

**DeBakey HSHP PTA Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2016
DeBakey High School Library**

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: Jonathan Jackson, Lana Boutwell, , Matt Konvicka, Shiv Pathak
Teacher and Parents: Christina Konvicka, Shengyi Li, Stephanie Russell, Cheryl Leary, Laura Marsh, M. Hayes, Michael Nottingham, Melissa Cox, Diane Franz, Oian Zhang, Rohini Varghese, Frances Brooks, David Schleff, Rita Willoughby, Verlonda Smith, Juan Salazar, Lyra Reid, Stephanie Russell, Gloria Villa Diaz, Stan Bujnowski, Mary Bujnowski, Sharon Cummmings, Risa Myers, Dave McMillan, David Dang, Sandra Ahlhorn (31 people total)

President, Jonathan Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Department Presentation by Social Studies Department – This department’s teachers explained how they are preparing expectations for incoming students and parent. They spoke of best instructional practices for students, considering not all are as prepared that they could be. One thing they plan to do is to lower the class sizes to 20 which they expect to help with instructional success. To achieve this, they will be cutting down on AP offerings as electives as well as eliminating some of the less popular classes. AP courses are time consuming for students and teachers due to the large number of essays required so they are trying to find ways to reduce stress as much as possible. With that being said, they would like parent to encourage their students to take AP courses if they are interested in that topic or if they really want to take it and not only to increase GPA. If students struggle with writing, they suggest increasing fiction reading during the summer and building up skills with AP English during junior year. Previous years AP test questions are released and available for review to give upcoming students an idea of what to expect.

Please email teaches with specific questions, you can expect a response within 24 hours.

Principal’s Report by Agnes Perry – The ribbon cutting ceremony is not set yet since she needs to make sure that building is ready. At this time, the permits have not been issued by city. If they do not come in on time, we may need to push this to the fall. Currently the move still planned first week of June.

2017 Graduation will be held at TSU on Saturday 5/27. It will begin at 10:00 am, but are asking students to arrive by 9:00 am.

Tomorrow is early dismissal and on Go Texan Day, students will be allowed to wear their western attire.

Field day is fast approaching and we need parents to serve ice cream starting at 10:00. Please contact Cheryl Ford if you can help. PTA to purchase ice cream.

End of course exams for English 1 and English 2 will be held on March 28th and 30th. Cycle 5 ends March 31 due to the calendar it was only 5 weeks. All other cycles are 6 weeks in length.

Tutorials are still available and as a reminder, students do not have to go to their specific teacher.

Teacher appreciation week is the first week of May. A Luncheon will be schedule before school gets out.

This year not issuing a class ranking schedule due to our top 25-30 percent are 4.0 and above. Only issuing GPA for college applications. For graduation purposes, the students have been ranked but final ranking will be issued in June as sometimes there are slight adjustments.

Membership Report by Jonathan Jackson– Jonathan would like to welcome new members. Katheryn is but preparing for next year with new incentives for the incoming freshman class.

Treasurer's Report by Matt Konvicka – A conservative budget is finally done. Department request are low this year and that is likely due to them waiting for move. Money not spent this year will be held over to next year, giving them more than what is normally earmarked. Clubs budgets will remain the same as the current year. Class fund includes a \$1,500.00 allocation for each class.

We've raised the budget for teacher appreciation activities due to an increase in number of lunches and that the PTA needs to cater in food or main dish. Some parents were concerned that the increase was still not enough. A motion was made to increase teacher lunch budget to \$600.00 for next year, but currently we are unsure of how many luncheons we are going to have. This topic was abled until March PTA meeting.

Uniform Report by Jonathan Jackson– There has been a push to get more PE shirts, so preorders were taken and delivered. Of the preorders, about half did not show up to pick up shirts. Martha contacted those who didn't pick up and have delivered most of them. The new school has a storage room which will be available to the PTA for inventory items. It has been viewed and shelving needs are currently being planned. That room will also act as our school store.

New business:

New school concerns: Ms. Perry is still working on having the floors in the new building repaired. She is also working on having new bleachers installed which will allow for the complete student body to be together at one time. Update to come in March.

Open House – At the current time this date is pending, due to permits and readiness of school

Fundraiser – We expect two fundraisers at the new school. One being selling engraved pavers and the second would be an art instillation on one of the outside walls. Sandra Ahlhorn and other PTA members are working on these two campaigns. This is something that can be carried over to 45th anniversary event in the fall of 2017. We did receive an offer from the University of Houston School of Architecture to design the alumni wall, but we have neither the timeframe

or cost other than they would like to be reimbursed for supplies. If you have a suggestion, we are always looking for new fundraising ideas.

DeBakey 45 celebration – TBD Fall 2017 – please be thinking of how you can help out.

President, Jonathan Jackson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the DeBakey High School Library.