

## Dighton PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: April 2, 2015

Meeting called to order by: Jennifer Fyfe at 7:03pm

Location: Dighton Elementary School Library

Attendance: 28

- **Call to Order by Jennifer Fyfe at 7pm**
- **Officer Reports**
  - President - Jennifer Fyfe
    - Discussed upcoming elections, no additional nominations were made. Current board will run uncontested.
    - Games were donated to DMS for middle school dances.
  - Vice President - Jessica Hirschy
    - Book fair volunteers needed during the school day for student shopping as well as information about family night for book fair.
  - Secretary - Sarah Horrocks
    - March Meeting Minutes approved.
  - Treasurer – Alicen Adams
    - March Report
      - March treasurer's report approved.
    - Teacher Requests
      - Mrs. Ferreira requesting \$1000 for grade 7 field trip. Request approved.
      - Mr. Kucia requests \$25 for DVD for end of year pictures for students. Request approved.
      - Mrs. Bosco, requesting \$120 for electric pencil sharpener. Request approved.
      - Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Grillo request for \$100 for reading A-Z program. Request approved.
      - Mrs. Gustafson requesting \$275 plus shipping and tax to purchase agenda planners for 4th grade students. Request approved.
      - Mrs. Pittsley requesting \$207 for replacing art supplies that were damaged. Request approved.
  - Communications Secretary – Sarah Bettencourt
    - Communication information provided, including YAPP application.
- **Principal Reports**
  - Mr. Wheeler – Dighton Middle School, absent
  - Dr. Manchester – Dighton Elementary School
    - Newsletter attached.
  - Mrs. Fullen – Vice Principal for DES and DMS

- Presenting information and news for DMS. See Principal's News attached.
- Special Guest speaker
  - Dr. Azar, Superintendent of schools discussed ways to accommodate increased enrollment. Dr. Azar also reported that while modular classrooms were considered initially, finance committees requested reduction in budget. As a result Dr. Azar reported he is working with school for additional ideas. Mr. Nappi (facility manager) presented slide show presentation of new proposal layout. New proposal addresses security concerns and allows for library and computer to share space. The TLC room would be turned into a kindergarten class, which keeps all kindergarten classes together. TLC classroom will be moved to existing main office. This also allows the TLC classroom to have their own bathroom. Library and technology (computer) will share space. The current teachers room will be converted into the nurses office, which already has a bathroom. The faculty dining room will be shared space as a prep room and break/lunch room. Dr. Manchester reported that the art room would take over conference room, school psychologist. The conference room would be in the main office area. Speech and testing would be done in storage room, converted into office space near gymnasium. Mrs. Hayden spoke on behalf of specialists and reports this new proposal is a much better alternative from what was originally proposed. Concern raised about foot traffic, Dr. Manchester reported plans will be made and additional security will be greatly improved by new entrance. Mr. Kucia asked question around cost benefit between modular classrooms versus this proposal. Question raised about this proposal and it's ability to grow with our increasing enrollment. Dr. Azar reports that first step is approving this new proposal and continuing discussions to address continuing population growth. Dr. Agar reports much of this difficulty has been due to lack of continuity of leaders, which he is hopeful has changed. Ed Schwartz, from Dighton Finance Committee reports that both DES and DMS are owned by the town and as chairperson he will continue to support and advocate for education and schools. Question around timeline of work raised. Mr. Nappi reported if work is approved then work wopp begin as soon as school committee grants approval on April 14th. Mrs. Kucia also reported that this proposal is much better and is thrilled to see everyone working together. Dr. Manchester reported that incoming enrollment predications are based on census. Class size concerns discussed and Dr. Azar and Mrs. Antonellis reported that they need to prepare schools for increasing enrollment. Parent suggested increased attendance at town meetings to make plan for increasing space needs at school due to population growth. On Tuesday, April 7th at 7pm finance committee will be meeting with school committee. The current proposal would come out of town budget. The school committee has already voted on budget and has made recommendation to town.
- Accomplishments
  - Raffle drawing
  - Friendly's dine out, profit of \$139
  - Yankee Candle, profit of \$3,926.91
  - Sweetheart Dance, sold 530 ticket. 8th graders took photos. Feedback from parents: need solution to keep kids out of back room or to have volunteers supervise area. Another concern was raised around allergies and food going into gymnasium. More photographers are requested as families report waiting in line for 30-45 minutes.
  - Chromebooks technology, parent Rachel Dingus has applied for a grant through Staples.

- **Upcoming events**
  - MCAS helpers needed.
  - Read-a- thon – reading logs sent home and run from March 27<sup>st</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Book Fair – family shopping will be available after school Wednesday and before school Thursday as well as at the family event on. Friday May 1st. April 27- May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - May 11th Sweet As Pie, dine out night
  - Teacher appreciation week, we will be providing breakfast for teachers through Alice's Last Stop and also providing an afternoon snack cart. May 4<sup>th</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>
  - 4<sup>th</sup> grade End of year Activities, step up day co chairs will be Jen Cabral and Pam Bastis.
  - At this time, we know of no teachers retiring
  - Peaceful playground will be looking for volunteers in May or June to paint US map on blacktop.
  - School Kits, all grades are on board, just waiting to hear back from one middle school grade for both schools to fully participate in.
  
- **Parent and Teacher Ideas**
  - Open discussion
  
- **Meeting Adjourned by Jennifer Fyfe at 8:43**
  - Next meeting, Tuesday May 5th, 7pm @ DES Library

**Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.**

**Elizabeth Andrew**

President (Jennifer Fyfe)	
Vice President (Jessica Hirschy)	
Treasurer (Alicen Adams)	
Secretary (Sarah Horrocks)	
Communications Secretary (Sarah Bettencourt)	
<i>Minutes compiled by: Sarah Horrocks</i>	