

Dale Street PTO Meeting

January 12, 2021

Welcome and Introductions: Steve Grenham (Principal), Maureen Dodge (5th grade Co-President), Karen Seitz (4th grade Co-President), Paula Pacheco (Vice-President), Lindsay Rogers (co-Treasurer), Jill Werner (Secretary), Kelly Wyscoki (co-Treasurer and Hospitality co-chair) and Inger Kenworthy (Hospitality co-chair),

3rd Dale Street PTO meeting of the 2020-21 school year, held virtually via Zoom call.

MCPE Update: Karen Seitz

-MCPE has cut their grant cycles from 4 to 3 this year.

-There were 4 Grants approved at 1st grant review meeting in November: Ladibug document cameras, Presenter Sarah Ward, Wheelock Redcat microphones, and Blake- Hybrid 2.0 (investment in helpful software)

-Virtual Trivia Night Fundraiser is planned for January 30th and is sold out.

-Numerous board members are rolling off MCPE Board this year, so they are accepting applications for new board members. It involves a 3 year commitment.

Hospitality Update: Inger Kenworthy

-Dale's Hospitality co-chairs are working closely with hospitality teams at Memorial and Wheelock--sharing best practices and aligning some of their events for staff

-Jodi Bills reached out to local business, Cutlets, about helping create individualized meals for the Winter Holiday luncheons.

-Staff members were very happy with meals that Cutlets provided. There were allergy-friendly offerings from Twist as well

-Snack stations have been another popular treat for staff. They are typically low cost and often result in leftovers.

-Inger asks Steve if he's ready for another Snack Station set-up for staff. Feedback was good--teachers loved it so will plan to set up another one sometime before February break

Financial Report: Lindsay Rogers

-Lindsay goes over financial reports showing the approved budget and expenses incurred so far this 2020-21 school year. A little over \$6,000 in expenses have been incurred.

-Lindsay explains the percentage-wise spending goal for Dale PTO's funds in a typical year compared to the actual percentage breakdown of spending so far this year. (These percentage breakdowns are done across the elementary schools to create the appropriate balance of spending at the different schools.)

-In a typical year, Dale PTO aims to spend 3% on administration costs, 26% on staff expenses, and 71% on students.

-So far this year, the Dale PTO has spent 3.5% on administration costs, 78% on staff expenses and 15% on students. (The student expenditure has included playground equipment, lanyards, and a small room parent distribution)

-Going forward, we would like to find ways to spend more money on the students. Field trips and enrichment programming in the form of in-school presentations and performances are not happening so that's a big portion of the budget that has been untouched.

-As a board, we would like to come up with ways to provide academic material updates, virtual enrichment programming, morale boosting events in this 2nd half of the school year.

-Paula Pacheco has volunteered to take on the role of Virtual Program Coordinator. She will reach out to grade level leaders at Dale to share a brainstorm of student-focused investment ideas that the PTO has come up with. She will ask for teacher feedback as to what would be most helpful for the students this year-- new academic or indoor recess/break materials, enrichment programs that support learning areas in the classroom, or fun morale boosting activities to help the students keep up their spirits in this different school year.

Principal Update: Steve Grenham

- Steve shares about the upcoming transitions happening in the next week to increase synchronous learning time to meet new state mandates. Information is limited at this time as administrators and staff await the completion of negotiations on Thursday.

-More information will be coming out at the end of the week, once Thursday negotiations are complete and teachers are able to use Friday's professional day to plan the roll out of increased synchronous learning time .

-Dale's tech integrationist, Joe Ahern, has been excellent in keeping Dale's technology needs updated and ready to take on increased usage. He is in touch with colleagues in other districts, learning about their best practices.

-The CARES Act funds were used to get updated microphones, cameras and MacBooks for the classrooms---these should be helpful with increased usage.

-The new technology upgrades and experiences will have benefits beyond this challenging school year.

-Steve thanks the PTO for recently purchased recess bags. The kids have loved the new materials for outside play.

-Steve also shares thanks for the holiday luncheon which was well-received by all.

-Forward movement continues with the new Dale St Project. The team will be visiting 2 schools for building ideas and inspiration. Vote on the new project should be sometime in the fall with a hopeful opening date for the New Dale in September of 2024.

-Lastly, Steve reports that the kids are awesome. They're working hard, they're compliant with COVID guidelines, and most importantly, they're very happy while at school.

New Business:

Virtual Programming Chairperson: Paula Pacheco has volunteered to take on this role. Hoping to find some programming in the realm of multicultural awareness, social emotional issues, or science/social studies topics

Yearbook: Nicole Saulnier is heading this project. Would love support as it has been a tough year to collect photos with the limited in-school time.

Talent Show: Meg Cabezud, who does not currently have a student at Dale, has volunteered to help out with a virtual Dale Talent Show. We'd like to find a Dale parent to join in helping coordinate this fun activity for the kids.

Book Fair: Jill Werner discussed the Virtual Book Fair with Bookfair co-chair, Mary Macinnes, and Literacy Coordinator, Jamee Callahan. We originally were going to try to hold the book fair in early February, but it was decided that we would hold off until the spring. Hopeful that the spring timeline will bring about successful sales. Our goal is to have great book lists available for families as well as for classrooms.

Townwide Hearts:--a lawn heart program is being considered by the Townwide PTO. More details to come.

Next meeting via Zoom: Tuesday, March 9th at 9:15 AM via Zoom