \$200 per grade level. So far, a total of \$329.98 has been allocated to: 4th grade -for two plant grow lights at \$129.98- and 3rd grade -for subsidization of a field trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry at \$200. The rest of the staff has been encouraged to apply before the deadline. There was some clarification on the rules for applications and allocations, including that any leftover money gets reapplied elsewhere during the current academic year (but that has never happened historically).

d. Shopping Dollars

Linking supermarket cards to our school netted us in October \$192 from Giant and only \$54 from Harris Teeter, as not a lot of people have linked their Harris Teeter cards. It was urged that everyone remind people to link their cards.

e. Barnes and Noble Book Fair

The fair will take place on Saturday, 12/10, from 12-4pm. A discussion ensued about whether to do an in-house book fair with Scholastic, including an idea to do it in conjunction with Family Learning Night. However, after some discussion and first-hand experience testimony by one parent, it was generally agreed by all that holding the book fair inside the school is too much work and not cost-effective. The teacher representative said that the format of teacher participation in the fair has worked well for them in past years, but there was discussion of trying to find a way to get parent feedback about what would be the best format for them (e.g. as there are parents who have to stay for a long time because of kids at very distant time slots). There was \$1,000 in the school's Scholastic account which was allocated to the media center as decided by the principal. It was implied that in the future this resource should be made available to departments to request rather than simply allocated.

f. Yearbook

All yearbook chair slots have finally been filled. It was urged that all upload school photos.

g. Joint 1st and 2nd Grade Classes

There are still discussions among parents about the joint-grade format, mostly concerns from 2nd grade parents. However, the PTA president has not been approached by other parents about this issue in her role as president, only as fellow parent. The principal has asked teachers to report back on parents' comments and concerns after the parent-teacher conferences, and depending on the issues brought up or impressions from the teachers, either a clarifying email with specific information will be sent out, or a second Q&A session will be set up, if necessary.

Treasurer's Report (Yonat Lurie for Rob Kemp) 9:51

Nothing to report.

1st VP Report, Educational Programs (Jennifer Nakashima) 9:51

After school programs offered in the winter session include yoga, programming, literacy, fine arts, and Imagination Stage. Panda Programming is full and might be renting another room. The STEM program doesn't have good management and is disorganized; the teachers are engineering students and don't know how to deal with kids; they are also renting space on their own, not going through the PTA.

The PTA By-Laws are being reviewed by Runako Allsopp and Jen Nakashima. They are going line by line and the changes will be submitted electronically in a few weeks because they need to be approved by February and there is no full PTA meeting in

January. One proposed change is that the minimum quota for approval of certain decisions be changed to a lower number. Yonat Lurie proposed that the Corresponding Secretary position be changed to a Social Media Secretary position.

2nd VP Report, Community Resources (Yonat Lurie for Leilani Micalizzi) 9:58

a. Box Tops

The PTA made \$318 through Box Tops in October, which will be paid directly to the school in December.

b. Dining for DuFief

The event at Ledo's Pizza last month netted \$345 for the school. Next will be Zoe's Kitchen on November 10th, and the restaurant offers delivery to teachers as well.

c. Sunshine Committee

The 4th grade committee will be providing coffee and doughnuts to staff and teachers on November 10 and 11 for the Parent-Teacher conferences.

3rd VP Report, Social Events (Yonat Lurie for Aashima Mehta) 10:00

The PTA Movie Night was a success and the PTA was able to save a lot compared to last year's Movie Night. Next on the social agenda will be the International Night and Chinese New Year on January 26, and anyone interested in setting up a country booth or who has questions should contact the 3rd VP.

Membership Report (Yonat Lurie for Toby Salahuddin) 10:01

Toby Salahuddin took over as Co-Membership Chair from Nathalie Noon. It was reported that some teachers still have not joined the PTA, and that personalized letters to families who still have not joined will be sent out.

School Counselor's Report (Suzanne Pape) 10:03

This month's counseling lessons focus on kindness. Lunch bunches and teacher buddy lunches have begun.

Ability Awareness Week was a great success, and even received MCPS coverage. The school plans on inviting the basketball team back for next year's week again. The Manna food drive and Red Ribbon Week were also great successes.

Career Day will be on November 18, and there will be 23 speakers, mostly parents, and some are speaking to multiple grades. The Park Police with horses will come if it does not rain, and also the fire department with trucks.

The Character Counts City of Gaithersburg poster contest is ongoing and the deadline is December 5. Applications to middle school magnet and choice programs are due by November 4.

MCCPTA Delegate Report (Yonat Lurie for Leilani Micalizzi) 10:12

a. MCCPTA meeting of September 27

It was reported that compacted 5/6 Math will be offered in both ES and MS next year. We will see differentiated instruction in on-grade level classes (see MCCPTA Gifted Child Committee for more details). Kindergarten through 3rd grade math is being reevaluated to see if it is too slow, and whether there are better ways to identify and prepare a more diverse group of students for compacted 4/5/6 math.

Cell phones as part of instruction in MS are being looked into since some parents and teachers are mixed on the issue. Yonat Lurie is against cellphone use in instruction.

The "Thank a Teacher" program recognizes teachers and the Marian Greenblatt Education Fund gives winners a \$500-\$1000 prize, and one Master Teacher recipient will become County Teacher of the Year. To email nominations or for more information contact info@greenblatteducationfund.org.

b. PTA Gifted and Talented Liaison

The PTA needs a new Gifted and Talented Liaison, and if anyone is interested the information is posted on the Facebook page or they can contact Leilani Micalizzi or Siva Venkatachalam.

Wootton Cluster Report (Brent Mascott for Lauren Su) 10:14

The latest Wootton Cluster meeting took place on October 17. The Board of Education will begin taking a closer look at the efficiency and effectiveness of programs and objectives of the different magnet, immersion, gifted and talented, etc. programs at the elementary school level, including to determine how the selection for the programs is accurate, fair and reflective of current student population.

All schools in Montgomery County that are set for a Rev/Ex were reevaluated and the Superintendent will be releasing the results sometime in the fall, as the schedule and list might change. DuFief is still slated for a reopening date of August 2022.

Principal's Report (Brent Mascott) 10:18

The students will soon start being assessed through the MEP-Measure of Economic Proficiency, which is a national, voluntary assessment taken three times a year. This is a new report from a company that performs national educational assessments and does not impact report cards. The measure is simply one more data point that staff use to look at students' levels when they enter each grade.

Parent-Teacher conferences will take place next week. The MCPS report cards not yet be available for the conferences (they will go home to parents on November 17) but the teachers will have the data to show the parents.

Old Business 10:23

The new Little Free Library is being painted and will be ready soon. It was made possible by a joint donation by the PTA and private families. It's location will be outside the front door of the school and a ribbon cutting ceremony is planned.

New Business 10:25

None.

Next Meeting 10:25

The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, 7-8:00 pm in the Media Center.

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:25pm by Yonat Lurie. Suzanne Pape seconded the motion.

Minutes taken by Debora Brakarz