

**Dogwood Elementary PTO General Meeting Minutes**

September 11, 2018

Dogwood Cafeteria

Recorded by Kathryn Hickey, Secretary

**Board Members in Attendance:** Elizabeth Gates, Karen Viotti, Nabiha Huda, Chelsea Slabaugh, Kathryn Hickey, Alison Fondaw, Gayle Higley, Michelle Midha, Leanne Howell, Kristen Boccher, Natalie Stickles, Carmen Weaver, Audra Bass, Paula Bailey, Hayley White, Joe Dixon, Claire Van Drimmelen, Carie Alley, Kari Armstrong, Katie Laird

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Carmen Henson, Betsy Bryant, Shahnika Raza, Tiffany Smith, Maura Parks, Karen LaGasse, Jennifer Bronson, Karen VanSteenberg, Leslie Mitchell, Rachel Twiford, Holly Kulp, Kayla Pence, Jamie Bialowitz, Casey Carrilo, Dina Chopra

Elizabeth Gates called the meeting to order at 6:17pm.

Elizabeth welcomed attendees and made several announcements:

- Minutes have been circulated to the PTO Board. Additionally, our minutes are always posted on our website, [dogwoodpto.com](http://dogwoodpto.com). There were no changes to the minutes and they were approved as written.
- The budget is posted. Please review.
- **Thank you –**
  - To all our families who supported Boosterthon. Thank you for encouraging our students. We appreciate all the volunteers and teachers who helped with the event and all of the parents who came out to cheer.
  - Thank you to Karen VanSteenburg and Mrs. McIntyre for planning a fun READO party for our students who completed the summer reading challenge.
  - Kristen Boccher and Natalie Stickles have been working so hard over the last two months taking class tshirt orders, organizing the designs, placing orders. It is a big job. Thank you Kristen and Natalie.
  - Thank you to our PTO membership chairs - Leslie Mitchell and Karen LaGasse - for organizing a great membership drive. They are working to get the printed directories to those who ordered as soon as possible. MySchoolAnywhere is the online directory that is available to any PTO member. The app is really great. You can still join the PTO through MySchoolAnywhere.
  - Thank you to our room parents and grade captains - who are led by the amazing Holly Kulp, our PTO Room Parent Chair. Our room parents are the backbone of our PTO. Please support them and get involved in your child's classroom.

**Old Business -**

- The PTO Board passed the 2018 Standing Rules in a brief meeting prior to this.
- GMSD is a flagship sponsor of the St Jude 5k Walk/Run to end childhood cancer on September 22nd. Support Dogwood by signing up to participate in the race on the Dogwood team.

**New Business -**

- Please join the PTO Group on Bloomz.
- We are so excited about our DADs group at Dogwood. All fathers and father figures, please consider joining. The group is led by a Dogwood Dad - Ryan Strain. The goal is to provide several volunteer opportunities geared specifically to DADs. Contact me or Ryan for more information. His email was in our last edition of the Dolphin Digest.

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- Yearbooks and 5th Grade Ads are available for purchase on MySchoolBucks. More information about 5th grade ads will be coming soon, but certainly go ahead and purchase.
- Family Movie Night is Friday, September 28th at 6:00. The movie is the Lion King. We will have Food Trucks and fun with our friends and families.

Mrs. Price welcomed the group and presented **The State of the School**.

- The year is off to a great start with great parent support.
- The administration is working on monthly goals and plans to focus work efforts aligned to the DES Vision Statement.
- The DES Vision Statement is: Dogwood Elementary School is an innovative, challenging, and safe learning environment that empowers each student to grow into a world changer.
- INNOVATION
  - Digging deep into technology. We exceeded our 5 year plan within 2 years.
  - STEM activities
  - Clubs (robotics, chess, drones, etc.) during school hours so all students (3-5) have access
- CHALLENGING
  - Curriculum (Eureka, Wit and Wisdom, Expeditionary Learning)
  - Teacher training
- SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
  - Looking into adding a wall at the main entrance so there are 2 doorways to pass through to gain entrance into the building.
  - Change to alarm system so doors can no longer be propped open.
  - Have met with GPD and state homeland security to review safety plans.
- WORLD CHANGERS
  - Particular area of focus this year.
  - Want to focus on 'kid voice' so students have a bigger voice. Have a committee of teachers working on it.

Mrs. Phillips discussed where we are now at Dogwood.

- Enrollment numbers:
  - Kindergarten - 159 students
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - 133 students
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - 193 students
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - 138 students
  - 4<sup>th</sup> - 154 students
  - 5<sup>th</sup> - 162 students
  - PreK - 13 students
- Last year's improvements included cafeteria renovations, library books and furniture, DES sign along Dogwood Road, upgrades to teachers' lounge, and teachers/administrators attending national conferences.
- This year \$40,428 was raised through Boosterthon which will go toward a new playground with 3 shaded areas.

Dr. Fisher discussed testing.

- DES uses Star testing, CASE benchmarks and TNReady.
- We can celebrate we are at a Level 5 for growth, new curriculums and new teachers.
- CASE

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- Reading – grades 3-5 show growth
- Math – all grades exceed district averages
- TN Ready for the District
  - Grades 3-5 ELA 66.7% above proficiency
  - Grades 3-5 Math 77% above proficiency
  - Grades 3-8 Science 85% above proficiency

Mrs. Schurtz discussed Title I.

- Title I provides for supplemental instructional services for students.
- The school improvement plan focuses on :
  - Reading
  - All block/guided reading
  - Special populations/RTI
  - Clubs
  - Student Voice
  - Safety

Mrs. Price reminded everyone of the upcoming events:

- Parent/teacher conferences
- Movie Night
- Book fair/literacy night
- Math night
- Dolphin Tale Ball
- Mother Son Dance
- Dolphinfest

The administrations thanked everyone for attending and made themselves available to questions.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45.