

Devon Elementary PTO
devonpto.org
Meeting Minutes—February 8, 2017 9:30AM

- Attendees: Cathy Rains, Raquel Murphy, Christine Jones, Laurie Nishimura, Tricia Jennings, Michele Seger, Kate Miller, Todd Parker, Tracy Przybylowski, Jen Gallagher, Shweta, Kara McMahon, Beth Fogarty
- Principal's Update—Dr. Parker
 - Art Goes to School week of 2/13
 - Valentine's Day - reminder that kids can't bring in any candy attached to the cards
 - Online conference scheduling is live. Ask parents to choose one teacher to meet with for each child. Karen Burns can help with scheduling if parents are unable to log in.
 - Thank you to Kate Miller for the Spirit Wear merchandise.
 - Go to TESD website homepage to make sure you are signed up for text all-calls for information about school closings.
 - Souper Bowl service project - over 2,000 pounds of food delivered to the food pantry
 - Kindergarten Math Night - we are hosting this year. Pizza and soft drinks have been requested from the PTO since we are hosting it this year. Raquel motioned to approve, Kate seconded, all approved the funding of \$300 to pay for the food and drinks.
 - Half-days are coming up for conferences. Reminder that there will be lunches provided for students on those days.
 - March 6th - class picture day.
- President's Report—Tracy Przybylowski
 - Approved January Minutes
 - Thank you to Beth Breault for Chairing the MLK Service Project.
 - Thank you to Cathy Rains, Marissa Campbell, Megan Hillier and Kate Miller for running the Mainline Camp Fair.
 - PTO President's Meeting on 1/23 - Upcoming community events: Wizards game is 3/23. TE Clothing Grab Bag 3/31 and April 1. Tech negotiating tech independence...Resiliency lessons for parents.

- o Superintendent raised issue with a proposal where school property tax will be eliminated and personal income tax and state sales tax will be increased. District is hoping they oppose the tax changes.
- Vice-President's Report- Raquel Murphy
 - Got a Minute Forms
- Treasurer's Report—Cathy Rains
 - Light month for spending. Camp Fair should meet budget. Parent-Social received two cash donations - \$200 from Devon Liberty and \$500 from Audi
 - School store is making a lot of money
 - Arts Express Week - Paid Walnut Street Theater for coordinator fee and their first installment
- Communications Report
 - Please give advance notice for blasts as the spring will be busy with events.
 - Going to add a link to our Dispatch and our website that will direct people to the TESD website for information about community organizations
 - admin@devonpto.org is the address that appears on email blasts. This address needs to be set up through GoDaddy to automatically forward to the PTO President, since it is an unmonitored email address. Cathy suggested that the PTO president sets up an email address, such as devonptopresident@gmail.com, that is specific for the president and that can be used by future presidents.
- Cultural Arts
 - Endowment Fund, Cathy Darlington is in charge. This was the original fundraising account that was set up to pay for Arts Express Week. As it grew, they decided to put fundraising money directly into the Cultural Arts budget instead of the endowment fund. In 2011, PTO decided to stop pulling interest income out of the fund, which helped build the fund more. Right now, the fund has \$93,000. Guidelines say that we are supposed to be soliciting for the fund and we are not currently doing that. Hallie O'Shea is helping to review the fund financials.

- Art Goes to School - Alexander Calder 3D sculpture, abstract art, portraits, landscapes. Looking for new members to join the committee if you like teaching and art. They teach in local elementary schools and some inner-city schools.
 - Chinese Festival - added 6 stations run by 40 volunteers. Went very well.
 - National Constitution Center - they thought assemblies were informative, but a little bit dry for the age of the students. Next year, maybe combine friends of valley forge with the const center
 - Almanac Dance Circus Theater - coming to Devon - Friday 3/24 7-8:30pm at VFMS
- Fundraising— Kara McMahon
 - Parent Social and Auction – Making hurricanes with student thumbprints for each class that will be auctioned off. Auctioning corn hole sets in Devon colors and the 4th grade one will have all of their signatures on it. Parent solicitation emails are going out today.
 - Handels Spirit Day April 19th
 - Ongoing – Box Tops letters went out a couple of weeks ago.
- Social Functions
 - DDIC update and One World Cultural Arts Event (Shweta Sivaraman) March 10th - \$500 corporate sponsorship from Gallup Technologies. 21 countries participating. Looking for USA, Canada, and Russia hosts. 9 countries participating in costume parade. 4th grade chorus will be performing. Fun, Food (50-75 finger foods), and Facts about the country.
 - Fourth grade yearbook (Jeong Duffy, Christiana Arnault, Kara Mikita, Erin Campbell, Gina Oliver)
- Issues Affairs and Programs— Jen Gallagher
 - Green Initiative – Still collecting toys for the spring fair. Collection box is in the lobby. (must be clean, in good shape and cannot go in mouth, ex. Whistles)
 - Interschool Council (ISC) update

- o World Language Curriculum discussion: Do we bring back a foreign language program in the elementary schools? Elementary school principals are not in favor of bringing back the old program. In order to bring it back, it would need to meet three times per cycle. Replacement options to free up time blocks - 1. take one extra special day away, 2. use flex core time, 3. social studies, science, language arts, PATHS - take one session out/cycle. Additional cost for teachers - \$648,000 and 8 full time teachers. It was decided that this is not something they want to do right now.
- o Computer Technology Review: We used to have an Applied Tech program at Devon. Currently, we have no full-time teachers doing technology. Aides teach keyboarding in grade 3 and 4. We have the mac cart used in the classroom at teacher request. Digital citizenship classes conducted by the district. We would have to modify the special rotation cycle to add a Tech class. Pros to bring back - would not impact core instruction and provide essential tech skills. Cons - reduction of special areas; requires 3 full-time educators, cost of \$243,000. No decision has been made at this time.
- o Next ISC meeting is Feb. 8 at 7pm.
- o Dr. Parker mentioned that based on population projections, we will lose a science classroom next year. School district options are to keep status quo, build new school, expand current facilities, or redistrict students to create equitable enrollment.
- ARCH - Negotiating their Tech Dependency is the next evening presentation topic for elementary school parents. Weds, March 29 7-8:30pm at Hillside. Lisa Lukens will be the primary speaker. Discussion will focus on children's dependency on technology, how to manage it, safe apps, how to restrict your child's access, etc.
- T & E Care - Clothing collection drive will go out in the next blast.
- After School Clubs - 10 Clubs - 8pm evening online enrollment on most likely Feb. 21 or Feb. 22. Clubs will run from March 6 through April 7
- School Services-Kate Miller
 - School Store is up and running
 - Spirit wear now online. We just added adult sizes. The sale closes on Feb. 19th.
 - Publishing center is still looking for a new publisher