

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL PTA

September 23, 2009 – MINUTES

CONTACT THE DTS PTA AT DTSPTA@HOTMAIL.COM

Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

I) **Call to Order**

In attendance: S Rosenberg, S Falk, K Falk, K Hart, TJ Tirendi, T Berkowitz, J Badore, K Eastman, K Zimm, R Brenner, M Knappe, C Terranova, T Apostolis, K Bokach, J Mongelli, P Hanna, B Berardo, B Deene, A Zeloof, P Ryan, E Ventimiglia, J Colalillo, T Bruhl, L Davis, B Benta, P Spurrell, A Petrosino, V Kirk

II) **President's Welcome and Remarks**

- a) Introduced Executive Committee

III) **Officer's Reports**

- a) President – discussed summer work of preparing the mailing & First Day Packet, organizing Teacher Luncheon, New Student Reception, Childcare Program, ShopRite gift card program. All before the first day of school!!
- b) Vice-president ES – pointed out that membership is going well. Revenue is higher than same time last year, because of dues increase to \$10.
- c) Vice-president MS – pointed out that focus will be less on assemblies, and more on student & teacher driven initiatives, such as the childcare program, to develop leadership.
- d) Treasurer – discussed budget handout, explained various line items and answered questions. In the October meeting members will vote on the budget. Box Tops program: we will receive \$250 from the box tops we sent in. Cutting them out is tedious (maybe a parent volunteer can help).
- e) Secretary – discussed volunteering for the Book Fair, and reminded families to get contact info. In to the email for the Directory ASAP

IV) **Committee Reports - Description of the different committees**

Committees are currently co-chaired by one Board member and one member. There is crossover between committees. All are invited to become involved with a committee. Just speak with any Board member to learn more.

- a) Communications Committee Liza Davis & _____
- b) Finance Committee Janice Badore & _____
- c) Elementary School Committee Tom Bruhl & Peg Hanna
- d) Middle School Committee Karen Falk & Elaine DeWan

Report by Adam Zeloof and Cindy Terranova: This year there is a “Sense of Community” initiative, to be worked on during MI. Each grade selects a service project from a student-generated list (6th gr.: plant trees, green light bulbs, packages for seniors, car wash, paint murals; 7th gr.: cards for Iraqi soldiers & kids, decorate senior housing; 8th gr.: list forthcoming). Teachers are excited, PTA Committees are working together. Student council committee includes: Pres. Derek Gibbs, VP Kwasnik, Sec’y Abbey Cahill, and Treas. Christian Berardo

- e) Events Committee Jeannie Colalillo & _____

V) Open discussion

Did people like the summer mailing? Comments included: No school stuff in summer, too many words, can we reduce paper?, can we use DTS website more effectively? Listserv addresses are updated separately from the family info. sent in Sept. Can DTS put a topic in the subject line so we know it is a backpack flyer vs. a PTA notice, for ex.?

No Gift Wrap fundraiser with declining revenues and economy, PTA didn't want to ask for more money.

Ideas for fundraisers? Food fundraisers? Can we bring back winter greens? We have been discussing an indoor carnival – a “fun” raiser event. Volunteering intensive the night of the event. Maybe the middle school can help run some games. Can be an opportunity for 5th graders.

Can the PTA do more to draw new parents into the DTS community? Eileen Ventimiglia pointed out the summer orientation, and that it is good to attend meetings and volunteer for activities. There were about 12-13 new families to the district, over and above the new kindergarten families. Can we revive the Buddy-Up Program (a great idea in spirit, but never very popular in practice). Pat Ryan commented that it feels good to be invited to something, rather than jumping in on your own. Maybe PTA can set up a Fall welcome activity? Rose Brenner noted that there have been a lot of changes since her older kids graduated.

Homeroom Parent program Beth and Kathleen are interested in this, and Pat Ryan invited them to work with her to develop a program. We'd need to clarify what the intention of such a program would be. Pat Ryan would like to explore the formalization of this type of program.

VI) Old Business

Eileen Ventimiglia thanked the PTA for the **Teacher Luncheon**.

DTS PTA Cookbooks we will sell at all events.

Spiritwear DTS clothing – lots of long and short sleeved t-shirts. We are in the process of selecting a new vendor. It will be an online store and we will be able to order at set times during the year. We won't have to inventory the merchandise.

VII) New Business

Budget Please read through the budget. We will send it home again before the next meeting, at which time we will vote to pass the budget.

Programs for Parents Eileen Ventimiglia offered to help set up programs for parents at the meetings, for example, on cyberbullying. It was commented that parents are so pressed for time, and evenings are so hard. We discussed possible morning or early weekend activities.

VIII) Reminders & Upcoming Events

- a) **Next meeting:** October 14, 2009 at 7:00 pm
- b) **Scholastic Book Fair** October 5-9 *plenty of room to volunteer!*
- c) **Family Movie Night** Friday October 16 (movie to be voted on by kids shortly)

IX) Adjourn