

DeBakey HSHP PTA Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2016
DeBakey High School Library

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: Jonathan Jackson, Lana Boutwell, Shiv Pathak, Matt Konvicka, Vincent Sanders **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 6:31 p.m.

Department Presentation by Foreign Language (LOTE) Department – Our LOTE teachers explained their teaching philosophy and showed a video compiled from classroom presentations, along with student “voice on” activities. Many of our students are naturally bi-lingual and are therefore learning a third language.

Principal’s Report by Agnes Perry – Ms. Perry asked us to recognize Ms. Rodriguez, who is our technology expert on campus. She is currently working on updating teacher software, upgrading laptops to windows 10, introducing a new grading system, working towards online testing for coursework and STAAR. There is also a new grading system for teachers to enter grades which should integrate with PSConnect. This year only Algebra 1 has an online STAAR exam, next year all STAAR test to be done online. With all this new online testing teachers are concerned about security of assignments and tests. But they like the idea of giving immediate feedback to students by way of online. Parents were concerned that they are not getting all of the information they need to help their child succeed and it was explained that some teachers only use one note, others only use the hub, while other send home paper copies. Ms. Rodriguez is trying to fine common medium. Our teachers are working on learning new technology even though some like to be “old school”. Some students have expressed that they prefer paper and seem to be a bit resistant to too much technology where school work is concerned. Ms. Rodriguez is concerned with the loss of cognitively when you lose the learning aspect of pen and paper, but is confident that pen and paper skills will be used in other assignments. She asked that parents remember that colleges are mostly a paperless environment, so it is important to get them ready. Parents asked about how the get more accurate and timely announcements. Ms. Rodriguez stated that there is a parent component to the hub which will hopefully be coming in the next school year. Also, the new building will have monitors with announcements scrolling throughout the day. Our SDMC (Shared Decision Making Committee) will review the current dress code, cell phone policy and discipline policy to determine if changed should or can be made for the new school year.

Ms. Perry announced that all early dismissal days for next year will be on Fridays.

She also thanked parents who volunteered for Field day. After a recount, it was determined that the 10th grade class won the Spirit Award, the 11th grade class won overall, and that yes indeed, the 9th grade class beat the Seniors in volleyball.

Ms. Perry is still Lobbying assistance to deal with the floors and bleachers in the new school. She does not expect a remedy for the bleachers, but expects HISD to pay for new flooring put on top of the current concrete floors.

Membership Report by Katheryn Marrero– She wanted to make sure that everyone understands that 100% of the money raised is spent on DeBakey needs. Those who want their child’s name on the marquee in recognition of their birthday can see her after the meeting. She assures everyone that the marquee has been repaired.

Treasurer’s Report by Matt Konvicka – This month we spent most of our money on ice cream for field day. We still do not have any additional request from teachers. We are still waiting for Senior class expenses to come. We have some HOSA students going to state, and to help offset their expenses, we will give them \$1,500.00. Due to that large amount, we don’t plan to give to funds for nationals, if they make it. We will contribute \$150.00 for 3 students to participate in History day. We will be buying uniforms during the summer for next year.

Uniform Report by Jonathan Jackson– Currently we are just trying to prepare for the upcoming move and next school year.

Fundraising Report by Vincent Saunders – There will be fundraising events during the Open House on June 2nd. There will be more information at the April PTA meeting with more detail on pavers and alumni wall. Fundraising will be working on events at 45th anniversary. Please remember that some firms offer matching funds when you donate to a 501c3, please inquire with your company.

Volunteer Report by Jonathan Jackson - PTA needs some assistance at “Signing” day, March 29, 2017 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. We need people to meet and greet, help sign up new members, and with uniform sales.

New business:

These items will be discussed more at the April meeting.

Plans for Ribbon cutting & Open House, with a tentative date of Friday, June 2nd. The exact time is still to be determined.

Plans for a summer “Meet & Greet” for freshmen parents. If you would like to be involved, let Jonathan know.

Plans for a FISH Camp, to be spearheaded by Administration, Staff & the Sophomore class.

DeBakey 45th anniversary celebration, currently slated for the afternoon of Friday, October 20th, which is the same day as the Scientific Symposium. October 20th is also a half day.

Alumni wall/Paver fundraising campaign

Election plans for 2017-2018 PTA board – nomination will be taken in April and a vote will be held in May. Please consider what type of PTA involvement you plan to have for next school year.

April 27th will be our spring teacher appreciation luncheon. La Madeline will provide the main course with parents providing the side dishes and desserts.

If you are not getting emails from DeBakey please see the attendance secretary, but if you are not getting emails from the PTA, please see Kathryn Marrero.

President, Jonathan Jackson adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m. The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the DeBakey High School Library.