

**DeBakey High School PTO
February 2019 General Meeting Minutes**

Date, Time, and Location: Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the school MMR

Meeting called to order by President Nellie Naidoo at 6:36 p.m.

Board members present: Nellie Naidoo, Vincent Sanders, Sandra Ahlhorn, Irma Aguilar, Meredith Bryant, Daniella Guzman, Mary Bujnowski, David McMillan. (Not sure about others because I don't have sign in sheet.) Quorum was reached.

Introduction: Nellie welcomed everyone, thanked the board and parents for all contributions.

President's report: given by Nellie Naidoo

- Updated proposal for magnet funding in HISD. Parents from all 9 districts, Principals and committee leaders are part of the magnet committee. With the new proposal, within the next 3-4 years magnet funding will be removed from our schools. Elementary schools will have themes, middle school entry will be done by lottery and high schools will have a matrix. Fine art schools, like HSPVA, will have auditions.
- With PUA funds being cut DeBakey will lose approximately \$224,000. which is equivalent to about 3 to 4 teachers. There is a committee that will be traveling to Austin on March 11th to speak about education funding. Please call your local representatives and let them know how this affects you as a taxpayer.
- PTO elections are coming up. A nominating committee will be formed. If anyone is interested in a position, please let us know. Everyone is welcome to participate. If more than one person is interested in the same position, there will be a vote at April's meeting.
- We will be hosting our first chess tournament on April 6th, just confirmed. This will be a fundraiser for the PTO.
- Important upcoming dates:

Next PTO meeting March 19th, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

Principal's report: given by Ms. Perry

- Ms. Perry asked parents to please reach out to their local legislators in regard to funds being cut. A parent asked if there are any links or information as far as whom we should contact. Nellie Naidoo said she would put something together and an email will go out.
- Ms. Perry commented on these events.
 - 1.) A practice test will be given to 9th graders tomorrow. It is just practice. There are many students failing math (Geometry and Algebra 2). A math tutorial will

- be held on Saturday, Feb. 23rd for those that need it by invite. Please encourage your children to attend.
- 2.) The Health Science teachers are seeking volunteers for the upcoming HOSA conference. If you'd like to help, please contact your Health Science teacher.
 - 3.) Field Day will be held on March 8th. That's the Friday before Spring Break. Volunteers and drink donations are requested. The kids look forward to this fun day all year. We'll have popcorn for the kids. The PTO will provide ice cream. There will be food trucks with different cuisine available for purchase as well.
 - 4.) As far as safety, most teachers do lock their classroom doors during their classes.
- Please feel free to email her with questions. She will do her best to reply promptly.

Treasurer: given by David McMillan

- HOSA has collected a little over \$2000.
- The Class of 2020 has raised about \$1200. from magnet and yard sign sales.
- The Class of 2019 received \$2000. in addition to what the PTO had allocated for them.
- The senior class hosts 2 dances per school year, the homecoming dance in the fall and the winter ball in January. In the past the school has given the seniors money to help cover some of the initial expenses for throwing such events. However, due to budget cuts Ms. Perry can no longer do this. Thankfully, many parents graciously donated everything from snacks to a photo booth in order to help make these school dances a huge success this year. Whatever money is raised through ticket sales goes directly to the senior class for 12th grade activities. Ms. Perry commented that senior dues are \$250., but not all students wish to participate in all events. Therefore, arrangements can be made for them to pay only for what they wish to participate in if needed.

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.
- February E-news went out. If there is something special your child is involved in and you'd like to share please email communications@debakeypto.org
- A DeBakey PTO Facebook page was just set up. Please follow us and spread the word.

Uniforms: given by Mary Bujnowski

- Uniforms will be sold during lunch on Feb. 22nd. This is posted on the monitors for students to see. There are a few heavy jackets left.
- PE shirts were eventually sold by the PE teachers, because students were not purchasing during lunch.
- We are working on giving middle school students accepted into DeBakey a spirit shirt.

Membership: given by Mary Bujnowski (Marisa Fiorita could not attend)

- There are currently 216 students/families represented in the PTO.

Fundraising: given by Vincent Sanders

- A school donor wall was initiated by Mary Bujnowski. Approximate costs are between \$13,000.- 14,000. Ms. Perry is interested in this installation. The location will have to be debated. A helix design is a possibility. Mr. Sanders is seeking comments, suggestions and feedback. Please email fundraising@debakeypt.org

Mr. Sanders will have to put the numbers together to see whether this is a feasible project, since some of our donors maybe leaving the school.

Volunteer Coordination: given by Meredith Bryant & Irma Aguilar

- Health fair booth this weekend on Feb. 16th at Trinity Holman Church from 10-1p.m. Parents & kids are welcome to attend.
- Please let Irma know if you'd like to help at the HOSA conferences. Email volunteers@debakeypt.org
- Please donate drinks for Field Day. Donations can be dropped off at the front office.
- Thank you for all your help throughout the year.

Questions:

- When will cap & gowns be available?

A day or 2 before graduation. The school can loan a cap and gown for pictures, church events, etc. Please let the school know ahead of time if this is needed so arrangements can be made.

- **When is graduation?**
June 1st at TSU basketball arena at 10 a.m. The graduating class must be there at 9. It is open seating.
- **Where can I order invitations for graduation?**
Please contact Balfour
- **Next meeting is 3/19/19 at 8:00 a.m. in the MMR**
- **Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.**
- **Minutes compiled by Daniella Guzman, PTO Secretary**