

Davidsonville Elementary School PTO

Imagine, Believe, Achieve!



General Membership Meeting Minutes February 8, 2022 (virtual)

1. Attendance
 - a. PTO Board - Brian, Laura, Cathy, Dan, Jen, Karen, Anne
 - b. General Membership
 - i. Faculty - Colleen Harris
 - ii. Families - Brenna Raines, Laura Korbam, Cathy Manofsky, Margaret Herbers, Sophia Celino, Shana Durant, Nicole Desrochers, Brianna Raines
2. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. [11-8-21 General Membership Meeting Minutes](#) - Motion to approve: Laura; Second Cathy. Minutes approved.
3. VP of Communications Report
 - a. Blast
 - i. 63% of people are opening Blast emails compared to 58%; however, many of the emails belong to families no longer at DES. Switching to MailChip would require new signups and clean some of the old email addresses out.
 - ii. Not sure people are using Twitter to follow DES PTO. We seem to be getting more attention on Facebook.
 - iii. Spanish Version of Blast - is this needed? Jackie in the front office can provide info on the families that need translation. She can also connect **Laura with Samantha Rhinehart, who works for the Communications office and was an ELO teacher, to help with translations.**
4. VP of Fundraising Report
 - a. Joe Corbi - Deliveries arrive tomorrow at 10:30 at the school. Parent pick up will be between 2:30-6; 450 items ordered. We can have them deliver on far side of gym where Book Fair was and put the curtain down so it doesn't disrupt PE
 - b. Skate Night-Friday - fundraiser for Tyler Heights. Do we want a committee or a fundraising subcommittee to oversee it when raising money for other places? Decided to put it under Cathy (Volunteer VP).

- c. Book Fair - March 17 - 25, selling books starts the 18th, Robin is Chairing again and would like to return to pre-Covid format with a teacher luncheon and skip sign-up genius. There were concerns that using sign-up genius and having people come at certain times based on the first letter of last name kept some people away. Colleen said that without sign-up genius people would have to wait outside whenever we were at capacity inside.
5. VP - Volunteer Coordinator Report
- a. Club list and volunteers needed
 - i. Need some Chairs for upcoming clubs - Cathy said that some people get scared away by the term "Chair" but that it's not a lot of work
 - 1. Science Fair - Will be virtual this year making it easier to organize
 - 2. Gator Gallop - Cathy and Cathy Manofsky taking the lead for now
 - 3. Assemblies Committee (virtual) - Will want someone for next year
 - 4. Kindergarten Welcome Wagon Chair - For next year
 - 5. School Supply Kits - For next year
 - 6. Play - will need a producer and director soon to be ready for next year
 - b. Chess and Engineering clubs are up and running now.
 - c. Talent Show - Cathy Manofsky is the Chair and is currently working on getting SRHS auditorium.
 - d. Movie Night - Jodi Donney is taking the lead. We are planning to have it outdoors
 - e. 5th Grade Committee (pool party, signs, tee shirts, pic frame, sandy point with games, photographers' pic, etc) - Cathy Manofsky will take the lead; Tara and Heather have offered to do class pics again. They offered to do it during recess and will give parents a heads up in case anyone wants to dress up. **Cathy Manofsky and Colleen to touch base on promotion, class gift, etc.**
 - f. Anyone interested in volunteering opportunities should contact Cathy Rutkowski.
6. Principal's Report
- a. Trying to manage Covid issues - Covid cases are considered high ("outbreak") if there are three positives in a class within 14 days. This week one 5th and two first grade classes had outbreaks. The office is only sending home unvaccinated kids.
 - b. Change of school start times for the next year - letters will be coming out soon
 - i. All elem in the County will start at 8am
 - ii. This may create a hardship for buses since we don't have enough buses currently
 - iii. Will change clubs times- We will only offer pm clubs in the future as a result
 - c. Reports for 4th and 5th graders who took MCAPs in fall are coming out soon. Students in younger grades will be receiving results for reading tests. In general, all testing shows that kids are behind where they are expected to be. This is not unexpected by staff.

- d. Teachers/staff have been asked about things they need that could be purchased by the PTO
 - i. Classroom carpets (those not replaced in the past few years. They run about \$400-500), recess equipment, teachers' lounge makeover (including curtains, new seating, new tables, etc).
 - ii. Outdoor Learning Area and Courtyard - The outdoor learning area is overgrown and a bit of a walk from the building. The Courtyard is overgrown. The Kindergarten classes no longer use the courtyard because the bricks are loose and have become a safety issue. There are umbrellas out there that haven't been opened in 5 yrs. This may be more of a manpower issue to get it cleaned up than a funding issue. It was proposed that the money that was donated for shade structure could be used for the courtyard and Outdoor class area if the shade structure doesn't get approved.
 - iii. Colleen will create an updated, prioritized list of teacher/staff wants/needs and will send it to the PTO.
 - iv. Artist in residence - runs between \$1500-4000. This is an artist who comes to the school and does lessons with kids to create a large art project. It can be for the whole school or for a single grade. Colleen would like to have some sort of art by the students in the Main Office because the art there is so old that the kids are in high school by now.
 - v. Nichole Gunhus - emailed earlier in the year about getting funding and some suggestions on how to make landscaping around the buildings more simple and welcoming. Should revisit.

7. Budget Update

- a. Reviewed money from fundraisers since last General Membership Meeting.
- b. Reviewed money spent.
- c. Book Vending Machine - students earn coins at school and can use them to "buy" books from the vending machine to keep. This is in line with AACPS's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support System. It is hoped that it will get students excited to read and behave. The books will be purchased by the PTO using Scholastic bucks we earn through Book Fairs. It will take about 20 wks to arrive.
- d. Health Room - A refrigerator was purchased as were 500 masks at the nurse's request.
- e. Shade structure update - Proposal has been submitted to AACO and waiting to hear if it was approved.

8. Open Floor

- a. Joanne Wellington is fine with switching her family's donation for the shade structure to the outdoor areas if the shade structure is not approved. We need to let her know the end decision. It was suggested that we should get a recognition plaque to honor her family's foundation for their donation regardless of what we end up doing with it.

- b. Estimate for fixing up outdoor areas - **Anne will get estimates from 3 companies for the outdoor spaces (outdoor classroom and courtyard).** Mrs. Whetzel's husband owns King Cuts and specializes in hardscapes. It was also recommended that we get an estimate from Sven at Stallings and Jeff Crandall with Scapes.
- c. Other Items - Bathroom painting - A few years ago Jody Christian and Carrie Groff's Girl Scout group painted the boys' and girls' bathrooms with positive messages. The paint is damaged now and needs to be removed or repaired. Decals are an option.
- d. Gator Gallop - The plan is for it to be May 14 but we are waiting for DAA to confirm. We need to have a committee but so far no one wants to Chair it. Cathy will try to meet with Kelly Shama and Abby Glenn (both were involved before) to get an idea of what needs to be done to get it going.
- e. Clean up Volunteer Room- trash bags, boxes, sharpies to label, measure for bins?

9. Action Items

- a. **Laura with Samantha Rhinehart, who works for the Communications office and was an ELO teacher, to help with translations.**
- b. **Anne will get estimates from 3 companies for the outdoor spaces (outdoor classroom and courtyard).**
- c. **Colleen will create an updated, prioritized list of teacher/staff wants/needs and will send it to the PTO.**

10. Adjournment.