

**DSHS PTA
Meeting Notes**

Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2011 (as amended January 4, 2012)

Time: 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

In Attendance

Cathy Farman, Lea Darrah, Liz Grassi, Mary Ann Noonan, Catherine Yu Li, Roberta Kuhlman, Colleen Costello-Kreidler, Jacqui Moore, Wigen Neagley, Courtenay Tessler, Cathy Sacks, Jill Van Zantan, John Hurst, Laure Lee, June Cox, Yvonne Rodriguez, Sandy Langley, Noelle Buer, Jenny Chen, Anna K., Adam, K., Rami R., and Bob Darragh

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Cathy Farman. The PTA Board, DSHS staff, students and parents introduced themselves.

Approval of October Minutes

A motion was made by Wigen Neagley to approve the October minutes as written. The motion passed unopposed.

Student Reports

- Rami R., representative of the Sophomore Senate, noted this the class is getting used to being at the High School.

- Adam K. reported that the Junior class has begun Junior Prom dance planning. The “formal, but not-required” event will be on December 10th in the New Gym from 9 p.m. to midnight with a proposed winter wonderland theme. The doors open at 8:30 p.m. The dance is sponsored by the Junior class but is open to all students at a high school in Davis. Again, no heels will be allowed on the gym floor. The class is looking for teacher and parent volunteers for chaperones and dessert items.

- Anna K. updated the PTA on several items. The Senior Ball will be at the Sacramento Sheraton Grand Hotel on May 19th. The October 21st Homecoming Dance ended early due to “smoke” from the disk jockey’s machine inadvertently setting off the fire alarm. Students who paid for the dance will be admitted without charge to the Break-the-Record dance. The Class of 2012 has also started planning for a memorable graduation. One of the topics being discussed is the decoration of mortar boards and how to allow individual expression without inappropriate content.

Administration’s Report: Jacqui Moore

- There has been a positive response to the recent policy at Davis High sporting events concerning unsupervised young children and alcohol.
- The Professional Learning Action Team (PLAT) is discussing technology needs on the campus and the hopes to set goals for the next 5 to 7 years. The high school currently has 2.5 computer labs, some with old equipment.
- The library has 20-year old heavy tables that need to be replaced. The cost of the proposed tables is about \$16,000 with DSHS currently budgeting about ½ of this amount. Also, a sound system for the library meeting room is needed. Cathy suggested that the Administration submit a PIE grant proposal for the portion of these items that the school cannot fund.
- A copy of the Healthy Child survey was distributed at the meeting. Jacqui hopes to be able to make the results of the survey available electronically.
- Bikes have been stolen on and near campus, please have students lock their bikes and report thefts to the administration.

Counselor’s Report: Courtenay Tessler

- Courtenay thanked PTA in advance for the upcoming breakfast.
- This senior class is the first to have used Naviance for all three years, hence usage has increased. In addition, the counsleors have finished training the sophomore class in Naviance, their parents are the next group to be trained.
- First quarter grades have been distributed and this has increased stress for many students, especially since it is very difficult to switch classes because nearly all classes are at capacity. Unfortunately, stress-related problems have increased at the high school including suicide attempts. Additional communication with students and parents on the rigor of some courses (e.g. AP Chemistry) may be one way to help reduce student stress.
- Counselors are writing many college reccommendation letters and the senior class is anxious about college early admission, applications, essays, letters of reccommendation and AP courses. Courtenay reminded parents that the UC system only increases the grade point for a maximum of two AP classses a year in the junior and senior years. Hoever, private schools will increase the grade point for more than two AP classes. A proposal to limit AP courses to 2-3 per year was mentioned as one way to reduce stress and anxiety.
- Discussions are continuing on substance use with athetes and other parts of the high school community with an emphasis on making healthy choices.
- The Career Center is a welcome addition to campus and is seeing lots use by students.
- On-line courses (e.g. BYU) may not satisfy the UC a-g requirements. Community college courses may not satisfy DSHS course requirements. For example, U. S. History is satisfied only by taking **both** 310 and 311 at a community college. Please check with a counselor to ensure the course meets the appropriate requirement(s).

