

**Dothan Brook School PTO Meeting**  
**January 8, 2015**  
**6-7 p.m.**

1. Welcome and introductions. In attendance: Rick Dustin-Eichler, Jodie Davi, Jaime Peyton, Jen Krom, Shevie Brooks, Sue Knapp, Jen Durgin, Marty Irvine, Heidi St Peter, Tim Irvine.
2. Review and vote on new DBS PTO Bylaws. Revisions were approved by vote of those present. A copy of the new ByLaws will be sent to parents/guardians via email.
3. Determine winter/spring fundraisers. The PTO will pursue the following:
  - Dartmouth Hockey concessions (PTO gets 10 percent of sales and 100 percent of tips) on Fri. Jan 30 AND Sat. Feb 28, 2015. The PTO will send reminders. Volunteers need to get there at 6 PM; need 8 adults at each event.
  - Family Movie Night on January 23 AND March 20, 2015 (January date will also be 100-Day Celebration. PTO will organize a craft activity for intermission.). PTO will work on better signage to encourage donations at intermission.
  - PTO Yard and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 2 (rain date is Sunday, May 3). Sue Knapp is the contact.
  - Organized effort to solicit cash donations this spring positioned as a capital campaign to raise \$9,000 for the new sound system in the gymnasium. Sue Knapp is the contact.
  - The PTO will work with EBAs restaurant in Hanover for a portion of their sales on Sunday, March 8 from 3-8 p.m. Shevie Brooks will be the contact and help organize and promote.
  - Yankee Candle fundraiser in time for Mother's Day. Jodie Davie is the contact.

The PTO will explore the following:

- School spirit items (t-shirts, towels, mugs, etc.) – Middle School kids can screen the shirts. Jen Krom will email Gabrielle Lucke for additional information. Jaime Peyton will also check with her contacts re: promotional items.
  - Cabot Cheese – must buy case lot boxes. Jaime Peyton will ask a friend about similar effort in Enfield, NH and their experience.
  - Thirty-One. Jen Krom is asking Yee-Wah Brabant will get more information.
  - Adult Hors D'oeuvres Party (with wine/cocktails). Suggested donation is \$20 pp, no kids. Jodie Davi will check out cost to rent Wilder Club and Wilder Center.
4. Upcoming PTO Activities
    - Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week May 4-8, 2015. Marty Irvine and Jen Durgin have volunteered to head the organizing committee. DBS has a huge "We Love our Staff" sign out by garage; Tim Irvine will check it out and perhaps help with repairs if needed.
    - Ice Cream Social, June (date TBD)
    - Upcoming PTO Meeting Parent Workshops:
      - **February** – Hartford School District Superintendent Tom DeBalsi will be at the meeting to talk about the budget; White River School PTA and Ottaquechee PTO will be invited also
      - March – STEM workshop
      - April – TBD

- May – The new science standardized test
- June – NO PTO MEETING – see you in the fall!

5. News and updates from Mr. D. DBS received \$4,000 matching grant from Hypertherm for STEM items such as Lego robotics kits and imagination playground kits.

6. Upcoming DBS Activities:

- Read Across America Day; Thursday, March 5 volunteers needed afterschool to set up. Friday, March 6 is Seuss Day. DBS is looking for LOTS of parent volunteers. They are turning each classroom into a Dr. Seuss book. Lanni West (4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) is in charge, email her directly to sign up. [westl@hartfordschools.net](mailto:westl@hartfordschools.net) .
- Drama Club performance of “Annie Jr.” (grades 4 and 5) is on February 5
- Brain O’Mania – tentative date is May 1

7. Parent Workshop: Mr. D reviewed the new attendance policy.

- Last school board meeting was snowed out, so new policy not voted on yet.
- Truancy policy in Vermont is set by the county, but local superintendents are allowed to adopt more stringent standards.
- Hartford School District has made clarifications to allow for better use of interventions to prevent learning disruptions for the students.
- Hartford School District has one Truant Officer/School Resource Officer for the entire district.
- Most important takeaway information for parents:
  1. Excused absences allow teachers to provide make up work, and/or student will not be penalized for absence. Examples include sickness, bereavement, school-sponsored activity, religious holiday, court appearance, or when specifically approved by the Superintendent.
  2. Unexcused absences, including vacations, which means that the school does not have to provide any make up work, and the student may be penalized for missing school. If parents want to take a student out of school for any reason other than those allowed above, they must request approval from Superintendent Tom DeBalsi directly (an email is acceptable -- [debalsit@hartfordschools.net](mailto:debalsit@hartfordschools.net)). DBS Principal Rick Dustin-Eichler is not allowed to approve or deny such absences.
  3. Excessive tardies and absences are defined as:
    - a. 5 or more unexcused absences
    - b. 10 or more unexcused tardies
  4. When a student reaches 10 absences (excused, unexcused, or both), parents will be notified.
  5. When a student reaches 15 absences (excused, unexcused, or both) for the year, the principal will initiate the Student Attendance Evaluation Process, to determine if consequences need to be imposed, including grade retention, loss of credit, or remedial work.