

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

DuFief Elementary School PTA Minutes

PTA Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Yonat Lurie at 7:03 pm.

In Attendance

Yonat Lurie, Brent Mascott, Tzvety Weiner, Sandra Toledo, Saurabh Channan, Anahita Yousefi, Ann-Marie Luciano, Gabe Sung, Lisa Shen, Jennifer Nakashima, Danielle Carrick, Natalie Knight, Lauren Su, Debora Brakarz, Jennifer Ng, Aarti Savani, Fououd Atouf, Wei Shen, Paula Teixeira-Obaidy, Runako Allsopp, Andra Kleinbusiuk, Aashima Mehta, Kim Brock, Jill Lin, Zheng Wang, James Noon, Leilani Micalizzi, Douglass Clark, Siva Venkatachalam, Karya Rao

Approval of June 7, 2016 PTA Minutes (Danielle Carrick)

No changes were noted. Aashima Mehta made a motion to approve the minutes and Jennifer Nakashima seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

President's Report (Yonat Lurie)

Housekeeping items for how the PTA works: Mail sent to the school for the PTA goes to the PTA mailboxes; board members and chairs of events have folders located in the main office. The bulletin board outside of the main office belongs to the PTA. Jennifer Nakashima volunteered to take on the responsibility of maintaining the PTA bulletin board this school year.

Shopping dollars program: Please make sure that Harris Teeter VIC cards and Giant cards are linked to the school. Amazon (smile.amazon.com) can also be linked to Dufief ES.

This year, per our Dufief PTA bylaws, review our bylaws. The deadline is February 4, 2017 to review our bylaws. Runako Allsopp volunteered to take on this task.

Treasurer's Report (Rob Kemp)

Budget: This year's budget was estimated and prepared for discussion at this meeting; an income and expense spreadsheet was circulated to those in attendance at the meeting. Income includes membership dues, donations, book fair, silent auction, etc. The PTA's biggest expenses include cultural arts (assemblies for the students), memories and dreams (for 5th graders), classroom holiday parties, artist-in-residence

program, PTA mini-grants, additional instructional aid and classroom support. Feel free to contact Rob Kemp with additional questions or concerns about the budget or costs. For reimbursements by the PTA, submit them to Rob Kemp and he'll get you the reimbursement within a couple of weeks. Yonat Lurie suggested a change to the budget for \$200 for building of a "little free library" to be stationed at the courtyard in front of the school.

Sandra Toledo passed a motion to approve the 2016-2017 budget, including the additional \$200 for the little free library, and Lauren Su seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1st VP Report, Educational Programs (Jennifer Nakashima)

- Artist in residence: Mr. Mascott and Jennifer Nakashima have almost reached a decision for the artist-in-residence program for this year. Assemblies are being finalized as well. Please contact Jennifer Nakashima with ideas for assemblies and new vendors.
- Before and after school programs: The online reservation system by the MCCPS is the way vendors reserve space at the school. However, this system has now made it difficult for the PTA to keep track of all vendors. Vendors that the PTA advertises (on Dufief Facebook page and other materials), are the ones that the PTA has had contact with and arranged/coordinated the dates/times of the offerings. There are a lot of fall activities being offered (probably more than what our school can sustain). Vendors will cancel offerings if they do not meet a minimum number.
 - Chess club: Offered Wednesday afternoons. Please contact Nataliya Podlesny for additional information.
 - Dragons on the Run: The program is coming back for a second year. This running program is offered for Dufief students of all grades K-5 (K-2 need to have an adult with them). The program will be on Mondays and Wednesdays 8:15-8:45am. Please contact Kim Brock for additional information.

2nd VP Report, Community Resources (Leilani Micalizzi)

- Original Works fundraiser will be done again this year. The students will work with Mrs. Trusilo to create an original piece of art that can then be put on mugs, cell phone covers, etc. Sales will start before the December holidays.
- Spiritwear (James Noon): The first Friday of every month is school spirit day. Dufief ES t-shirts can be purchased by contacting James Noon; t-shirts are \$10. We are looking into the possibility of pre-ordering hooded sweatshirts in the fall.
- Garden Committee: Jamie Pflasterer will plant fall cabbage and do additional planting in the spring.
- Tag Sale: A volunteer to head this event is needed.
- Walk to school day will be October 5, 2016. A request for volunteers will be sent out at a later date.

