

DeBakey High School PTO

November 2018 General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, and Location: Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the school MMR

Meeting called to order by President Nellie Naidoo at 6:39 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. One special guest in attendance- Dr. Campbell Brogdon.

Introduction: Nellie welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming despite the weather and gave a special thank you to Dr. Campbell Brogdon. Nellie presented Dr. Brogdon with a gift to show our appreciation for her time and expertise.

President's report: given by Nellie Naidoo

- Thanked everyone that donated to the fall festival and dance or volunteered their time, especially the chairs for making these events a great success. Wished everyone an enjoyable winter break. Our next meeting will be in the new year.
- The HISD Special Olympics have been postponed due to the cold weather. Our special education students will be participating in this event. The PTO donated t-shirts for them to represent DeBakey. If any students or families would like to attend this event once it is rescheduled to support our students, it will be greatly appreciated. We will keep you posted.
- Ms. Naidoo clarified her role as PTO President. She says she has been receiving a lot of emails in regards to complaints about a teacher. These types of issues must be handled by the administration. The PTO president is here to support everyone, but she cannot step in to manage such circumstances.
- The treasurer is not here tonight, (he arrived late) but the treasurer's report is on the PTO website and parents are welcome to review it at anytime as well as reach out to the treasurer or president with questions.
- Some of the parents have been working on the idea of a donation wall since last year. We are considering a molecule design. Ms. Perry is working diligently on this. Ms. Naidoo is working on partnerships to help us with funding. She is in contact with hospitals and local businesses.
- Mr. Sanders is also working on ideas for school fundraising and will update in the future.
- Please invite any 8th grade families you know to our upcoming open house.
- Important upcoming dates:

Next PTO meeting January 8th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

8th Grade Open House November 28, 2018 at 6 p.m.

National Honor Society Induction November 29th, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Principal's report: given by Ms. Perry

- DeBaKey was designated as a National Blue Ribbon school for 2018. The plaque is on display. The flag is currently draped over the banister. The banner will soon be put up. This is our 4th year being designated. We are only 1 out of 2 schools to have received this honor 4 times. We should all be very proud of this accomplishment. Ms. Perry was in Washington D.C. last week to formally accept the designation.
- A list of important dates was distributed. (Please see attachment) Ms. Perry commented on these events.
 - 1.) All parents are welcome to come to the student talent show this Friday. The performances start at 2, but please arrive at least 15 mins. early and check in at the front office.
 - 2.) Flu shots will be distributed on November 14th. Permission slips should have already been turned in. If you are still interested, but haven't sent in your child's permission slip, please see the nurse first thing in the morning and see if it's possible.
 - 3.) 9th – 12th grade students are encouraged to attend the financial aid seminar on November 15th at 6 p.m. It's never too early to start preparing for college.
 - 4.) Final Exams will be held between Dec. 17th-20th. There will be early dismissal on these days.
 - 5.) There is an 11th grade field trip on Nov. 30th. Chaperones are needed. If interested, please email SNIAVES@houstonisd.org
 - 6.) Blue Bell ice cream will be distributed to students on Dec. 14th during lunch.
 - 7.) The Thanksgiving holiday is next week from Nov. 19th- the 23rd. Ms. Perry is going to ask the teachers to not give out any major assignments over the break. However, it is a good idea for students to get ahead if possible.
- Magnet tours are still taking place. **The deadline for the first round of applications is on Dec. 7th, 2018.** Due to the high number of applications DeBaKey receives anyone that doesn't apply by this date will not be a potential candidate for the school.
- Ms. Perry encourages students to attend tutorials. She has noticed that there are about 50 kids that stay after school to hang out. If there's a possibility that your child could be staying after school, but not attending tutorials you can verify with the front office. Parents were asked to please confirm that their child is attending tutorials if they don't see an improvement in their grades.

- Please feel free to email her with questions. She will do her best to reply promptly.

Membership: given by Marisa Fiorita

- Currently 201 parents have signed up to be a PTO member. Membership is free, and you can sign up online at www.debakeypto.org
- We have collected \$4,471. in donations thus far.
- Vincent Sanders commented that he will help the membership committee distribute thank you letters to parents that have donated. This can be used for tax purposes.

Communications: given by Sandra Ahlhorn

- 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.

Uniforms: given by Mary Bujnowski

- Heavy jackets will be in before winter break.
- We are fully stocked and will continue to sell uniforms. We are aware that many freshman students will need PE shirts for the 2nd semester.

Special Guest: Dr. Campbell Brogdon shared a power point presentation called, "A Parent Lens to Parent Teacher Conferences." In this presentation she discussed:

- 1.) How to prepare for a parent teacher conference
- 2.) What to expect from such a conference
- 3.) The benefits of a parent teacher conference

Dr. Brogdon discussed learning styles and how to find out your child's learning style and use this to their advantage. Everyone learns differently and there is great benefit in learning about what works best for you. She shared resources for parents and discussed the importance of our child's self esteem and what we must provide in order for our students to thrive and be successful individuals. (Please see the attachment of the power point presentation.)

- **Next meeting is** 1/8/19 at 6:30 p.m. in the MMR
- **Meeting adjourned at** 7:40 p.m.
- **Minutes compiled by** Daniella Guzman, PTO Secretary