



Dorothy Hamm Middle School

DHMS PTSA Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 16th, 2021 7:00pm (Video Conference)

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Debbie welcomed parents, teachers, and students in attendance, and thanked the DHMS students for coming to present to the community.

II. PTSA Business

- The DHMS PTSA recorded PTSA membership approval of the following items voted in February 2020 by electronic ballot:
 - DHMS PTSA FY21 Budget - Amended 2.15.21
 - DHMS PTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes (2.16.21)

III. Broadcast News TA Presentation

- Teachers Jenny Shanker and Kat Partington introduced the group, and DHMS Students Jack Reed, Sara Martah, Emma Hemsch, and Mariel Barayog presented an overview of their group and shared the highlights of their Black History Month project.

IV. Student Council Presentation

- Teachers Kathy Ascenzi and Shannon Hill introduced the team, and DHMS Students Maya Kinnard and Felix Ko shared highlights of the DHMS Student Council activities so far this year, and what's ahead for the rest of this school year.

V. Yearbook Presentation

- Ellen and DHMS Teacher Erin Ginnerty shared the highlights of this year's DHMS Yearbook, including how the team is working creatively to create the yearbook this year.
- Parents are encouraged to place their order for this year's DHMS Yearbook.

VI. DHMS Act II MT Choir

- Mariel Barayog and Yara Shomali shared that DHMS Act II students will present a virtual musical titled "The Show Must Go Online" via Zoom on Tuesday, March 23rd at 7pm.

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

- Another grocery gift card drive is scheduled after spring break for DHMS families in need. DHMS may also participate in the spring CCPTA fresh food initiative for DHMS families.
- The DHMS PTSA is not doing a formal fundraising campaign this year, but donations are always welcome, and it's not too late to join the DHMS PTSA.
- The PTSA Board is considering seeking parent donations to buy stadium cushions for students to use during outdoor lunch.
- **VOTE:** The DHMS PTSA Membership voted via Zoom poll to approve the DHMS PTSA Nominating Committee members: Madelon Brennan, Julie Madison, and Susan Newton
- The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating a slate of officers for the PTSA Executive Committee for the 2021-22 school year.
- The next PTSA Meeting is Tuesday, May 4th at 7:00 pm when the Nominating Committee will present the slate for the 2021-22 DHMS PTSA Executive Committee, and the Treasurer will present the proposed budget for the 2021-22 school year.



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VIII. Officer Reports

- *ACI Rep (Susan Newton)*
 - The DHMS PTSA has raised over \$13K in membership dues and donations this year.
 - Susan encouraged parents to review the FY2022 APS Budget document and shared highlights of the proposed budget.
 - One of the Tier I cuts would impact middle school level after school activities; Debbie will include information on how parents can advocate to APS and the School Board in the upcoming Phoenix Post.
- *VP Programs (Angela Huskey)*
 - The DHMS plastic film recycling drive has been very successful so far; the drive will continue to run through April 15th.
 - Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is coming up May 3rd-7th, and parents can contact Angela if they'd like to help out.
- *VP Community (Heidi Gibson)*
 - The DHMS Treasure/Scavenger Hunt is scheduled for two weekends this spring: April 24th-25th and May 1st-2nd. There will be a Cherrydale neighborhood 'loop' and Lee Heights 'loop' so that students could do one half each weekend.
 - Parents can reach out to Heidi if they are interested in getting involved.
- *Spirit Wear (Holly Tenant Billy)*
 - DHMS families and staff pre-ordered over 100 DHMS face masks that will be delivered after spring break.
- *Treasurer (Kami Ragsdale)*
 - Kami shared a summary of the latest DHMS PTSA monthly financial report. The current cash balance is just over \$39K.

IX. Principal's Report (Ellen Smith, DHMS Principal)

- It was great to see 7th and 8th graders beginning hybrid this week, and Ellen thanked parents, teachers and staff for their flexibility and support.
- Ellen reminded parents to come slightly earlier to avoid waiting in the DHMS drop off line, and reminded students to have their health check ready to show staff as they arrive.
- Many parents are driving their children, so Ellen reminded parents they are encouraged to drop off their student(s) and let them walk to the DHMS entrances.
- Students may eat lunch outside, and they also have an assigned seat in the cafeteria.
- Ellen reminded parents that student cell phones are to be stored during the school day.
- Students are getting used to the new learning model, and may stay online longer during virtual learning in order to interact with hybrid students in class.
- 8th grade SOL testing is already underway. Reading, science and math SOLs for all grades will begin the first week of May.

X. Upcoming Dates

- Fri, Mar. 19 Last Day to Donate Books for Arlington CCPTA Book Drive
- Mon, Mar. 22 Parent Chat SPANISH (6:00 PM)
- Mon, Mar. 29 to Fri, Apr. 2 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL
- Mon, Apr. 5 SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING DAY FOR STUDENTS
- Fri, Apr. 9 LAST DAY OF THE GRADING PERIOD



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- Mon, Apr. 12 NO SCHOOL GRADE PREP DAY
- Thurs, Apr. 15 Last Day to Donate Plastic Film for Plastic Film Recycling Drive
- Weekends of Apr. 24-25 and May 1-2 DHMS Treasure Hunt
- Mon, May 3 to Fri, May 7 Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
- Tues, May 4 DHMS PTSA General Membership Meeting (7:00 pm)
- Mon, May 31 NO SCHOOL MEMORIAL DAY
- Tues, June 8 DHMS PTSA General Membership Meeting (7:00 pm)
- Fri, June 18 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL/EARLY RELEASE

The meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.