Teacher Report: Widgen Neagley

The teachers are planning to teach smarter with better homework assignments that facilitate learning. Some teachers are planning homework free breaks at Thanksgiving and the winter break. She emphasized the need for additional technology on the campus, for example in her ACES class about 75% of the students do not have access to the internet at home. Teachers have also been writing college recommendation letters for seniors.

Treasurer’s Report: Catherine Yu Li

- Catherine presented the Treasurer’s Report dated November 2nd, 2011. Income increased by \$1334 since the October report. The first PIE grant for Naviance has been awarded in the amount of \$2,755.20.
- Catherine also presented the following eight checks for payment. The payments total \$6567.39.

The eight checks are:

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|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Lea Darrah | Hospitality | \$33.41 |
| 3 rd District PTA | Membership dues | \$2916.0 |
| 3 rd District PTA | Insurance premium | \$199.00 |
| DSHS | Teacher planners | \$160.00 |
| DSHS | Mailing | \$360.00 |
| Lea Darrah | PIE letter to DSHS | \$10.78 |
| Cheri Herman | Newsletter stamps | \$133.00 |
| DSHS | PIE – Naviance | \$2755.20 |

Catherine Yu Li moved to accept both the Treasurer’s report dated November 2nd and to approve the payments listed. The motion passed unanimously.

PIE Grant Update: Lea Darrah

Lea noted that all funds for the first group of PIE grants have been awarded to DSHS staff. A second round of grants will be announced December 1st followed by Executive Board review and then a vote at the general PTA meeting in January.

Committee Updates:

Communication: Liz Grassi summarized efforts to provide an abridged PTA newsletter in Spanish. She has

met with Mary Kahn and Pam Mari (DJUSD) to determine the number of Spanish speaking families at DSHS (160 families speak Spanish at home, 62 families are in the EL program) and assistance the District can provide (150 copies of a 4-page newsletter and mailing to 62 families for one-month).

The ongoing cost of providing the abridged newsletter is estimated to be about \$85 per month for 7 months will be near \$600. Three distribution options for the newsletter were mentioned; handing to students in EL classes and at the Academic Center; mailing to parents; or giving to students as part of an assignment where credit would be given for parental signatures.

Widgen made a motion to use DJUSD resources to provide the Newsletter in Spanish (mailed to 62 EL families, with other copies available at DSHS) for the one-month trial in November and then assess the effort at the January meeting. The motion carried. Funding for the distribution of the December newsletter may be discussed at the December PTA Executive Board meeting.

Bylaws: Colleen Costello-Kreidler summarized the four substantial proposed changes to the PTA Bylaws. There are also other minor changes, several of which amend the Bylaws to conform to current practice. These four proposed changes are:

- 1) **Article IV: Section 4:** Increase dues from ten dollars (\$10.00) to fifteen dollars (\$15.00).
- 2) **Article V: Section 2:** Amend to include Membership Chair as an Officer. Second, amend to include appointment of this position by the president subject to ratification by the executive board. Also, amend to include description of duties.
- 3) **Article VI, section 6 g.** Add first vice president as an officer authorized to sign checks
- 4) **Article VII, Section 5 **b.** Change "Thirteen (13) to "Fourteen (14)" to reflect the new quorum requirements for the Association meetings.

The next step is to submit the proposed changes to the Third District PTA office for approval and then the approved changes may be brought to the general membership for consideration.

Parent Education Update: Roberta Kuhlman reported that Sally Springer will be the first speaker in the Parent Education program on November 9th from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the DSHS Library. Also, Courtenay Tessler will join the discussion at the end of the presentation to answer DSHS specific questions from parents. The Davis Enterprise advertised the event on November 1st. Sally Springer also meets with students individually at the Career Center.

Roberta continues to plan for an event focusing on social media use by students, for example, a recent New York Times article reported that the vast majority of students were not clear on privacy issues on the social media sites.

Lastly, the PTA has set aside \$400 to support District-wide PTA\PTO presentations and the first of these will be on February 3rd, 2012 with a presentation by a UCD professor on gratitude.

Climate: Cathy noted that the next Climate Committee meeting will be on November 9th at 2:45 p.m. in the DSHS library. The committee discusses several topics including EL, public relations, among others.

Other Business

- The number of volunteer hours from October 6, 2011 to November 2, 2011 was 65 hours.

The January PTA meeting will be on Wednesday the 4th at 7:30 p.m. The PTA does not meet in December.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Darragh, Secretary