

PTO GENERAL MEETING

November 18th, 2021

Zoom Meeting – 5:30pm

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of September Meeting Minutes (minutes posted on DCE PTO website)

- Motion to approve, seconded, approved

III. Principal's Message

- There will be a Q&A after she speaks
- New ELA standards were introduced this year, new Math standards will be introduced next year
 - o K -> 2nd grade has a new phonics-based learning program
 - o K -> 5th got a whole new curriculum that the district brought in
 - o 4th & 5th have more of a focus on writing
- Historically, Durbin students perform better at math than ELA on standard testing, which is the opposite of many schools, she credits teacher training
- 909 students enrolled at DCE as of mid-November
- Field trips are set to resume in early 2022
- Exciting things are being planned for 5th Grades but not specifics can be shared
- She really wants to focus on student engagement this year
- Q & A
 - o What grade level is the special math program being taught?
 - K, 1st, 2nd & 3rd, but not in all classes
 - o What is being done to challenge advanced students so that not only focus on under-performing students?
 - She did not have specifics but said she will be talking to her team about that
 - o Will "Character Counts" be coming back?
 - She said she has to go and speak with leadership team about why we stopped it and if we could/should bring it back (it was stopped before she arrived at DCE)
 - o What are the current Social Distancing policies at DCE and can parents/volunteers return to campus?
 - Outdoor events are fine, slowly trying to return to normal indoor events
 - We can have volunteers on campus
 - Lunch room is at 75% capacity, children still not eating face-to-face
 - o Will classrooms begin having Room Parents again?
 - She will talk to team leaders, but since we can have volunteers on campus again she feels we should bring them back

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IV. Treasurer's Report

- Huge thanks to parents and teachers for their help with Boosterthon
- \$42,496 was raised by Boosterthon
- Waiting on estimates for bike racks & overhangs for bike racks, which were to be funded with money raised by Boosterthon
- Spirit night has already raised \$851 so far this school year
- Money raised goes to resources and teachers

- 41 people have signed up to “Rent” Explorer Rock
- A parent asked what PTO spends the money on it gets from fundraising:
 - o Supplies for resource teachers
 - o Teacher learning and professional development
 - o Individual teacher requests
 - o Staff snacks
 - o Random requests & projects

V. Upcoming Events

- Holiday Shop
- Staff Snacks
- PDQ Spirit Night

VI. Committee Chair and Volunteer Opportunities

- Now that we can have volunteers, we need to form committees to help get things done
- Sample committees would include Events, Fence, Spirit Nights, Spirit Patrol

VII. Motion to Adjourn – unanimous