

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016

MINUTES

DuFief Elementary School PTA Minutes
February 2, 2016

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

In Attendance

Jennifer Nakashima, Bing Wang, Sandra Toledo, Paul Graham, Jim Eppard, Yonat Lurie, Brent Mascott, Lauren Su, Erika Davis, Leilani Micalizzi, Rod Allsopp, Huan Zhang, Shannon Zhou, Aashima Mehta, Agnes Chen, Danielle Carrick

Approval of December 1, 2015 minutes (Danielle Carrick)

No changes were proposed to the minutes from the December 1, 2015 meeting. Jennifer Nakashima made a motion to approve the minutes. Sandra Toledo seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously at 7:05pm.

President's Report (Yonat Lurie)

130 yearbooks have been sold so far. The deadline has been extended until February 9, 2016.

Dragonfest is scheduled May 21, 2016, but we still need a chair for it.

A nominations committee will need to be formed for the 2016-2017 school year PTA executive committee members. While Yonat Lurie cannot be on the committee, she is collecting names of people willing to be on the committee. Please let her know if you are interested in being on the committee or being nominated.

The third Spirit day is scheduled for February 5, 2016.

Treasurer's Report (Yonat Lurie for Rob Kemp)

The updated budget was circulated. There is nothing outstanding to report.

Yonat Lurie made a motion and Erika Davis seconded the motion to add a discretionary housekeeping line item of \$200 to the PTA budget. There was discussion about whether this amount was sufficient as this would be used to provide gift cards to the janitorial staff for functions such as the winter dance, silent auction, etc. The group decided that this amount was appropriate and the motion was approved unanimously.

1st VP Report, Educational Programs (Jennifer Nakashima)

The artist-in-residence program is underway for the fifth graders. Kevin Reese is here starting to work with the fifth graders to make a mobile that will be finished and hung in

the media center on February 12, 2016. He will also do a presentation for the entire Dufief Elementary School.

2nd VP Report (Leilani Micalizzi)

- a. Dining for Dufief: We have made about \$560 so far from Dining for Dufief. March 7th at Panera in Kentlands will be the next Dining for Dufief event.
- b. Sunshine committee: On February 4th, the third grade will do the annual Souper Bowl lunch for the staff. May 5th second grade will do Cinco de Mayo themed staff appreciation event. Kindergarten will lead the staff appreciation event for June.
- c. Silent auction (Lauren Su): Lauren Su requested help with picking up a few of the donations. There will not be any requests for grade-level baskets, but donations of gifts can still be made to Lauren Su and she will create “baskets”. Yonat Lurie relayed to the PTA that there have been some grumblings from parents about the Silent Auction PTA parking spot that is “won” at the auction. Discussion centered around making the parking spot more personalized and making it \$100 minimum bid.
- d. Science Fair – The Science Fair will be March 22. The organizers (Siva Venkatachalam, Leilani Micalizzi, and Patricia Banaszewski) will be sending out a link to a booklet that is a good guide for how to do a science fair project. The link will be sent along with the science fair project.

3rd VP Report, Social Events (Aashima, Mehta)

- a. International Night: Several dance performances will be there and 10 countries will be represented. Since it is rescheduled for February 4, 2016, fifth graders will be attending the Robert Frost orientation for incoming 6th graders.
- b. Talent Show (Feb. 26) – The signups have been completed via Sign up genius. There is a waitlist for several grades. A contract has been signed with a DJ. A volunteer is needed to head up the food committee (to bring in the pizza for sale, etc.).

Chinese New Year In house field trip (Agnes Chen)

This event is for second graders. The budget was circulated. This year, the costs will be slightly more than it should be for future years since many materials can be reused for subsequent years. \$260 is requested from the PTA to cover the costs that are not covered by parent donations to the in house field trip. A question was asked whether the costs should be deferred to the parents to pay for the in-house field trip (which would be around \$6 per student). The group discussed that since the PTA contributes to other in-house field trips, this was an appropriate use of funds as well. Jennifer Nakashima made a motion that the treasurer will move \$260 from the appropriate spot in the budget (at his discretion) and to add a line item for \$260 to the “programs & school activities”. Erika Davis seconded the motion to add a line item to the budget. No further discussion occurred and the motion was passed unanimously.

Wootton Cluster Report (Lauren Su)

There is nothing to report since the meeting is occurring at the time of this present meeting.

MCCPTA Delegate Report (Yonat Lurie for Dan Russ)

Dan Russ provided his report via email. Yonat read the report to the PTA:

There is a Wootton cluster meeting today at 7:30 to discuss the tri-cluster roundtable approaches for the Gaithersburg overcrowding issue. There are 5 approaches to the problem. Only 1 (Approach #5) affects the Wootton cluster, which would ship students from Crown, Decoverly, and the new development at Great Seneca Science Center to the Wootton cluster. This would be a devastating development. We need to advocate strongly against this option. The middle school and high school estimates for Frost/Wootton are notoriously bad. They are constantly underestimating the numbers at Wootton.

Important upcoming dates for MCCPTA:

Feb. 3 is the MCCPTA GT Parent information night at Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium from 7-9pm. Feb. 15 is MCCPTA Day of Action; Buses leave for Annapolis at 11am from all high schools. For more information email vpadvocacy@mccpta.com. March 23 is the education budget meeting presented by Councilman Rice and Interim Superintendent Bowers in the Wootton Cafeteria from 6:30-8:30pm.

Principal's Report (Brent Mascott)

The students are excited about the artist in residence program. Feb. 11 will be Family Learning Night. Most of the staff will be present doing fun learning activities with the kids. Feb. 12th will be Valentine's day parties. Siblings are invited as well. Report cards will be sent home Feb. 10th; distribution was delayed due to the blizzard and school closures. Capital improvement budget may be decreased, meaning that several of the renovation projects will be delayed again. Yonat Lurie asked how snow days would affect the school year. Brent Mascott said that as of now, nothing has been decided. However, since several of the days off were state of emergencies, there is a good chance that they will not need to be made up.

Old Business

None.

New Business:

A question from Paul Graham was raised - Can he donate balls to the school for recess? Mr. Mascott will provide a list of items that would be nice to get donated to the school. Others suggested that we have "wants" on post-its or on a sign up genius list so parents know exactly what is needed. Please be in touch with Yonat Lurie with any ideas for new business.

Next Meeting

Next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 7-8pm in the Media Center.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:03pm by Yonat Lurie. Erika Davis seconded the motion.

Minutes to be approved at the next full PTA meeting (March 1, 2016).

Minutes taken by Danielle Carrick