

DeBakey High School PTO

September 2018 General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, and Location: Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria **Meeting called to order by** President Nellie Naidoo at 6:30 p.m.

Board members present: Nellie Naidoo, Vincent Sanders, Sandra Ahlhorn, David McMillan, Irma Aguilar, Daniella Guzman, Mary Bujnowski, Marisa Fiorita, Ziba Mehra. (Not sure about others because I don't have sign in sheet.) Quorum was reached. No special guests in attendance.

Introduction: Present PTO officers and parents in attendance introduced themselves briefly.

President's report: given by Nellie Naidoo

- Welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Requested feedback and suggestions from parents and stated that we are all in this together. She said she has a great board and she is confident we will all work hard for the best interest of the school, staff and the students.
- Informed parents that there is a group of special ed students at DeBakey this year. She asked that we welcome them as a part of our DeBakey family. She reinforced the fact that she wants everyone to feel welcomed to attend the meetings and be involved. Consequently, the communications chairperson, Sandra Alhorn, has set up the website so that you may select a different language in case needed. She thanked Sandra for her efforts.
- We are a Title 1 school which means we are entitled to receive additional funding. She asked parents to please be sure they return the blue form that had been sent home since the information shared on this form would impact students receiving free services and school funds.
- HISD has contracted an independent company to improve food services. We receive funds everytime a child scans their card or uses their id number to obtain a meal. Therefore, we are being discouraged from selling food, such as Chick-fil-A. A parent stated that offering the kids something outside of the school from time to time was viewed as a treat to and shouldn't be taken away completely. Ms. Naidoo said the board would vote on this.

Principal's report: given by Ms. Perry

- DeBakey was designated as a National Blue Ribbon school for 2018. We are 1 of 349 schools in the country and 1 of 24 in Texas to receive this honor. She asked that we thank Dean Shargey for her diligence in making this happen.
- A list of important dates was distributed.

- She asked parents to please check Gradespeed to be aware of how their child is doing at school.
- She discussed how tutorials are available at different times during the day and specified what was needed to attend. If a student is failing they will be placed in tutorials for additional help. She mentioned some of the top students attend tutorials and she doesn't want students to view tutorials as something negative. Parents were asked to please confirm with the school that their child is actually attending the tutorials if they don't see an improvement in their grades.
- We have 10 special ed students at DeBakey this year ranging from age 18-20. She asked all students make them feel welcomed at the school.
- Ms. Perry reiterated the importance of the blue form being turned in and stated that Title 1 funds were used to pay for tutorials and summer school. If parents aren't sure if they turned their form in they should email Ms. Whiting at mwhiting@houstonisd.org
- Kids are being offered free breakfast and lunch everyday.

Membership: given by Marisa Fiorita

- Currently 183 parents have signed up to be a PTO member. Membership is free and you can sign up online at debakeypto.org
- We have received 38 donations thus far. We have collected almost \$3000.
- Donations are needed and appreciated. You may donate online at debakeypto.org
- Some companies, such as Exxon, will double your donation. Parents were encouraged to inquire about this.

Communications: given by Sandra Ahlhorn

- Website update- a resource tab will be added
- We are starting a monthly newsletter. If there is any important information you'd like to share, please email Sandra directly at communications@debakeypto.org
- If you are not receiving emails from the PTO, please notify Sandra.

Treasurer: given by David McMillan

- A current report was distributed and reviewed.

Fundraising: given by Vincent Sanders

- Asked parents to please be sure they sign in on both sign in sheets, PTO and Title 1.
- Fundraising ideas are being brainstormed. If you have any suggestions, please email Vincent at fundraising@debakeypto.org

- We are currently using Amazon Smile as a way of helping raise money. However, we have collected a small amount so far. There are some peculiarities that Matt (previous president) explained.
- There are tax deduction forms available for any donation you give to the school. We plan to add this to the PTO website in the future. If needed, please contact Mr. Sanders.

Uniforms: given by Mary Bujnowski

- Thank you for your purchases and support.
- A new order should be coming in on September 21st.
- They'll start selling to the students starting next week during lunch the 1st Friday of every month. Website will be updated with these dates.

Volunteer Dept.: given by Nellie Naidoo (chairperson not in attendance)

- We are looking for a Fall Festival and Field Day Chair. Please let us know if you're interested.
- For upcoming volunteer opportunities a sign up genius will be posted on the PTO website continuously and also included in emails. A parent asked if we use Rallyhood? Ms. Naidoo said we currently do not, but are open to ideas and to please speak to her after the meeting. The parent liaisons for each grade will be in charge of communicating any information specific to their grade level.

College Night Event: given by Marisa Fiorita

- College Night is on October 11th.
- The PTO will be providing the recruiters with a meal as an expression of our gratitude for them joining us on college night. There are close to 100 recruiters expected to attend.
- **Next meeting is 10/9/18 at 8:30 a.m. in the MMR**
- **Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.**
- **Minutes compiled by Daniella Guzman, PTO Secretary**