

DeBakey HSHP PTO – Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Meeting was called to order by PTO President Nellie Naidoo at 5:07 p.m. The meeting took place in the conference room.

President's Report - President Naidoo welcomed parents and other supporters of DeBakey HSHP. DeBakey earned Gold Medal status last year for parent engagement. This year's goal is to earn Platinum Status. President Naidoo introduced herself and the following PTO chairs and officers:

VP Fundraising – Sabrina Campbell
VP Volunteers – Meredith Bryant
VP Communications – Andrea Simon
Treasurer – Cindy Forgey
Secretary – Valerie Barnett
Parliamentarian – Vincent Sanders
Uniform Chair – Paul Ake
Membership Chair – Maylene Leu-Bent
College Night Chair – Nichole Ake
Field Day Chair – Rachel Carleton
SDMC – Sabrina Evans
Parent Liaisons – 9th grade – Nichole Ake
 10th grade – Ivy Long
 11th grade – Alma Aguilar
 12th grade – Mary (and Daniella)

Kudos to Irma Aguilar who will be receiving a special “Principal’s Award” for all of her hard work and dedication during the last school year.

DeBakey will be hosting their first tournament and it will be on February 15th, 2020. The team meets on Tuesdays after school. Students Jayden and Kylan are working with the chess team.

Treasurer's Report – PTO needs to raise \$10,000 in order to fund its programs this year. The current PTO budget is \$62,000. The primary revenue source for PTO is the annual Uniform Sale. Treasurer Forgey reported on several school activities funded by the PTO, including: Sports (Basketball and Volleyball); Yoga class; Textbooks to make up for district shortfall; and DeBakey's annual Scientific Symposium. Ms. Forgey encouraged parents participation and donations. PTO has had parent donors in the past and we continue to rely on this support to fund activities for the students and faculty.

Principal's Update – Principal Agnes Perry welcomed parents and thanked them for their support of the PTO. She highlighted several upcoming events: Parent University (immediately following PTO meeting); Fall Festival; Progress Reports will be distributed Friday,

September 20th, Scientific Symposium date have been moved to February 14, 2020. She introduced Dean of Instruction, Bernice Shargey, who provided further information about Title 1. Dean Shargey explained the importance of completing and returning all school forms during the first weeks of instruction. DeBakey uses its Title 1 money to fund the before and after school tutorial program. Counselors are available for students to assist with adjusting to the rigors schedule. Dean Shargey also emphasized the importance of recording all meeting attendance, which is registered with the district. Dean Shargey also sponsors the National Honor Society Committee and works with the Seniors with the application for the UoH and Baylor program medical plan.

Membership – Chair Maylene Leu-Bent encouraged parents to officially join the PTO by registering – *free of charge* – on one of several laptops that were circulated throughout the meeting room. Donations to the PTO are gladly accepted. Chair Leu-Bent is also chairing this year’s Fall Festival and encouraged anyone interested to join her.

Fundraising – Chair Sabrina Campbell provided updates on this year’s fundraising plans. The stated goal is \$13,000; however, the fundraising committee has several ideas to increase, and likely double the goal! Chair Campbell described the Donor Wall that’s being developed with a local vendor – there will be an initial installation with donor plaques in the shape of a molecule for purchase/dedication on the Wall. A model will be posted on the PTO website.

Communications – Chair Andrea Simon encouraged parents to make sure the school has your correct email. Reminder: email accounts may have changed over the summer (or from year to year), so please include all email addresses to ensure receipt of all PTO information and updates. A poll was taken as to parent preferences for receiving updates: email; text; group chat; etc. The Communications committee is working to ensure everyone has easy access to information and updates.

Uniform Sales – Chair Paul Ake thanked the volunteers (parents and students) who assisted with the Back to school uniform sales. This year’s sale was a great success as we are currently within a few thousand dollars of exceeding last year’s sales. Chair Ake continues to sell items on Wednesday during the lunch periods (and at other times, as he is available). Chair Ake discussed plans to sell additional items (e.g. lanyards, ball caps, mugs, gym shorts, etc.). He also discussed developing a Christmas sale; selling gifts cards for teacher gifts; and solicited ideas for grade-based DeBakey Spirit shirts.

Volunteers – Meredith Bryant solicited new volunteers – you are urged to register with HISD, as registration has to be renewed annually.

Announcements – College Night and Homecoming (Fall Festival) are coming up soon. Donations of water and snacks are needed!

The next PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8 at 6:30 p.m. PTO will have a guest speaker to discuss Cyber Safety. Please be present!

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.