



Dorothy Hamm Middle School
DHMS PTSA General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2022 7:00pm (Zoom)

***DRAFT* MEETING MINUTES**

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Kristen welcomed all attendees to the DHMS PTSA general membership meeting.
- THANK YOU to Karen Freeman for hosting the DHMS PTSA on her virtual platform!

II. Principal's Report (*Ellen Smith*)

- Ellen asked to record the meeting for others who could not attend the meeting.
- Ellen congratulated and thanked the cast and crew and parents for an amazing Annie Jr. performance. It was a truly great event!
- Ellen encouraged people to fill out the surveys that are circulating at this time:
 - Your Voice Matters
 - School Bell survey—this one has a range of options for middle schools (e.g., changing start times to as early as 7.30 am to as late as 9.10 am.
 - SEL survey—will be filled out by students in TA.
- Ellen reported on the status of spring sports.
 - Track, swim, and dive seasons started. 100 students participated in track already, and there is a full busload of students for swim and dive.
 - Wrestling and girls basketball both had winning seasons.
- Ellen reminded parents that the 8th graders Writing SOL would take place this week and to encourage students to bring water.
- Ellen reported that DHMS is seeing fewer people wearing masks due to the new mask wearing policy. Outdoor lunch is still available.
- Ellen introduced the reading coach, Sally Donnelly, and the math coach, Heather Donaldson for their presentations to the DHMS PTSA.
 - Sally Donnelly introduced herself.
 - She has been teaching for 29 years, was a reading coach, then taught reading for several years, and recently went back to being a reading coach. She loves to be able to keep teaching and helping kids with reading and working at DHMS.
 - Sally encouraged parents to encourage their children to read every day. She also reminded parents that reading can take many forms: any books your child likes to read, newspapers, also podcasts, screen time (especially with subtitles), etc. She encouraged parents to share their own “literacy life” with their children, talking about books they are reading. Just keep them reading something.
 - She noted that some kids have lost some reading stamina, so it is helpful to encourage children just to spend time reading and engaging with the text.
 - Heather Donaldson introduced herself.
 - She has been teaching for 24 years. She is the DHMS math coach, helping math teachers get students to talk in math class and get an equitable amount of talking for students, which helps them learn. She is also teaching 8th grade math.
 - Part of her role is facilitating math placements. APS uses a specific algorithm to help determine student math placements.
 - She mentioned that it is important for kids to know their multiplication facts. Not all students know them, and it is important for higher math learning. She encouraged parents to reinforce learning multiplication facts.
 - There was a discussion about potential changes in the math curriculum, but at this time, there are no changes for the math curriculum planned at this time. APS has a highly rigorous curriculum already.



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- In June there will be another math inventory. That, along with performance on any SOL and in class, will be used to determine math placement.
 - Sally and Heather thanked the PTSA for the classroom grants and materials for classrooms.

III. Record Prior Items

- At the February meeting, Kristen reminded PTSA members to vote on the October General Membership Meeting minutes. Following that February meeting, the membership voted by electronic ballot to approve the October meeting minutes.
- Kristen noted that PTSA members would need to vote to approve the February meeting minutes by March 16, 2022. The link would be provided by email and attached in the chat window for the Zoom meeting.

IV. President's Report (*Kristen Shattuck*)

- Kristen noted that the PTSA is planning a spring community event, similar to what we organized for the Back-to-School community event in the fall. The date is April 29. The PTSA will be looking for lots of parent volunteers to make the event a success.
- Kristen also mentioned that there are lots of committees for people to participate in next year. The positions of President and Treasurer for the PTSA will also be open next year. The nominating committee will be meeting soon to seek candidates.
- Kristen noted that we will need more parent volunteers to assist with the 8th grade promotion, in particular, 6th and 7th grade parents to help with reception.
- Programs (*Christa Mansur*)
 - Christa mentioned that spirit wear can be ordered before Spring Break and will be available after Spring Break. There will also be some items available for sale at the spring community event. The deadline for purchasing spirit wear is March 28.
- Community report (*Kristen Shattuck*)
 - Kristen asked if anyone could volunteer to help with planning a couple of DHMS Dines Out events for the spring.
 - Kristen also mentioned that the board of the Cherrydale Farmers Market has approached the DHMS PTSA to get the word out that they are looking for a board member and would like someone on their board to represent the PTSA and DHMS. Kristen said that anyone interested could contact her or wait for further information in the newsletter.

V. Treasurer's Report (*Kami Ragsdale*)

- Kami provided an overview of the February financial report.
 - Kami reported that current income to date (as of February 28, 2022) is \$36,598. The ending cash balance as of 2/28/22 (less outstanding checks) is \$40,648.

VI. New Business

VII. Upcoming Dates

- **Wednesday, March 16th** - Early Release (11:54am Dismissal) ***B Day (Gold Day)***



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****DRAFT** MEETING MINUTES**

- **Friday, April 8th** - End of 3rd Quarter
- **Monday, April 11th-Friday, April 15th** - NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)
- **Monday, April 18th** - NO SCHOOL (Grade Preparation Day)

The meeting adjourned at 7.55 pm.