



Dorothy Hamm
MIDDLE SCHOOL

DHMS PTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7pm
Held in person and via Teams

DHMS PTSA General Meeting Welcome and Call to Order

Assistant Principal Lauren Johnson and PTSA Secretary Kristina Boehk welcomed attendees to the first PTSA meeting of the school year. The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

Membership Votes

Two items were brought to the membership for votes. A motion was made by PTSA VP Alex Voigt to approve the PTSA meeting minutes for June 2025. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership attendees.

A motion was made by PTSA VP Alex Voigt to approve the updated PTSA Organizational Structure and Bylaws to reflect the new title of VP Events, previously VP Community. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership attendees.

Treasurer's Report

PTSA Treasurer Jay Gunasekera provided an update on the PTSA budget. She reminded attendees to pay membership dues and thanked them for their participation in the Phoenix Fund drive.

Assistant Principal's Report

Assistant Principal Lauren Johnson highlighted activities and news:

- A DHMS 8th grader won the Arlington Historical Society Student History Contest
- DHMS currently has 987 students enrolled and will likely have 1K students total; strong start to the year with very little staff turnover
- DHMS was recognized as the Niche-rated #4 public middle school in Virginia
- Thanked parents for attending parent-teacher conferences last week

She invited Tara Kwan to provide an update on SCA activities:

- Spirit Week is coming October 27-31 with daily themes; the week culminates in Halloween and students are invited to wear costumes but are asked not to include any masks or weapons
- 7th and 8th grade dance scheduled for November 14 with a masquerade theme (6th grade dance is in the spring)

Guest Speaker – DHMS ITC

Joel Gildea provided details on technology at DHMS. His presentation offered insight into Canvas, ParentVue, and ParentSquare. He answered questions from attendees and helped troubleshoot navigation issues. Mr. Gildea's presentation will be available on the PTSA website for reference.

Events Update

PTSA VP Events Alex Voigt provided updates on recent and upcoming activities, including:

- Thanked the many volunteers who are chairing committees and encouraged others to consider volunteering
- Thanked chairs of recent and upcoming events including the 6th Grade Family Welcome event, the Phoenix Fundraising Event, the Welcome Committee, Teacher Appreciation events, School Photo Day, and Reflections
- Discussed upcoming events including
 - Wednesday, October 15th – DHMS PTSA Parent Social @ Spider Kellys
 - Thursday/Friday, October 16th & 17th - DHMS Picture Day through PE classes
 - Monday, October 20th – No School (Diwali)
 - October 27-31 Spirit Week - Halloween Costumes on Friday (no masks/weapons)
 - Wednesday, October 29th - Early Release for Students
 - Wednesday, October 29th - DHMS Dine Out @ Papatella

- Monday, November 3rd - End of First Quarter
- Tuesday, November 4th – No School (Grade Prep/Election Day)
- Friday, November 14th - 7th & 8th Grade Fall Dance
- Tuesday, November 18th - PTSA Meeting - Guest Speaker, Mary Smith. “Stop Battling. Start Building”
- Friday, November 21st - Reflections Submissions Due

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00pm.