- Volunteers (Deborah Brakarz): All volunteers working with students and helping out in the school on a regular basis (including chaperones on field trips) must take the volunteer training. MCPS has developed training for all volunteers in the district to learn about recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect. The online training takes about 30 minutes to complete and can be accessed through the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org by searching volunteer training. Please forward your certificate to Mrs. McWilliams and also let Deborah know that you completed the training.
- Community service (Aarti Saavani): Aarti has many ideas for what the school can do for community service projects, including doing the marker and crayon recycling and Manna Food Drive again. She has other ideas as well that she will post on Facebook. Also please let her know if you have other ideas.

3rd VP Report, Social Events (Aashima Mehta)

- Back to school night picnic was a great success. The kids had fun and we made about \$1000 from food sales.
- Ice cream social is planned for Thursday, Sept. 22 (6:30pm). The PTA will give one free ice cream per person. Sandra Toledo is the chair for this event.

Membership Report (Yonat Lurie on behalf of Nathalie Noon)

PTA membership is \$30 per person. This year, we're introducing incentives (free car magnet with any direct donation; travel coffee mug for every \$40 direct donation). If you don't want the travel mug or magnet, feel free to donate it to Lauren Su for the silent auction or contact Yonat Lurie to decline it. To join the PTA, go to the Dufief PTA website and click on the top banner to join.

Wootton Cluster Report (Lauren Su, Deborah Brakarz)

October 17, 2016 is the first Wootton Cluster meeting. Sept. 10 is a training (3 sessions) at Blair from 10am-3pm where they go over the rules for PTA.

MCCPTA Delegate Report (Leilani Micalizzi, Siva Venktachalam)

No report. The next meeting is September 27, 2016.

Principal's Report (Brent Mascott)

Please contact Mr. Mascott directly if you have any questions or want to talk about anything.

Mrs. Pape: She is continuing the class compliments program that was started last year. So far, 4 classes have reached 10 class compliments. Buddy benches have been designated on the playgrounds where students can come and sit if they feel like they need a buddy; it seems to be working.

Please review the procedures for drop off and pick up. Please use cross walks and ensure you are not parking/stopping at the new no stopping signs placed on Dufief Dr.

During the monthly staff meetings, Mr. Mascott focuses on different teaching aspects. For instance, growth mindset vs. fixed mindset. In his monthly principal's newsletter, he will include a summary of the focus of the monthly meetings so that parents can be informed as well.

Thursday, September 15 (7pm) is back to school night for grades 1 – 5. Parents will meet in the APR for the first 15 minutes, then go to the classrooms. Two sessions will be offered for the classrooms.

Renovation of the school may be bumped forward or backward depending on the outcome of the review that occurred during the summer of 2016 review. Dufief is currently slated to be renovated starting in the winter of 2020 (move out) – 2022 (Fall move back in).

Old Business

Lauren Su – If you are sending out messages on Yahoo Groups, keep in mind that sometimes people don't get the messages until a day later. So, if you're posting information, make sure to post it at least 2 days in advance.

Yonat Lurie – Please make sure to sign up for Dufief Facebook page and YahooGroups. If you're not getting DragonsBreath (PTA newsletter), please contact Siva Venkatachalam.

Deborah Brakarz – Volunteers are needed at the Media center. Please contact Deborah or any of the media center staff. Also, if you do come in and volunteer (not just at the media center), please sign in on the white sheet in the main office.

A question was raised regarding rumors that the Wootton cluster boundaries will be redrawn. Deborah Brakarz (Wootton Cluster Representative) reported that Wootton redistricting is not being considered at this time.

New Business

Disabilities week is coming up.

Next Meeting

Next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 in the Media Center.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:05pm by Yonat Lurie. Kim Brock seconded the motion.

Minutes taken by Danielle Carrick