

DSHS PTA MEETING NOTES

*Date: Wednesday September 2, 2009
Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*

In Attendance

Lea Darrah, Sandra Schickele, Winfred Roberson, Judy Fletcher, Evan Fletcher, Carol Curinga, Sheila Smith, Debbie Austin, Carol Williams, Stacey Black, Jane Schafer- Kramer, Young Jang, Jerry Wang, Eve Dunaway, Catherine Wilken, Cathy Farman, John Yoder, Madeline Brattesani, Amiv Monsoubi, Gloria Whalen, Phyllis Jha, Eilean Spoth, Tom McHale, Julie Schoennag, Laura Rodman, Kathy Magrino, Spencer B., Courtney J., Dorian Signori

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President Lea Darrah. Introductions were made all around. The new PTA Board introduced itself.

Introduction of New PTA Board

The Volunteer Coordinator and the Parliamentarian are two new positions created by the PTA Board. Kathy Magrino is parliamentarian and the volunteer coordinator is Laurie Williams. A motion was made to ratify those appointments. The motion was seconded by Madeline Brattesani and it passed unopposed.

Approval of June 2009 Minutes

There was a motion made to approve the June minutes by a PTA parent. It was seconded and passed unopposed.

Student Reports

Courtney J., sophomore class president, introduced herself. Spencer B., the junior class president, introduced himself. Both classes are involved in the upcoming homecoming activities. There is no official theme yet for the homecoming dance. Float building will start soon. October 23 is homecoming. They are not sure if the dance will be on the 23rd or the 24th. A parent at the meeting inquired as to how Courtney was elected president already even though class elections aren't held until the spring. The students explained that the sophomore president is basically an appointed position. PTA offered their support to Student Government for list serve notices and volunteers for events.

Student Government will have a lunch meeting soon where all students will be invited to talk about the Junior Prom. They will put notices in the bulletin, signs around school, initiate a Facebook event, and they will announce during their 4th period radio time.

Principal's Report

The new DHS principal, Winfred Roberson, introduced himself. He has a 10th grader at school. He reported that 1,673 students are registered at DHS. Currently, the school's philosophy is to work as a team and to get into the classrooms as much as possible. The administration wants to be approachable and visible. Several new things have been launched on campus. The Academic Center, operating in M-2, is a new program set up to help language learners in core subjects, but also for any student struggling with a core subject.

Another new implementation involves disciplinary action. Sheila Smith has been instrumental in starting an in-house suspension program. Rather than sending a student home to serve their suspension, the student will serve suspension on campus. Mr. Roberson wants to make sure the student will still be doing their school work while suspended.

The new tardy policy is being instituted. Next Tuesday, the administration will talk with students to make sure they are aware of the new policy and what is expected of them. Back to School night has changed to Wednesday, Sept 30. There was a conflict with a football game. Our first three home games will be at Aggie stadium; we have partnered with them until our own facility is completed.

Principal Roberson stated that he wants to build a partnership with the PTA, and keep the lines of communication open at all times.

Tom McHale was introduced as the new Vice-Principal.

Vice-Principal Sheila Smith talked about when the tardy policy would start. Kathy Magrino asked if the Da Vinci kids would be subject to the tardy policy. Tom McHale said that Da Vinci Principal Best expects the students to be on time.

Counselor Report

Carol Curinga thanked two parents who have been helping out in the counseling office. Each year, all of the DHS counselors join the PTA and she brought the checks with her. Ms. Curinga reported that Naviance will be up and running very soon. There were quite a few caps and gowns collected this year for the cap and gown program. Lea Darrah informed her that Joan Anton is the one in charge of the cap and gown program. Carol wanted to know if the PTA would continue to fund the math and science tutoring during lunch. The PTA is considering moving the money earmarked for that tutoring program to the Academic Center. The PTA is researching how many students use the tutoring program. Carol also asked if the PTA would continue to fund a scholarship fund called student aid. Lea said that the PTA will probably continue that, but at the \$500.00 level, since that was what was used out of the \$750.00 that was budgeted last year.

The Academic Center will be hiring UCD students for tutoring. The lunch math and science tutoring was done by DHS students. The academic center will be offering help in all core subjects.

Jane Schafer-Kramer asked about college information sessions at lunch. She also wanted to know if there will be college essay classes. During lunch time on the 22nd and the 23rd, the counseling department will talk to seniors about the college application process. Carol said all of the English classes are practicing the college essay.

Naviance should be turned on by late fall or early winter.

Auditor Report

Leslie Brumer, last year's auditor, reported and found the treasury correct except for one \$6.00 credit. It is now balanced.

Budget 2009-2010

The budget areas were quickly read through by Lea Darrah. Currently, there is \$16,313.73 in the checking account. Directory income and membership increased in income. The Partners in Education budget has increased. Nugget Scrip is also a good fundraiser. There are not many expected changes to last year's budget.

Because all of the teachers need paper, Debbie Austin suggested that we ask parents to bring a ream of paper to back to school night. Madeline Brattesani said she could put it out on the list serve. Tom McHale added that there is a campaign among the departments to cut paper costs and to go greener, i.e., do things electronically. A parent proposed that the school make a wish list for parents who don't want to give cash. Lea Darrah asked the parent to take the project on because it's a good idea.

A motion was made to approve the proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year by Jane Shafer-Kramer. Sandra Schickele seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

PTA Treasurer Sandra Schickele said there are three checks that need to be approved: The Back-to-School packet information check, a check to Hospitality for Back-to-School related supplies, and mailing costs for the only newsletter that will go out this year. Kathy Magrino made a motion to have these bills paid. Stacy Black seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Teacher's Report

Librarian Stacy Desideri presented. DHS library opens at 7:30 a.m., before school starts, and remains open until 5:00 p.m., four days a week. Computers are available for the students to use. There is also a reserved set of all the textbooks. On Friday, the library closes early for library maintenance. The library is also open at lunch and is fully staffed. This year, the library gave out over 10,000 textbooks to the students. Stacy asked the PTA and parents for brown bags, old maps, etc., so she can make book covers for the text books. She wants to keep the text books in good shape for as long as possible because of the budget cuts. She goes to classes and teaches students how to cover books. She needs the materials so she can demonstrate how to do it.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee: The initial PTA membership drive has been pretty successful. Lea Darrah asked everyone to join the PTA, and she personally thanked Jane Shafer-Kramer and her family for putting together the newsletter and getting them to bulk mail. President Darrah also noted that Susan Holtsizer volunteered many hours. If you are not on the list serve, you can join on the PTA website. There are really three list serves that parents should sign up for: The PTA list serve, the Daily Bulletin, and the Class list serve for each class level.

Parent Education Night: There is a schedule change in April. The Parent Ed night will be on April 14 rather than April 7. The PTA will have a meeting first, followed by the parent Ed night.

An additional note: Math teacher, Carl Ronny, is looking for students to tutor, for pay.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dorian Signori