

Dewitt Middle School PTA Minutes

Date: October, 18th, 2021

- I. **Attendance:** Anne Burns, Rui Feng, Whitney Dennis, Amy Nakaranuruck, Penny Boyton, Heather Williams, Corinna Loeckenhoff, Kimberly Tilsen, Deborah Levy, Mr. Woodridge, Kebbeh Gold, Kelly Boyko, Ann, Kirianne Weaver, Jeremy Cusker, Vida Maralani, Kristen Tewksbury, Dashan Ouyang, Brian Rohan
- II. **Call to Order:** 7:00pm
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Two changes were made to name spellings and minutes were approved.
- IV. **Officer's Reports:**
 - A. **Treasurer's Report: Rui Feng:** There have been no payouts, leaving the balance at \$7233.06. There has been an additional \$306 of funds from MemberHub, putting the balance at \$7,543.06.
 - B. **President's Report: Anne Burns:**

****The meeting started with brief introductions with names and grade levels of children from around the room and on zoom.**

****Membership Drive:** We currently have 31 people signed up for the PTA and are halfway to the number we got last year. We need to continue to reach out through emails, list serve, backpack mail, all school email, team newsletters, text groups and any other ways you can. Please spread the word to get registered. Teachers have been given slips in their mailboxes to join if interested. People were wondering if there was an option to add a family membership for a few more dollars?

****PTA Council: Q & A with Brown and Grover.** *Lots of talk around surveillance testing and the next steps. This testing and data collection will be performed by Affinity Empowering. The district is still waiting on materials to begin. There is still time to sign up by going to the ICSD web page and getting the app. There were two forms that had been sent out and the second one had more information than the first, so if you only filled out one form the suggestion would be to go to the district page and check that your child is registered. Enrollment is low, please go to the web site to register. *PTA Equity Project is designed to pull resources from all of the ICSD PTA's to accomplish a larger project for the district. It came about last year in an effort to purchase outdoor gear for elementary schools. This idea

was borrowed from a similar size school district in Evanston and we found it to be a successful model. The group is looking for people who are interested in joining for the next project.

C. Principal/Teacher's Report: Carlan Gray: Carlan was unable to attend and Heather Williams the teacher on special assignment for Donna Lucy-Lender came in her place. She shared that she is here to support! She acknowledged that some kids and adults are currently struggling and she hopes to help in any way needed. The staff is thankful that we are sending our kids in and want us to know they are loved. *Heather shared that they had hoped to begin surveillance testing the week of the 18th, but are still waiting for kits. An email will go out when they are ready to get started. *The school wants parents to know that sending children with phones drives conflict and distraction. Phones should not be visible or used during instructional time. Please limit sending phones to school if possible. *The school is working to be more strict with passes, sign-in/out sheets, hall movements and lunch routines. These are increasingly important when contact tracing needs to be done and can no longer be as flexible as they have been in the past. *The school is working hard on Positive Behavioral Intervention Systems, PBIS aims to reward and highlight when students are doing the correct things in the classroom and hallways. Currently students are being acknowledged and rewarded for proper mask wearing. Rewards include candy, passes and other small treats. *The administration has asked for the PTA's support for a few items. 1. Funding a quarterly celebration to reward students for thriving in PBIS. 2. Donations for PBIS rewards (candy, trading cards, art supplies, gift cards, kinetic sand, fidgets, other games, etc..) 3. DeWitt "swag" for all staff. Spirit wear (sweatshirts, long sleeve or Tshirts) with DeWitt logo for all staff. If we can chip in, the staff will chip in as well.

D. Other/Committees:

V. Motions:

VI. Announcements:**The Fall Dance that was scheduled for the 29th has been canceled for a variety of reasons. To replace this social event there will be a lunchtime dance party with a DJ and ice cream in the gym by grade level at lunch time. Parents are appreciative of the effort put into

keeping/getting social events going.

**There will be a community work day at the school on Sunday the 24th from 11:00-1:00. The group was organized by students and will be doing landscaping and gardening projects.

**Penny Boyton shared about the clubs that are being offered: Homework, Jazz Improv, Queer Media, 6th grade Basketball Skills & Drills, TSA, Magic the Gathering, Dungeon & Dragons, Guitar, Historical Film 8th grade, Archery, Hiking & Outdoor, Indie Music Production, Chess, Ping Pong, STAND, Roller Skating, Agencies @ DeWitt, Cooperative Extension, Learning Web and Tutoring Programs: Go Tutors, STEP Cornell Paul Schures. Days and times for these clubs have been posted in the cafeteria and will be sent again to all students through canvas. Advisors are still needed for some of these clubs. She also shared that 39 students from a variety of homebase have joined the student voice council and they will be meeting on October 27th to discuss what students would like to do to improve the school. From there they will come up with plans for school improvements and share information with peers during press conferences.

**Once we can get full access to the web page we hope to post this information there.

VII. Next Meeting: November 8th at 7:00pm

VIII. Adjournment: 8:00pm