



Dorothy Hamm Middle School

*DHMS PTSA Membership Meeting Minutes *DRAFT**

Tuesday, June 8th, 2021 7:00pm (Video Conference)

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Debbie welcomed all attendees to the last DHMS PTSA Meeting of the 2020-21 school year.

II. PTSA Business

- The DHMS PTSA membership voted by electronic ballot after the May 4, 2021 meeting to approve:
 - The May 4, 2021 DHMS PTSA Meeting Minutes.

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

- THANK YOU to all the parents, students, teachers, and staff who have contributed this year to help the PTSA make DHMS an amazing school for students, teachers, and staff! The pandemic posed new challenges and required everyone to learn new styles of learning, and we've all come together to make DHMS the best it can be this year!
- THANK YOU to departing Executive Board members: Lara Johnson, Heidi Gibson, and Holly Tennant Billy!
- PTSA Committee Chairs: filling up positions slowly but surely; some positions are still needed—check weekly email for available positions
 - Debbie will continue working with the PTSA next year as social media chair.
- Important events this week
 - DHMS Spirit Week—sponsored by SCA
 - Tuesday 6/8: Sports Day
 - Wednesday, 6/9: Wacky Wednesday
 - Thursday, 6/10: Tie-Dye Thursday
 - Friday, 6/11: DHMS Spirit Wear
 - Thursday, June 10 at 7:00 pm: DHMS Spring Orchestra Concert at DHMS Plaza
 - Thursday, June 10 at 7-8 pm: Arlington County Department of Environmental Services (DES) Open House
 - Friday, June 11 at 4:00 pm: Virtual Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony for the Stratfor Commemorative Trail and Historic Panels
 - Link will be sent out on Thursday, June 10.
 - Ellen noted that three of the four original students who first integrated the school will be present for the dedication ceremony. After the ceremony, people are invited to come to DHMS and drive through the driveway as part of a “gratitude parade” and wave to the students who integrated the school in 1959.



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IV. Officer Reports

- *Nominating Committee (Susan Newton)*
- Susan Newton from the DHMS PTSA Nominating Committee presented the slate of PTSA Executive Committee Officers for 2021-22:
 - President - Kristen Shattuck
 - VP Programs - Christa Mansur
 - VP Community - Danusha Chandy
 - VP Communications - Adena Porter
 - Secretary - Angela Huskey
 - Treasurer - Kami Ragsdale
- Thank you to Madelon Brennan, Julie Madison, and Susan Newton for serving as the DHMS PTSA Nominating Committee members.
- Susan moved to have an electronic vote to approve the candidates for officer positions for 2021-22 and the motion was seconded. Debbie will send out the electronic ballot, and the PTSA membership will have until June 14 to vote. The new officers will be submitted to the VA PTA on Tuesday, June 15, 2021.
- *VP Programs (Angela Huskey)*
 - '8th Grade Promotion on Thursday, June 17
 - o Virtual Ceremony
 - Will be livestreamed beginning at 8.15 am
 - Link will be sent June 14
 - Greetings from Superintendent School Board Liaison, student speeches and poems, and musical performances
 - o Driveway celebration from 10-11.30 am
 - Come pick up gifts, say goodbye to teachers, and take photos
 - Reflections: The theme for Reflections has been released for 2021-22. The theme is "I will change the world by" (new Reflections chair Caroline Holt)
 - School pictures can still be ordered. (<https://vando.imagequix.com/q1000848656>)
 - o Debbie announced that the school pictures program has been a great success. Victor O'Neill recently sent the PTSA \$1500 in commissions from the sale of school pictures.
- *Treasurer (Kami Ragsdale)*
 - Debbie highlighted a few things about latest monthly budget. We are tracking ahead of budget by \$8,376, and our ending cash balance as of 5/31/21 (less outstanding checks) was \$27,308.65.
 - Proposed Budget 2021-22: Debbie presented the proposed budget, which is very close to last year's budget;. The program priorities include classroom grants, author visits, helping students through DHMS Cares and the counseling department, teacher appreciation, and back-to-school events and DHMS community events.



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- Debbie moved to approve the proposed budget by electronic vote; Heidi Gibson seconded the motion. Debbie will send out an electronic ballot to vote on the proposed budget.

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

- SOL testing is going really well. The last SOL test will be on Monday, June 14, for the virtual learning students.
- The enrollment projections for the 2021-22 school year have been re-evaluated. At this time, the projected enrollment is 884 students. The number is lower than the previous enrollment projections by nearly 200 students and means that DHMS will not be receiving the additional staff and resources it was looking forward to receiving with the higher enrollment. Moreover, some staff will be leaving at the end of this school year and will not be replaced.
- The 2021-22 school year starts on August 30. DHMS intends to maintain outside lunches as much as possible but is also looking forward to being able to have students work in groups again. Teachers will likely be retaining use of Canvas as an important tool for organization and classwork. In addition, DHMS intends to bring back class teams for each grade, as a special tool for bringing kids together.
- DHMS will be having middle school sports next year. Students who intend to play MS sports need to have a physical after May 1 of this year. 8th graders can play up to a 9th grade sport, if that sport is not offered at DHMS.
- The Virtual Unveiling of the Historic Panels on Friday, June 11, at 4 pm is going to be an exciting and beautiful event. Three of the four former students who integrated the school in 1959 will be in attendance: Michael Jones, Gloria Thompson, and Donald Deskins, and Lance Newman's brother will also be there.
 - The event will be livestreamed; a link will be sent out on Thursday, June 10.
 - At the conclusion of the ceremony (around 5 pm), DHMS families are encouraged to drive by and wave to these historical heroes.
- THANK YOU to the amazing parents who have taken on such a big role this year and worked in close partnership with the teachers to support the students this year. DHMS staff really appreciates all the work parents have done this year to make this a great year for students!
- THANK YOU to PTSA and Debbie for all the support and the team in making DHMS a great school!

VI. Upcoming Dates

- This week is DHMS Spirit Week—sponsored by SCA
 - Wednesday, 6/9: Wacky Wednesday
 - Thursday, 6/10: Tie-Dye Thursday
 - Friday, 6/11: DHMS Spirit Wear



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 - Link will be sent out on Thursday, June 10.
 - Ellen noted that after the ceremony, people are invited to come drive by the historic panels and wave to the as a gratitude parade here will be a gratitude parade to wave at and cheer the historic heroes.
- Thursday, June 17 8th Grade Promotion
 - Virtual ceremony at 8.15 am; livestreamed; link sent out June 14
 - Clap-Out Ceremony at 10-11.30; DHMS driveway
- Fri, June 18 EARLY RELEASE - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The meeting adjourned at 7.36 pm.