

**DSHS PTA
Meeting Notes**

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Time: 7:32 pm to 9:11 pm

In Attendance

Cathy Farman, Lea Darrah, Sandra Schickele, Catherine Yu Li, Jenny Kobold, Roberta Kuhlman, Mary Ann Noonan, Jacqui Moore, Widgen Neagley, Courtenay Tessler, Scott Richardson, Trisha Butler, Greg Kuperberg, Leslie Chuck, Caitlyn, G., Adam, K., and Kat, A., and Bob Darragh

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:32 by President Cathy Farman. The PTA Board, DSHS staff, students and parents introduced themselves.

Announcements: Jenny Kobold noted that the next Climate Committee meeting will be on February 8th at 2:45 p.m. in the DSHS library. Students from focus groups will report and would appreciate feedback from the attendees. The current focus groups are EL students, peer mediation, teacher/student connectedness, activities at lunch/school spirit and public relations. The committee meets the second Wednesday of each month and all (students, teachers, staff, parents, community members) are invited to attend and participate. One goal of the committee is to make high school a friendly, fun and comfortable experience for all.

Roberta Kuhlman reported that the next event is on Friday February 3rd and is part of the Davis Parent University Lecture Series for 2012. The title is "The Whole Child - Gratitude Works! How you can make your kids (and yourself) more grateful." The Keynote speaker is Robert A. Emmons, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, UC Davis. The talk is from 7:00-9:00 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) at the Brunelle Theater, Davis High School. For more information please go to the following PTA website: http://www.dhspta.org/Parent%20Education/ParentEd_Archive/teengratitude

Approval of January Minutes: A motion was made by Widgen Neagley to approve the January 4, 2012 minutes as written. The motion passed unopposed.

Report on DHS Profession Development: Trisha Butler (math) attended an ASCD Conference in Las Vegas. She thanked PTA for funding the air fare portion of her trip. The information from the conference will be shared with other teachers as part of the Professional Learning Action Team (PLAT). She attended six sessions on training including forums on self-reflective processes for teachers, importance of humor, inter-personal relationships in school environments, and the perspective of a 14-year old on being in high school. The PLAT meets on Wednesdays.

Student Reports:

- Kat A., representative of the Sophomore Senate, noted that the Counslor's will discuss the DSHS schedule for next year next week during breaks from the CASHEE testing.
- Adam K., the Junior class president discusssed the ASB elections on February 14th. The Junior Prom was a success and made about \$9000 for the class. Break-the-record night will be February 10th will be followed by the Black & White dance in the old gym. Attendees of the earlier DSHS dance that was ended early may attend this dance for free.
- Caitlyn G. updated the PTA on several items. Since only Sophomores and Juniors vote in the

election the Seniors will discuss graduation and Senior Ball at an assembly on February 14th. The graduation format will be the same as last year with the Keynote address given by a teacher. They also plan to approach the community for donations for the event. An order form for graduation tickets including handicap seating will be discussed and distributed. Based on the experience from last year there should be seats for all. The ticket order form will be due in March.

The ASB sponsored an anti-bullying assembly on January 31st called Rachel's Challenge. The assembly, sponsored by the family of the first person killed during the Columbine massacre, was powerful, moving and initiated discussion among students.

Teacher Report: Scott Richardson and Widgen Neagley

Widgen introduce Scott Richardson who will discuss on-going efforts to change the DJUSD academic calendar. He is on a calendar committee of the DJUSD. Both the DSHS PTA and Scott agree that revision of DJUSD calendar is necessary for several critical academic\pedagogical reasons. However, a community wide discussion including, PTAs, PTO, DTA, grammar school teachers and parents will be critical for the success of any calendar changes at the Board level. Some of the reasons for a calendar change include:

- 1) At DSHS the end of the first semester occurs after the winter break. This long break before finals may diminish the academic performance of all students, but especially struggling students. This may contribute to the achievement gap.
- 2) Teachers and counselors must complete college letters of recommendation before the 1st semester grades are available. This may place DSHS students at a disadvantage in the college application process.
- 3) AP classes would benefit from an earlier start of instruction, as many other districts in CA (e.g. Los Angeles and Palo Alto, among others) and districts in other states start earlier than the DJUSD.
- 4) Aligning DJUSD and UCD spring breaks will reduce the number of unexcused absences in the DJUSD and increase funding to the DJUSD.
- 5) The semesters do not need to have the same number of instructional days. This recognizes that the 2nd semester has several testing periods (e.g. CASHEE, STAR and AP) that reduce instructional time.

Widgen noted that the teacher's are aware of student stress as the first semester has recently ended and grades are being sent to parents. The teachers continue to discuss ways to improve and standardize grading, reduce pressure and what a grade should represent. The teachers have also finished writing student letters of recommendation over the break.

Administration's Report: Jacqui Moore

- Jacqui emphasized that the teachers and administration are working to improve the prompt returning of exams and communication with parents on assignments, grades, stress and other issues. Lea suggested that Eric Morgan increase live music on campus due to its documented effects on lowering stress.
- Cuurently 74% of the teachers use Zangle. Twenty-two teachers use Excel spreadsheets or other method for grading and assignment tracking.
- The leadership team is reading and will discuss Dylan Wiliam's book titled "Embedded Formative Assessment" as a part of professional growth.

