



**Meeting Minutes from the
September 11, 2014
PTO Meeting (6-7 p.m.)**

* Welcome and Introductions

- In attendance: Rick Dustin-Eichler, Cheryl Shattie, Jen Krom, Sue Knapp, Ray Garcia, Heidi St. Peter, Jaime Peyton, Cherrie Torrey, Jen Durgin, Marty Irvine, Lorelea Smith, Jodie Davi

* Feedback on New Open House Format

- The time went very quickly; positive; better than barely controlled chaos of years past.
- Would be helpful to have a play area for little kids? Frustrating for little kids not being able to touch anything in the classrooms. Can little kids play with anything in the classrooms? Perhaps childcare in the gym?
- Good things: got to learn the classroom's daily schedule; find out what is expected from child throughout the year; learn how to make the "expectant otter" hand sign; hear how parents/guardians can best support their kids (from teachers POV); general curriculum overview.
- Bad things: it was a little rushed for parents of multiple kids in different grades; some parents didn't find the time to visit art/music rooms.

* PTO Budget Review

- PTO budget is currently in good standing at over \$6,000; the Principal's Fund (PF) will soon be paid out, after Treasurer gets quote for movie screen (see below)
- Principal's Fund (PF) – for the past two years, the PTO has provided Rick with discretionary money in September to support miscellaneous programs and activities throughout the school year. The PTO hopes to give \$2,000 to PF for the 2014-2015 year.
 - PF funds: spelling bee registration, Smart Bike trailer, VINS activity, s'mores supplies, Girls on the Run scholarships, Friday snack bags, lunch for Business Buddies, Brain o'mania, reading awards, dunk tank rental at Field Day.
 - PF is also available for anything the staff/teachers may need/want. Eliminates PTO as a middleman.
 - (We learned that DBS gets 25-30 percent cash back from all school photos, and this money is also allocated to various activities at the school.)
- A large portion of last year's and this year's PTO fundraising efforts will support several upgrades to the Audio/Visual equipment in the gymnasium, starting with a new giant movie screen that will hopefully be installed this fall.
 - Quote for installed screen \$5,000+; seeking one more quote
 - Aiming to have it for the first movie night (early November)
- Last spring, the PTO paid for t-shirts for field day; popular with both students and staff; request made to continue this as a yearly tradition.
- Hannaford rewards program has just been started; more info will be forthcoming.

- PTO money comes mainly from fundraisers, tip jars, Dartmouth hockey concessions, yard sale, Box Tops.

* News from Rick (a.k.a. Mr. D.)

- Mrs. Raney (First Grade Teacher) delivered her baby girl, Charlotte Claire – Congratulations to the Raney family!
- **DBS desperately needs subs!** You must: fill out form, get fingerprinted, have a high school diploma. Get paid \$75 per day! See Mr. D. or Becky Wood for more details.
- Volunteers are always wanted in library and classrooms; speak with individual teachers if you are interested.
- DBS will need a replacement Walk and Ride Coordinator for next fall. Contact Jill Vanderpot if you are interested at jgumkow@aol.com. (Thank you Jill for all your hard work on this program!)

* Upcoming DBS Events/Activities

- Food Drive for Friday Snack Bags (FSB)
 - DBS applied for and received a grant of \$1000; trying to get more.
 - 34 percent of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch; these are the children targeted for FSBs.
 - FSBs are intended to help supplement students' food/nutrition during the weekend.
 - Food drive donations need to be non-perishable, durable, able to withstand rough treatment inside a backpack. Drop off at DBS at any time.
 - In winter, we ask Sterns Produce for donations of sturdy produce
 - We will ask for FSB donations during all PTO events.
- Fresh fruit from a state grant is delivered 3 days/week, M-W-F; 5th graders bring a cart around to classrooms to distribute the fresh fruit.
- Donations for School Store
 - DBS is looking to stock their store for the first PBIS rewards. Students will trade in otter bucks for school store vouchers.
 - We have some school supplies left over from last year, but more are desired.
 - Items can include: pencils, cute erasers, little notebooks, anything little and cute a student can use in class.
 - School store is open ONLY on Thursday, Sept. 25; school store is NOT year-round.
 - Drop off items at DBS on or before Thursday morning, Sept. 25.
- Two kinds of PBIS rewards: otter bucks and golden paws
 - Otter bucks -- easily obtainable, recognize typical good behaviors.
 - Golden paw – recognizes the “above and beyond”; could be anything from a struggling student who has a good day, to a student who sacrifices something for the good of another, to anything in between; drawing held once a month to celebrate these students.
 - PBIS = Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Anonymous donation of books, card games, etc. appeared in Mr. D.'s office in a wheeled tote – Very much appreciated! Thank You!
- Walk and Ride to School
 - Thursday mornings now through October 23.
 - Many new volunteers made this possible – Thank You!

- School Community Council
 - Talk about issues that affect school and community.
 - This fall the group will develop a school/community compact.
 - Last year worked on the school-wide survey and Friday snack bags.
 - Anybody is welcome to join! Talk to Mr. D. for details.
- Holiday Concert will be held on Thursday, December 4. Mark your calendar!

* Upcoming PTO Events/Activities

- Operation: Warm & Cozy (4th Annual!)
 - Collect donations of all kinds of winter outerwear (hats, coats, boots, etc.) in all sizes (infant through adult).
 - Deadline for donations is 5 p.m. Friday, October 17.
 - Distribution is at DBS cafeteria on Saturday, October 18 from 9-11 a.m.
 - A few volunteers will be needed Friday, October 17 at about 6 p.m. to help sort donations.
 - Anything leftover will be brought to the Haven.
- Family Movie Night
 - We are aiming to host FMN on Nov 14. Only one movie will be shown if we get the new screen installed.
- Upcoming PTO Meetings:
 - October 9; Parent Workshop on “Bullying Prevention.”
 - November 13; Parent Workshop on Google Apps at school; explains for each grade.

* Parent Workshop: parent panel ready to answer all questions/concerns from those about DBS

- Only one new parent attended, so few questions asked; time allotted was spent considering various ideas for this school term.
- Lyme School got grant to revamp behavioral curriculum, brought in lecturer (“Duct Tape Parenting”); could something like that be done here at DBS?
- Cyber Safety workshop should be held again, but last year’s presenter was not very engaging; perhaps Jeff, the school district IT expert, would be willing to present this year?
- Can DBS record a presentation and have it available online, either on website or YouTube? Could be useful for Parent Workshops and other school events.

Submitted September 16, 2014