

PTA Meeting Minutes 11/14/17

PS DuPont library

1. Call to order – 6:30
2. Vote in new President Christina Carr
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. Starting balance as of July 1, 2017 was \$12, 824.97
 - b. Balance as of today is \$12,905.06
 - c. Draft budget total is \$-1840 – need to try draw down our account this year with more activities to support our teachers and students; we should not carry a large bank balance from one year to the next as a non-profit
4. Principal's report – Ms. McIntire
 - a. Important dates upcoming
 - i. **Nov.1 – Nov. 16th** student council food drive
 1. PTA helped support by providing 10X\$20 gift cards for families to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys
 - ii. **Friday Nov 17** - ALL IN Student Advisory Session – focus on reviewing academic goals that the students set for the 1st qtr after report card distribution
 - iii. **Friday Nov. 17** - **PS DuPont Vendor Fair from 6-9pm** in the gym – proceeds support the Positive Behavior Support program as well as Student Council
 - iv. **Thursday Nov. 30** – PS DuPont Gifted Open House, 6:30-8PM; how to apply, criteria for acceptance and highlights of the program by grade level
 - v. **Dec. 1 – 15** – Student Council, Adopt-a-family program – holiday gift program to support PS DuPont families in need
 1. PTA also helps to support this program by sponsoring several families along with the student council
 - vi. **Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th** – Holiday Concerts and Book Fair followed by PTA Dessert Receptions in the cafeteria for all students and families
 - vii. **Friday Dec. 8** – School Dance sponsored by PS DuPont cheerleaders as a fundraiser to buy new uniforms
 - b. Update on Focus School/Title I program
 - i. Title I program – PS DuPont is one of 100 Title 1 schools in DE; based on the proportion of students eligible to receive free/reduced lunch
 - ii. Focus School program – 10% of the Title I schools were chosen to participate in the Focus School program
 1. Goal is to bridge the achievement gap between the highest and lowest achievers in the school
 2. Received \$100,000 to support this program – Focus School advisory team put together a proposal for school programs to bridge the achievement gap; approved by the DE Dept of Education who visits at least monthly to ensure the programs are operating successfully and

funds are being spent according to plan; audit at the end of the program to ensure it is achieving results

3. Focus School advisory team is working on programs that touch all students while prioritizing additional help for students in need; some examples:
 - a. ALL IN school advisory program – all students participate in the program which focuses on helping students deal with emotional/social issues; additional opportunities for students who may lack support at home to get more help
 - b. Planning for more grade level trips for ALL students without regard to program – want ALL students to have the opportunity to participate in these types of enriching experiences
 - c. Advisors in the building to help monitor instruction and make sure course material is up to date and has been demonstrated thru research to improve instruction
 4. Ms. McIntire’s view of a successful program: for ALL students to be on an upward trajectory of social, emotional and academic growth
- iii. Update on website - Mr. O’Hanlon, Dean of Students
1. Updating website over Thanksgiving break – please provide all updates/suggestions to him
 2. Will also manage the PS DuPont Facebook page – look here for updates on school events and PTA news
- iv. Volunteers are needed for the Den
1. Part of the positive behavior support system – students get Den dollars for positive behavior
 2. Den is open to students on Fridays during lunch from 11:12-1:20 and staffed by parent volunteers – any amount of time is appreciated
 3. Volunteers are needed on other days for things like inventory
 4. Contact Dean of Students Tamara McDermott or Den liaison Deb McGill to volunteer
- v. Possible ways PTA can further support school activities
1. Career Day – held April/May time frame
 - a. Need professional volunteers to participate and parent committee to help organize
 - b. Last year 6th grade participated in “What’s My Line” where the students met three professionals and needed to guess their profession based on clues. 7th and 8th grade students participated in a career fair in the gym
 - c. Can either do same thing as last year or something different
 2. Parent Surveys and Feedback
 - a. Parent volunteers needed to sit on Focused Advisory Team in spring

- b. Parent survey in Dec. timeframe – volunteers needed to get parents to participate
 - 3. Community initiatives – want to get more community support into the school
 - a. Ex. Homework club – teachers participate but could also use parent volunteers to provide 1 on 1 time with students who need it
 - 4. Field Day – Friday 6/1/17
 - a. Students have asked for this and Ms. McIntire wants to support it!
 - b. Will need parent volunteers to help plan and potentially staff
 - c. Financial support need
- 5. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership – looking for a volunteer to chair – keep membership list updated and coordinate membership drive
 - i. Will have membership table at upcoming dessert receptions to get more parents signed up
 - b. Holiday Concert Dessert receptions – Shelly Towler and Debbi Zarek
 - i. Dec. 5, 6, and 7th – volunteers needed for set-up/clean-up and to provide baked goods
 - c. Fundraising – Pamela Frazier
 - i. Looking for a co-chair and other good ideas for fundraisers
 - ii. Already planning a Barnes and Noble Night and a 5 Below fundraiser
- 6. Brainstorming other activities for the year – additional ways we can support both teachers and students
 - a. Some suggestions from student council
 - i. Student Council Role Model and Me Dan – provide financial support for snacks
 - ii. Open Mic Night featuring the Twin Poets
 - iii. Pizza Social in March for entire school – financial support
 - iv. After school program to broaden students’ experience – ex. A lesson on something that they’ve never tried before