

DuFief PTA Meeting

February 7, 2017

Minutes

DuFief ES PTA Meeting was called to order by Yonat Lurie at 7:00pm

In Attendance

Yonat Lurie, Brent Mascott, Danielle Carrick, Leilani Micalizzi, Siva Venkatachalam,, Jennifer Nakashima, Runako Allsopp, Debora Brakarz, Aashima Mehta, Rob Kemp, James Noon, Jessica Bland, Paula Teixeira-Obaidy, Lauren Su, Mallik Rao, Kim Brock, Irina Shapiro, Masha Maslennikov, Yingxia Yang, Andrea Kleinbussink, Jamie Pflasterer

Approval of December 6, 2016 minutes (Danielle Carrick)

Deborah Brakarz made a motion to pass the minutes. Yonat Lurie seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Rob Kemp)

Started the year around \$17K. Halfway through the year, we're up to around \$20K. With the Silent Auction, we should be in good shape. \$2660 was made from the Barnes and Noble bookfair, which was about double what we had budgeted for. A question came up regarding spending for class parties - Is it \$2 per party, or can the money be pooled and \$4 spent for a single party? A total of \$4 per student is allocated for the entire year, however it is spent.

President's Report (Yonat Lurie)

- Shopping programs – Giant has donated around \$2197 to date. Harris Teeter has donated around \$254 to date.
- Dragons on the run will be starting up again in the spring for an 8 week program led by Kim Brock.
- Spring dance – If we are interested in sponsoring a spring dance, it will cost us around \$800-1000. Yonat will post a question on FB asking if anyone is interested in sponsoring a dance.
- Tag sale – If anyone is interested in chairing the tag sale this year, please contact Yonat. Westleigh HOA will also do their neighborhood yard sale the same day.
- Winter meet-up at Rockin Jump, Zava Zone, etc. – If there is any interest, please contact Anya Rebholz. This would be a non-PTA sponsored event.
- Yearbook – The yearbook preparations are in full swing. Please upload photos to the yearbook site.

1st VP Report, Educational Programs (Jennifer Nakashima)

- Artist-in-Residence – The Artist-in-residence program started this week. Each of the fifth grade classes are doing this separately. They are working with a local artist to create a tile mosaic mural of a Dufief Dragon mascot.
- Cultural Arts Programs – Nothing definite is scheduled but Jenn N. is exploring several ideas.

2nd VP Report, Community Resources (Leilani Micalizzi)

- Dining for Dufief – Panera brought in \$166.40 on Feb. 6, 2017. March 7 is the next event at Ledo’s pizza.
- Sunshine Committee – The Souperbowl lunch was a huge success.
- Silent Auction (Lauren Su) – The silent auction is less than a month away. Jessica Bland volunteered to help get the donations. Sandra Toledo is organizing the refreshments again for the Talent Show and Silent Auction. The teachers’ silent auction items and the parking spaces this year will have a “buy it now” price. The silent auction will start at 6pm since the Talent Show will start at 7pm.

3rd VP Report, Social Events (Aashima Mehta)

- International Night – International night was a great success. Four different dance companies performed five events. They were all asking for money donations, either for gas money or for professional development. 12 SSL hours were given to each of the middle and high school students. \$5 gift cards were provided to the participants (\$60 total).
- Talent Show - There are a few spots left for signing up to perform. Refreshments will be coordinated by Sandra Toledo. Pizza and possibly Chick Fil A sandwiches will be available for purchase.

Nominations Committee (Yonat Lurie)

The last meeting this year will be in May (first Tuesday of May). That will be when we elect the board for next year. At least two months prior to that date, our bylaws require we form a nominating committee. Nominations for the committee were proposed at this meeting to include: James Noon, Runako Allsopp, Debora Brakarz, Leilani Micalizzi. Yonat will post on FB asking if anyone else is interested in being on the nominating committee.

DC United opportunity (Masha Maslennikov)

There is an opportunity to have Dufief register for seeing a DC United game again this spring. Once the school is registered with DC United to go to a game, the school would be entered into a raffle to receive complimentary tickets to the game. The PTA agreed that registering the school would be fine as long as we are not obligated to spend any money or buy a certain number of tickets. Look out for additional information in the future.

Wootton Cluster Report (Lauren Su & Debora Brakarz)

Feb. 23, 2017 (at Wootton high school) is the next big meeting where the Board of Education will be attending. They are highly encouraging at least one teacher and the principal to be present, as well as community and parents, to attend the meeting. Round table discussions will occur, and the meeting will start at 6:30pm. They would also like to have the schools set up a Signup Genius to keep track of how many people are planning on attending.

Highly gifted and talented program liaisons are requested from each elementary school; they would be the main person communicating information from the cluster to the school regarding the gifted and talented program. An in-school magnet program is being pilot tested in 2 elementary schools right now. They are planning on rolling it out to 7 additional schools if that initial pilot test goes well. If all goes well, then they want to roll it out to each of the elementary schools in about 5 years. If that happens, then every student will be screened for being highly gifted and talented.

MCCPTA Delegate Report (Leilani Micalizzi/Siva Venkatachalam)

- At the last MCCPTA meeting, there was a list of advocacy priorities discussed. It was posted on Facebook and was voted on and approved. The list of priorities will be discussed with the Board of Education.
- The use of Chromebooks for Kindergarten and first grade was discussed.
- If anyone would like to serve on the MCCPTA board, please let Siva know and she will nominate you.
- Bell times was discussed again.
- Many of the PTAs are moving to Google Groups instead of Yahoo Groups; we might want to consider this for next year since there are issues with the Yahoo Groups.
- Another point of discussion was seatbelts in chartered buses; we would like for principals to reserve only the buses with seatbelts. Mr. Mascott is in agreement with this.

Principal's Report (Brent Mascott)

Report cards get sent home Feb. 8, 2017. Next week is a busy week with Family Learning Night (Feb. 16), book fair (Feb. 13-17), and Valentine's Day parties (Feb. 14). The second semester MAP testing is occurring now and results will be sent home after March 3. In addition, the Dufief leadership team has surveyed the teachers and students (grades 2 through 5) regarding the learning environment, as well as performed walk-throughs to observe learning environments. They are now working on synthesizing the results and understanding the outcomes to see how to improve learning at Dufief.

A question was raised about the donation boxes sent home the other week. A parent commented that it feels like an obligation on the part of the parents. Yonat clarified that the PTA's stand has typically been if a parent wants to do an event and if they were to run it, then the PTA has said OK to it. This is an issue that will be discussed at the beginning of the next school year.

Old Business

To be discussed at the next meeting: The issue of making a bylaws amendment to change the term-limits for VPs staying on in the same position.

New Business

The Science Fair is coming up March 15. A Google form has gone out for signups. Please encourage your children to participate.

A question was raised whether the aggregated MAP testing results would be shared with parents. Mr. Mascott is considering having a presentation to communicate those results. Also, at the end of the year, the county publishes the results.

Yonat Lurie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm. Danielle Carrick seconded the motion.

Minutes taken by: Danielle Carrick

March

- 3 *Early Release Day*
- 3 PTA Silent Auction & Talent Show
- 7 PTA Meeting 7:00pm
- 7 Dining for Dufief – Ledo Pizza (Travilah)
- 15 Science Fair

