

DBS PTO Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 9, 2014

Introductions – Amy Wheeler, Rick Dustin-Eichler, Jaime Peyton, Marty Irvine, Jodie Davi, Sue Knapp, Jen Krom

Fundraising

- Total sales from Meadow Farms grossed about \$5,000 (both catalogue and online). The PTO will earn a portion of the sales; final number will be reported when we have it. We also don't know when items will be distributed, but we'll keep everyone updated when we do.
- The PTO received a promotion about a holiday card fundraiser. The PTO will promote online sales of photo cards (like Shutterfly) where families upload their own pictures and order cards. Everything is handled online and the PTO receives a portion of the sales. Emails should go out soon to all DBS families.
- It was mentioned that the White River School is participating in a fundraiser of some sort with Amazon Prime subscribers. A member of the PTO Board promised to look into it.
- The DBS PTO just started working with Hannaford on fundraising through store receipts.
- The BoxTops collection will be submitted soon. Next submission is in the spring.
- Sue Knapp brought up other ideas for fundraisers that involved community attendance, such as bingo games and basket raffles. The group decided to table those ideas for another time.

Community

- Operation: Warm & Cozy 2014 is underway. Donation boxes are out at DBS, the Aquatic Center, and the Hartford Police Department. They will be collected by Friday, Oct. 17 at 5 p.m. for sorting. Free distribution at DBS on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9-11 a.m. in the cafeteria.
- The opt-out period for the School Directory has passed, and the PTO is getting ready to print it to distribute before November 1. It will include the 2014-2015 Hartford School District calendar.

News from Mr. D

- School Community Council update – Rick is still trying to get more participation, and the group is exploring different times that work for the most people. He's working to get a guest speaker at the next meeting, perhaps from Family Place or Good Beginnings. The group is also looking to collaborate with the White River School and the Ottauquechee School on a bigger event for parents that highlights some aspect of the school curriculum or something.
- The School Community Council also contributed to the Community Compact for parents/guardians, DBS staff, and students. It's a document recommended/required to receive Title One funding support from the federal government. The document will be sent home with students in the next few weeks, and then parents/teachers/students will all sign it – one

copy will stay at DBS and another copy goes home. Rick hopes to be able to facilitate this process at Parent-Teacher Conferences.

- The new giant screen for the gymnasium will hopefully be in place in time for the November 14 Family Movie Night.
- Rick received news that the DBS science scores as measured by the State of Vermont improved significantly. These are results from spring 2014 testing of 4th graders, who are now current 5th graders.
- DBS was named an exemplar PBIS school (positive behavior intervention and supports) from the State of Vermont Department of Education. DBS is only one of two in Vermont to receive this honor three years in a row.
- Amy Wheeler was named New School Counselor of the Year Award by the Vermont School Counselor Association in early October.
- The Vermont Secretary of Education will visit DBS on October 23 to make a 30-minute video about DBS. The video will be distributed on local cable access stations.

Upcoming PTO activities

- Deadline for the next BoxTops submission is Oct. 17– drop off box is in the DBS lobby.
- PTO meeting – Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. Parent Workshop on Google Apps at school.
- Family Movie Night – Friday, Nov. 14. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.; movie starts at 6:30 p.m.
- PTO meeting – Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. Parent Workshop TBD

Upcoming DBS activities

- Food Drive for Friday Snack Packs, ongoing; will promote again at Family Movie Night.
- Walk and Ride to School, Thursday mornings through October 23
- Special Unity Day Walk to school on October 30 (no bikes or scooters). Leave Datamann in Wilder no later than 7:40 am. All students encouraged to wear orange and make signs and banners to promote anti-bullying.
- Parent/Teacher conferences – early November 6, 7.
- Holiday Concert – December 4.

Parent Workshop – the on-going crusade against bullying with Amy Wheeler.

- Amy's presentation featured video clips with kids talking about what they'd learned. Amy emphasized their messaging that kids are NOT described as bullies, but as having bullying behaviors.
- She explained how the teaching changes at each grade level as kids get more sophisticated in learning the difference between bullying behavior and other kinds of kid-to-kid interactions.
- If parents have questions or concerns, please let the school know early rather than letting it drag out and hoping it gets better.
- Her presentation will be posted on the DBS website in the Parent Resources section.