



**Dorothy Hamm Middle School**

*DHMS PTSA Membership Meeting Minutes*

Tuesday, October 13th, 2020 7:00pm (Video Conference)

---

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

- Debbie welcomed all parents in attendance and introduced the 2020-21 executive board.

**II. PTSA Business**

- The DHMS PTSA recorded PTSA membership approval of the following:
  - The March 10, 2020 DHMS PTSA general membership meeting minutes
  - The repurposing of \$2,000 in PTSA funds to help DHMS and APS families during COVID
  - The slate of Executive Board officers for the 2020-21 school year
  - The proposed FY21 DHMS PTSA Budget, as amended due to member comments on June 11, 2020

**III. President's Report** (*Debbie Pearson*)

- Debbie provided an update on DHMS efforts over the summer to help the community, and an update on PTSA activities this fall, including mini-grants for staff, custodian gifts, hosting 2 town halls and 3 parent academies for English and Spanish-speaking families.
- DHMS PTSA has won a \$5,000 grant from Safeway to provide grocery gift cards for DHMS families in need.
- PTSA Theme for the year is #dhmsconnected, and the PTSA Goal for the year is to help families feel connected this school year.
- Seeking a parent volunteer to help with the DHMS Newsletter
- PTSA Membership goal is 675 (405 through 10/13)
- PTSA Fundraising goal is \$25,000 (\$7,983 through 10/13 with 105 donations), and the Phoenix Fund campaign will be starting soon.
- The DHMS PTSA will continue to show appreciation for DHMS teachers and staff through classroom grants, message boards, gift cards, etc.
- We are looking to connect with and support other APS schools through Town Halls, Guest Speakers, and Videos from School Board Candidates.

**IV. Officer Reports**

- *VP Programs*
  - Reflections Contest entries are due October 22nd. Categories include: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.
  - Classroom teacher grants are coming soon.
  - Virtual clubs are now open for all interested students.
- *VP Community*
  - Saturday, 10/17 - School Spirit Driveway Event; all families are invited to drive through the driveway between 11am-1:45pm (see flyer for details by grade level).
- *Spirit Wear*
  - Orders are being processed; for those that did not select shipping, parents will be contacted about pick-up.
- *Treasurer*
  - Kami Ragsdale shared the highlights of the DHMS PTSA monthly financial report.



**Dorothy Hamm Middle School**

*DHMS PTSA Membership Meeting Minutes*

Tuesday, October 13th, 2020 7:00pm (Video Conference)

---

- The 2019-20 Audit Report and FY21 Amended Budget to be approved via electronic voting. Reminder to vote by the end of day Wednesday, October 14th.
- The DHMS PTSA is now supporting membership sponsorships, and a dedicated fund is included in the amended budget.

**V. Principal's Report** (*Ellen Smith, DHMS Principal*)

- Ellen thanked the PTSA for the funds we have provided for staff this fall in order to allow them to purchase supplies for virtual teaching.
- Ellen reiterated this year's goals to keep our community connected, even during this time while we are apart, as well as helping our students to reach their full potential.
- Construction on the expansion is nearly completion, with a shorter list of projects left to complete.
- The teachers are looking forward to hosting Saturday's drive by event, and having a chance to see students' faces.
- Parent-teacher conferences are next Thursday afternoon (10/22) and Friday morning (10/23), and will be student led as another way for TAs to get to know students.
- Math placements are being finalized, and there may be some shifts in class assignments.
- Flip the Script is an opportunity this year for interested DHMS students to get involved in an integration project.
- Any student may start a virtual club; just need a teacher sponsor and student buddy.
- Bi-weekly parent chats are still underway; next one will be hosted next week.
- Materials pick-up continues on Mondays and Thursdays from 3-5pm.
- Lunch and breakfast is provided to students for free at 21 pick up sites.
  
- Ellen shared the latest updates on the return to school with the hybrid model:
  - The hybrid group will be in person at school two days a week in a socially distanced set-up, while the other hybrid group will be learning from home with the same teacher.
  - DHMS has six Level 1 students that will return to the building for in-person learning.
  - Both parents and staff will have the opportunity to confirm their learning model preference before Ellen and the staff finalize return to school plans.
  - Parents asked about options for encouraging students to turn their cameras on and the timeframe for students with IEPs to select their learning model.

**VI. Upcoming Dates**

- Thurs, Oct. 15 Family Life Education (FLE) Night (7 pm via Teams Meeting Link; link sent via email Thursday morning)
- Mon, Oct. 19 DHMS Bi-Weekly Parent Chat with DHMS Staff (12:30-1:30 pm) (link sent via email Monday morning )
- Sat, Oct. 17 DHMS School Spirit Driveway Celebration (11-11:45 am for 6th Grade, 12-12:45 pm for 7th Grade, 1:00-1:45 pm for 8th Grade)
- Thurs, Oct 22 Reflections Contest Deadline
- Thurs, Oct. 22 Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences (evening)(conferences via Teams Meeting links - your TA teacher will reach out to schedule)



**Dorothy Hamm Middle School**

*DHMS PTSA Membership Meeting Minutes*

Tuesday, October 13th, 2020 7:00pm (Video Conference)

---

- Fri, Oct. 23 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS and Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences (morning) (conferences via Teams Meeting links - your TA teacher will reach out to schedule)
- Mon, Nov 2 Last Day of the Grading Period
- Tues, Nov. 3 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS GRADE PREP DAY
- Tues, Nov. 10 PTSA General Membership Meeting (7-8 pm)
- Wed, Nov. 11 NO SCHOOL VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY

**VII. New Business**

- Lara Johnson shared an update as the DHMS APS Ambassador on staying engaged in the current elementary school boundaries process by visiting APS Engage.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.