



Dorothy Hamm Middle School

DHMS PTSA Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 7:00pm (Video Conference)

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Debbie welcomed all parents in attendance.

II. PTSA Business

- The DHMS PTSA recorded PTSA membership approval of the following:
 - DHMS PTSA FY21 Budget (amended 9/29/20)
 - DHMS PTSA 2019-20 Audit Report

III. SCA Presentation

- DHMS SCA Presidents, Maya Kinnard and Felix Ko, shared an overview of the DHMS SCA First Competition “Adventures of the Phoenix,” including how students can share photos.
- The competition will be open through November 30th.

IV. President’s Report (*Debbie Pearson*)

- Thank you to Cherrydale Baptist Church for donating \$3,000 in grocery gift cards for our DHMS families in need.
- PTSA has purchased \$2,500 in grocery gift cards using the \$5,000 Safeway Grant.
- The DHMS PTSA currently has 432 active members. Thank you to PTSA Membership Chair, Susan Newton!
- The DHMS PTSA fundraising goal is \$25,000; we have raised \$8,623 to date. The Phoenix Fund campaign will launch in January and February 2021.
- The PTSA is working on ideas for a possible virtual social gathering; contact Debbie if interested in helping out.
- CCPTA Partnerships Book Drive for PreK-5th grade books coming soon!
- DHMS PTSA will be donating \$1000 to the CCPTA Grant Fund per our budget to help other PTAs in Arlington.
- ACTION: Electronic Ballot to vote on October meeting minutes and amended DHMS PTSA Budget will be sent out tomorrow; reminder to PTSA members to vote by Monday, 11/23.
- AFAC Food Drive through 12/17: Parents can drop off non-perishable goods at DHMS on Monday and Thursday from 3-5pm.

V. Officer Reports

- *ACTL (Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning)* - Susan Newton is collecting parent feedback on virtual learning; parents can send comments to her to share with ACTL.
- *National PTA Reflections Program Winners*: Debbie announced the DHMS winners in each of the categories. Winners in each category will advance to county level judging.
- *VP Programs*
 - “Thankful” Padlet to be posted this week on social media and Canvas, so parents and students can thank teachers and staff.
 - The Teacher/Staff Appreciation Committee is coordinating initiatives for December; stay tuned for details on how to help.
 - DHMS PTSA is collecting gift cards for our families in need so that they can have presents for the holidays; please see the sign-up genius link in the Phoenix Post and get cards to Debbie Pearson by December 4!



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- Classroom Grants will be awarded to teachers after Thanksgiving.
- *VP Community*
 - Treasure/Scavenger Hunt for Jan/Feb 2021; any parents interested in helping out are welcome to contact Heidi Gibson.
- *Spirit Wear*
 - The online store has closed, and orders are currently being processed.
- *VP Communications*
 - Lara Johnson shared the key upcoming APS meeting and work session dates:
 - Nov. 17 (7:00pm) - School Board Virtual Meeting
 - Dec. 1 (5:15 p.m.) - School Board Work Session on Special Education Update
 - Dec. 1 (7:30 p.m.) - School Board Public Hearing on ES Boundaries
 - Dec. 3 (7:00 p.m.) - School Board Virtual Meeting
 - The proposed 2021-22 APS calendar is posted, and the School Board is scheduled to take action on 12/3.
- *Treasurer*
 - Kami Ragsdale presented the monthly budget report, including actuals through October 2020.
 - The proposed amended budget includes an increase for Teacher/Staff Appreciation, and voting will close on 11/23 to confirm the update.

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

- Ellen thanked parents for the lunch treats that the PTSA provided to teachers.
- Construction continues to make great progress. The gym has been cleared, and items are being delivered to classrooms. The historical pathway outside of the school is under development, and parents are encouraged to walk the grounds.
- Ellen has been able to observe classrooms as part of distance learning, and shared her positive feedback on students using the technology, participating in breakout sessions, and engaging in learning.
- Ellen has asked teachers to let go of continuing to ask students to turn on their cameras.
- Still working through some technology issues with MS Teams.
- Ellen reminded parents to stay in tune with the APS Superintendent's Return to School Plan, with Level 3 currently scheduled to return in mid-January. There is an opportunity for parents to update their learning preference between 11/30-12/7.
- Ellen plans to begin alternating Parent Chats in English and Spanish; will continue with Monday 12:30pm sessions through the holiday break.
- The next Phoenix Flyer will be sent out tomorrow, 11/18.
- DHMS Librarian Jenny Shanker continues to host library drop-off and pick-up at Rocky Run Park, and will begin checkout at DHMS as well.
- The online DHMS PTSA Directory will be launched shortly now that the AOV process is complete.
- School Pictures will not be scheduled until APS reaches Level 2 status.
- The DHMS Yearbook team is collecting photos submitted via a Google form. Parents can order their yearbook now as well; details are in the Phoenix Post.
- The HS Challenge Pathways session on 12/3 is geared for students, to learn from a panel of high schoolers about the different options to consider.



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VII. Upcoming Dates

- Wed, Nov. 18 EARLY RELEASE IS CANCELLED!
- Mon, Nov. 23 Synchronous Learning Day (Red Day/A Day)
- Tues, Nov. 24 Synchronous Learning Day (Gold Day/B Day)
- Wed-Fri, Nov. 25-27 NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK
- No PTSA Meeting in December - Stay tuned for details about a virtual event!
- Thurs, Dec. 3 High School Challenge Pathways: What's Right for You! (7:30 pm, Ms. Partington)
- Fri, Dec. 4 Help Our Phoenix Family - Holiday Gift Card Drive Deadline
- Wed, Dec. 9 EARLY RELEASE IS CANCELLED!
- Mon, Dec. 21 to Fri, Jan. 1 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK

The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.