Counselor's Report: Courtenay Tessler

- Courtenay distributed copies of the new DSHS class schedule. She highlighted the Senior checklist on p 54-55, the 9th grade program on page 19, changes to Lifetime Sports on page 35 (it will be P/F) and clarification of practical arts and CTE.
- The new non-DJUSD course policy (e.g. on-line, Junior College, UCD courses) passed by the Board is presented on page 49. This policy limits to 1 year-long course (10 units) the number of non-DSHS courses on a DSHS transcript. The policy change was implemented by the Board because the number of on-line courses is reducing faculty schedule flexibility and experience. Also, colleges are becoming less receptive to on-line course work. This policy does not affect courses completed before June 15th 2012. Students may apply for an exception to this policy to the school. Jacqui stated that DSHS will make sure to inform the parent community (high school and junior high Schools) of this important change, through the PTA listserv and perhaps a letter.
- March 23rd is the deadline for class schedule requests for next year. No changes in schedule should be expected after this date.

Treasurer's Report: Catherine Yu Li

- Catherine presented the Treasurer's Report dated February 1st, 2012. Income totals \$36,622.81. This is \$6,195.81 more than in the budget. PIE donations to date are \$26,398.73 exceeding the budget estimate of \$20,000.
- Catherine also presented the following four checks for payment. The payments total \$848.92. The four checks are:

USPS	Annual PO Box Fee	\$62.00
DJUSD	PIE – Trisha Butler, ASCD Conference	\$475.40
Cathy Farman	PIE – Administration Tax letters to donors	\$179.52
Pam Mainini	Tax Preparation, C1 form	\$150.00

Lea Darrah moved to accept the Treasurer's report dated February 1st, 2012 and to approve the four payments listed for a total of \$848.92. The motion passed unanimously

PIE Grants: Lea summarized six additional PIE grant requests. The grant requests have been reviewed by Jacqui Moore and in some cases the department chair. In addition, the PTA Executive Board voted to approve PIE grant request 1, 2, 3 and 4 and to defer PIE grant requests 5 and 6. The total of these four requests is about \$5250.

The six grant requests are:

- 1) \$4100 from the Art Department to replace a broken kiln. The kiln is used by about 180 ceramics students and with only one kiln working ceramic projects are not being completed. A kiln is expected to last for about 10 years. Both Jacqui and the chair agreed that this was an appropriate request. Lea made a motion to approve the grant request for \$4100. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) \$289.84 from the PE Department to replace and repair leg press cables in the weight room. The leg press is used by lots of PE students and athletes. Jacqui approved this request. Lea made a motion to approve the grant request for \$289.84. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) \$110.00 from a joint World Language and Health classroom to replace a broken VHS/DVD player. This item serves about 100 students. Lea made a motion to approve the grant request for \$110. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) \$750.00 from the ROP\Food Service Department to purchase a professional mixer for Café

Diablo. There are 28 students in the ROP Food Service class and their baked goods will be available for purchase at Café Diablo. Café Diablo plans to open February 14th. Lea made a motion to approve the grant request for \$750. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5) \$1420 + tax from ROP\Journalism for three additional camcorders. The HUB recently purchased six camcorders for the class of 34 students. Due to the high cost, small number of students and the 6 working camcorders this grant request was given a low priority for funding.
- 6) \$3448 from the PE Department for 2 elliptical machines that come with only a 6-month warranty. These exercise machines would be used for cardiovascular workouts by students who cannot jog\run due to an injury or other issue. It was suggested that the department explore stationary bikes that are probably cheaper, easier to repair and longer-lasting than an elliptical machine.

PIE grant requests 5 and 6 were not approved at this time. Lea plans to have one additional round of requests for grants.

Appointment of Nominating Committee: Cathy presented the members of the Nominating Committee. They are Colleen Costello-Kreidler, Lea Darragh and Sandra Schickele. Bob Darragh made a motion to approve the members of the Nominating Committee. The motion passed unanimously. The Slate of Officers presented and approved at the March Association meeting.

Discussion regarding parent needs for technology link to DSHS: PTA members discussed parent issues and frustrations with current on-line access to weekly homework assignments, grades and timely information about student performance. The issue is that for many parents on-line access to current student assignments and performance is not acceptable.

Simply posting weekly homework assignments on the web would be a great benefit to many DSHS students and parents. This request may be easy to implement since there are various free solutions based on software and webware (e.g. Davis Wiki). A simple web-based menu (with one link or tab for each teacher) on the DSHS website could solve many of the parent concerns, provided teacher participation was nearly 100% and the information was kept up-to-date. The consensus of the PTA was that increase use of the web (e.g. posting of homework assignments, among other uses) would be a benefit for students (assist them in learning), parents (improve partnership with teachers and assist their children to learn) and teachers in time and effort (e.g. not having to repeat homework assignments to students and parents).

The PTA hopes to create an expectation that most or nearly all DSHS teachers will make a systematic effort to timely post, at the minimum, their weekly homework assignments. The Executive Board will circulate a draft letter to the DSHS administration for comments from parents on the PTA's listserve.

Other Business:

- The number of volunteer hours from January 5, 2012 to February 1, 2012 was 54 hours.
- The next PTA Association monthly meeting is on March 7, 2012 starting at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Darragh, Secretary