

Davidson K-8 PTO Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Location: Summit Coffee Office

Meeting called to order @ 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Beth Helfrich, Carly Schiano, Ashley Avidan, Julie Calarco, Andy Puckett, Shannon O'Green, Andrea Oliver, Kelly Kasten, Alison Graves, Lauren Rasor, Jennifer Von Bremen, Kate Barr, Mary Ann Lampert, Jennifer Pouliette, Amanda Dudek, Amy Lavey, Kendall Whitley, Dawn Waldau

Approval of August and September Minutes

Ashley motioned for a vote to approve the minutes from August and September meetings, with Alison seconding. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Bylaws

The board voted on adding a Non-Discrimination statement to our bylaws via slack on August 18th.

Ashley motioned for a vote to approve the new statement, with Alison seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Welcome

Beth welcomed everyone. She thanked the members of the PTO and administration for their work thus far.

Beth introduced Jane Sutton (interim principal) and Eileen Graf (school improvement team SIT) who were present at the meeting.

School Improvement Team and Plan

Jane introduced herself and gave a brief statement on her background/experience. She mentioned how impressed she was with DK8 and steps being taken to improve the school.

A big data dive was in process so the administration could be more intentional on how to work with children with regards to some weaknesses present since COVID. Jane also mentioned that the stronger performing students would be doing STEM projects while teachers work with student who may need more support. She will continue walk throughs with district leadership and all plans thus far have been approved.

One of the needs she mentioned is bicycle racks. Jane is looking forward to the coffee chats scheduled for US and LS.

Jane also discussed the need for a bilingual staff member in the office.

Eileen then introduced herself. She heads up the school improvement team. One of their focuses is how to help ESL students/families. Lauren Rasor was also involved in the listening sessions where interpreters were present to help engage these families. Three key takeaways from this meeting: 1. How to hire a person in the front office to help support these families. 2. Ada Jenkins program hosts an after-school program which provides tutoring and academic support to the ESL students. However, they can't support enough students. It was suggested that Hough students may be able to help tutor. 3. Spanish speaking families would like to meet other families and how we can help support that initiative.

*Evidence based strategies and funding can help support the needs mentioned above.

Fundraising Update

Shannon discussed making sure we explain what the Tiger Fund is to parents. She also mentioned one of the big fundraising initiatives taking place this fall (mid-October through giving Tuesday). Our focus is not necessarily the monetary amount but participation.

(attached spreadsheet; green section is the goal for fundraising this year)

Andrea spoke about the grant we applied for from the town. We asked for 7k and plan to use that money for bike racks, helmets, locks etc. She expects an answer

in November. We discussed applying for another grant to help fund an in-school interpreter.

Finally, we talked about using proceeds from spirit wear to offset costs for families who might need financial assistance.

Teacher Appreciation/Book Fair/ROAR Update

Kate Barr spoke about a few events that already occurred and future planned events.

Kelly championed the teacher appreciation breakfast event. Kelly and Andrea also presented cards and boxes of pastries as a surprise for the teachers. Next planned event is in October and we will ask parents to donate snacks.

Kathey Debree is all set for book fair and is training a couple volunteers to take over her role.

Character breakfast is scheduled for September 30th for tiger trait awards. Plan and volunteers are all set.

ROAR Party was discussed for those who read 1,200 minutes.

TOTP and Health and Wellness Update

Lauren and Jennifer discussed the TOTP kick-off scheduled for Thursday, September 29th. It is the 20 year anniversary for TOTP. We have many college athletes coming as well as the fire department cheer on our students. They discussed honoring Mr Rabb for championing such an important event.

Lauren purchased feminine products for the US bathrooms.

An EC teacher at DK8 wants to start a wellness committee at school.

Walk to School Day is scheduled for October 12th.

Family Survey

Alison is organizing a parent survey to conduct a needs assessment so we can better understand how to support the families. We discussed how important it is to see what we can do better as a PTO. We will include admin and counselors in the process.

Volunteers and Fall Fest

Mary Anne opened the discussion to a rain date and getting volunteers to help with organizing the event. We discussed having a PTO booth at the event for new families, including signage for multilingual families and possibly having nametags.

Room Parents and LS/US Update

Amy, Kendall, Amanda and Jennifer discussed the October 3rd meeting for all volunteer parents the from Open House, so they could discuss their roles.

Upper school representatives put together a favorite thing list for teachers on Parent Square and discussed the recognition program for upper school birthdays by month.

They met with Sterling and Roncone to discuss clubs for the upper school and the National Jr Honor Society. PTO discussed funding academic clubs for MS and the National Jr Honor Society.

The team also mentioned working with Mr Rabb to spruce up the gym. Ideas included a banner for sportsmanship, logo of the Tiger painted over the doors, having the TOTP logo inside the gym.

Lower school discussed room parents and collecting favorite things from all staff.

Communications Update

Andy discussed the directory and calendar updates for future events.

Budget Proposal and Expense Report

Beth reviewed budget prepared budget by Beth, Andrea, Kate, Julie, Dawn, Kelly.

Budget Approval Vote

Kate moved to approved budget, Allison seconded. All in favor – pass unanimously.

Next Meeting

Beth confirmed the next meeting will be Tuesday, October 18th @ 7pm.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:15pm.