

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL PTA

January 13, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Communicate with the DTSPTA by emailing us at dtspta@hotmail.com

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

I) Call to Order Present: Jeannine Calhoun, Roseann Nguyen, Jill Mongelli, Beth Benta, Marla Knappe, Peg Hanna, Janice Badore, Jeannie Colalillo, Tom Bruhl, Liza Davis, Karen Falk, Pat Ryan

II) President's Welcome and Remarks

III) Presentations none scheduled

IV) Motion to approve December meeting minutes

Jill Mongelli moved, Janice Badore seconded, all in favor, 0 opposed or abstained.

V) Officer's Reports

- a) President Jeannie Colalillo Karen Falk's resignation letter was read by Sec'y.
- b) Vice-president ES – Tom Bruhl Latin American Assembly went well. Kids were excited. Banana Slug String Band is scheduled for 3/29 – has a Green theme.
- c) Vice-president MS – no report
- d) Treasurer – Janice Badore Several items were discussed:
 - For the TV Studio: \$600 for a tripod, \$1300 for a teleprompter from technology funds. Janice will get funds to the BOE.
 - BoxTops-we redeemed \$600 through October. Thanks to volunteers for help clipping
 - Cultural Assembly change of funds allocation: currently 100% from Elem. school budget. Propose to change it to 1/3 from MS. 2/3 from ES budgets. Tom Bruhl moved, Marla Knappe seconded, all in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.
 - Roseann Nguyen – reports that the ShopRite giftcard program is going well, both in it's administration and sales. We had a good holiday season.
- e) Secretary – Liza Davis
Upcoming Events:
Book Fair, March 8-12 and Teacher Preview 3/5 - volunteer email will be out in Feb.
Movie night – dates are being considered
Family Fun night cancelled
Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, Tuesday May 4 – Marla Knappe will chair
Field Day, Friday, June 11 will be run jointly with the Phys. Ed. Dep't. We won't be having a barbeque – we just don't have enough volunteers. Mrs. Ryan suggested that she'd ask Mascio Foodservice if they can do something special, like a box lunch.

VI) Standing Committee Reports [none given separate from reports herein]

VII) Board of Education report

- There is a vacancy on the Board of Education. Some names have been submitted.
- There is a budget gap of about \$450,000, due to a steep rise in healthcare benefit costs, a contract increase, and possible costs associated with the new charter school.
- The budget cap of 4% (\$250,000) is not enough to cover these three items.
- The board's goal is to have not cuts in staff or programs.
- The next three board meetings (1/26, 2/23, 3/23 tentative) will open at three to hear comments in forum format from parents and community. After, there will be a public hearing. The PTA will arrange for childcare; requests need to be in the Friday before.

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VIII) Principal's Report

- *Thanks to the PTA for the musical cultural assembly.*
- *We have a "guided reading" initiative at DTS. Consultants are working with K-3 teachers to connect reading to writing, and with 4th-5th grade teachers on reading groups and reading for meaning.*
- *Math text selection – State of NJ asked schools not to select new texts before state standards were finalized. We will have a vendor fair with publishers showing class & text mat'ls to teachers.*
- *Spring 2009 Test Scores – many concerns about scores. [Presentations about this have been given at previous PTA meetings, as PAC and at BOE meetings. These notes will be brief]. Board has asked Mrs. Ryan to look into: 1. how we compare with the other HS sending districts, and 2. how we can improve all scores, especially the one grade. In November, Mrs. Ryan presented her findings to the Board. A multi-faceted approach was recommended to address these scores. We will order test materials called NJ PASS, which will help younger students get used to the standardized testing environment. Also, it is scored which will help DTS identify weak areas early. This will be given before the NJASK in May. Also, grades 3-5 will have another kind of practice tests, the results of which will help develop "data driven instruction".*

Question – Does the change in the governor mean a change in the State Dep't of Education? The commissioner will likely be new, but we don't know about policy changes yet.

Question – Do other Hunterdon schools use NJPASS? East Amwell does, Readington doesn't, don't know about Flemington.

IX) DTEA Report *no report*

X) Discussion

XI) Old Business

XII) New Business

- *The Large Foundation sent a check for \$750. We have always used it to match the Leslie Watts Scholarship, but last year we did not match and felt it could be used to help current students. (Mr Watts selects the kids who receive the Watts Scholarship – any HS senior who graduated from DTS who makes some commitment to community service. We would just pass the money through to students selected).*
- *Steering Committee – anyone interested in being on the email list, see Liza Davis.*

XIII) Reminders & Upcoming Events

NEXT MEETING: Wed., February 10, 2010 at 7:00 (babysitting requests must be emailed by noon Friday, February 5, 2010).

XIV) Adjourn *Motion by Tom Bruhl, Janice Badore seconded, no objections or abstentions.*

Thanks to a generous grant from the Susan and Chelsea Makara Foundation, DTS PTA is pleased to offer complimentary child care services to those who pre-register. Pre-registration requests must be emailed to dtspta@hotmail.com on or before 12 noon, the Friday before the date of the event with names and ages of children. Kindly note we cannot accept children younger than 2-years-old. Pre-registration confirmations will be emailed to those whose requests are received prior to the deadline and for whom places are available -- please bring a copy of your email confirmation to the event.