

Dothan Brook School PTO Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date & Location: October 8, 2015 at DBS Library

Attendees: Rick Dustin-Eichler, Marty Irvine, Tim Irvine, Diana Kiefer, Amber Nielson, Sarah Duncan, Emily Gissel, Jodie Davi, Jen Krom, Heidi St. Peter, Shevie Brooks, Katie Ouelette

Teacher Representatives: Linda Gilbert, Cherrie Torrey

Next Meeting: November 12, 2015, 6:00-7:00 p.m. @ DBS Library
Parent Workshop: Cyber Safety Presentation

1. Welcome and Introductions: Meeting called to order by Shevie Brooks, President at 6:02 p.m.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: The PTO is required to approve meeting minutes at each meeting. Minutes will be available by email, on the DBS website and linked on the newsletter or Becky's Friday email moving forward. September 10th meeting minutes approved.
3. Update on Red Barn Fundraiser: The Red Barn Fundraiser is in full swing. The sale dates are October 2-16. It was advised by Jodie Davi to hold all sales for one additional week before sending to Red Barn in case there are any last minute sales or missing paperwork and follow up needed. Jen Krom is in contact with Red Barn and will try to get a sense of how quickly orders are fulfilled and when they may be ready to send home.
4. School Directory: Becky Wood has sent the file to Katie Ouelette who will be working on the directory.
5. Operation: Warm & Cozy: Event date: Saturday, October 24th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Boxes have been placed in the DBS Lobby, UVAC and Hartford Police Department. Please spread the word and donate gently used winter outerwear sizes infant-adult. Feel free to send in items with your child but be sure they are labeled for donation so they don't get misplaced. UVAC donations make up the vast majority of all donations for Operation: Warm & Cozy so that box will need to be checked between now and the event and emptied if full/overflowing. Thank you Jen and Tessa for your work on this event.
6. Movie Night: Fall event date: November 13th. NOTE: Winter event date: The winter date has been changed to January 29th and can be coordinated with making valentines for the VA like we did 2 years ago. Snacks during intermission will be eaten "picnic style" on blankets in the gym. This means we will vote for 1 movie and all children will watch in the gym.

- On Saturday, Nov 14th, a fabric sale benefitting Second Growth will be using the cafeteria for their sale. This will be set up on Nov 13th and adults attending movie night can shop if they wish.
 - Book Fair will be open at the start of Movie Night and during intermission for any families interested in browsing/shopping for books.
 - The popcorn supply is running low and more will be needed. Snack/drink donations will be needed.
 - We will not be asking for donations for Friday Food Bags at this event.
 - Voting for movies: Marty & Tessa are asking for movie suggestions to put together for the student vote. Please send suggestions to dbspto@gmail.com or directly to Marty marty.irvine3@gmail.com. A list is presented to students Mon-Wed the week of the event and the winning vote is announced the Wednesday before the event.
7. BoxTops for Education Challenge: The first collection/submission is due by November 1st. Pencil tubes labeled by grade are located in the office, winning grade with most BoxTops collected wins a popcorn party. Parents and children can drop off BoxTops in the office or send them with their child to school and they will make it to the correct pencil.
 8. Gingerbread Festival for The Family Place: DBS classrooms decorate gingerbread houses to donate to The Family Place Gingerbread Festival held on December 5th at Tracy Hall in Norwich. Jen Krom spearheads this collaboration between DBS and The Family Place. Houses must be baked, constructed and available for the week after Thanksgiving. Houses will be displayed at the Winter Concert on 12/3 and later delivered to Tracy Hall on 12/4. Volunteers are needed to bake/construct (Jen has a recipe she can distribute and please feel free to bake early, they won't go bad). If classrooms need help decorating, they should contact Jen Krom. Cherrie Torrey will be at DBS on Nov 14th for the Fabric Sale so the kitchen will be available for baking if a group wants to get together to mass produce houses at that time.
 9. Reminders:
 - Dartmouth Men's Hockey Games: Dates for DBS PTO concession: Feb 13, Feb 19 and possibly a third date TBD. Volunteers are needed (adult volunteers only please). Children and families are welcome and encouraged to attend the game and wear their orange Otters Don't Bully shirts. Shevie/Heidi will order extra orange shirts for concession volunteers by 10/9.
 - Be sure to check VolunteerSpot website for opportunities to get involved with the PTO and support DBS students and teachers.
 10. Principal's News:
 - NECAP Science: Rick shared results on the recent NECAP testing. Each May, 4th grade students participated in the New England Comprehensive Assessment Program's science test. As a class just over 80% of DBS students scored at or above grade level compared to 63% within the Hartford School District and 46% statewide. In addition, none of the school's children scored at the substantially below proficient level.
 - Unity Day: October 22nd, wear orange, join Walk & Ride!
 - The Friday weekly emails seem to be working and reaching DBS families with useful information, links to important websites or documents, and upcoming events. Thank you Rick and Becky!

11. New Business: Mrs. Trimpi (Art teacher) is doing the Empty Bowls Project, making clay bowls with every student. The event date is: March 22nd. The concept: every student makes a bowl. Families and the community are invited to DBS to buy a bowl and/or eat soup and raise funds for hunger prevention. DBS Empty Bowl Project will raise funds for the Friday Food Bag program. Volunteers will be needed so stay tuned. In addition to soup, there will be an art silent auction to raise more funds for the same cause.
12. Parent Workshop: Math: The “new way” K-2 and 3-5 presented by Linda Gilbert and Cherrie Torrey
13. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.
14. Minutes submitted by Katie Ouelette