

## DeBakey HSHP PTO – Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020

**Location:** Virtual (via Zoom)

**Attendance:** 65 participants (attendance captured in chat/photographed for records)

President Ghulab Singh called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. President Singh shared agenda for the meeting. Introduced guest speaker – District V Trustee, Sue Deigaard. Deigaard currently serves as President of the Board. She talked about the duties of the School Board: to set the vision and goals for HISD. She explained that the HISD Superintendent is responsible for executing the vision and goals set forth by the Board. The Board meets monthly on the second Thursday. Parents are encouraged to make their voices heard on the first Thursday of the month – this is when the agenda is set for the monthly Board meeting.

Core work of the Board, per statute, is governance.

Principal's Report – Principal Perry urged parents to read the recent State of the Schools Report (posted on school website). President Singh also shared the report on the screen while Mrs. Perry highlighted several items. Congratulations to DeBakey on its 2020 rankings, reported by U.S. News and World Reports: #1 in Houston for academics; #4 in the State of Texas and #11 STEM High School in the U.S.

NICHE 2021 Rankings: #2 Best Public H.S. in Houston Area  
#7 Best H.S. in Texas (out of 1,729)  
#5 College Prep (out of 1,396)  
#5 Magnet H.S. (out of 60)

Parents please complete and return the Socio-Economic Form – sent home along with back to school forms. This particular form is critical for school funding as the District uses this information to determine Title 1 classification status.

DeBakey is 100% staffed for the current school year. A full time music teacher has been hired and, also new this year – a yoga instructor.

Report cards should be available this Friday, October 23. First day of the second grading cycle begins Monday, October 19th.

ACT test is scheduled for October 27, 2020. ~140 seniors have signed up. ~35 juniors have registered for the PSAT; however, if more students do not register, administration may postpone the exam until January. Both tests will be administered on campus.

Reminder for senior parents – please remind students that they must request transcripts, recommendation letters and any other required college application materials from teachers and counsellors ahead of time.

Student Council is planning some virtual Fall Festival activities.

October 21 – Teacher Professional Development Day – No students in the building  
November 3 (election day) – School Holiday (for staff and students). DeBakey is a polling site.

Principal Perry expressed sincere appreciation to PTO for its support of the faculty and its contributions with needed items to assist with virtual instruction. 60 webcams have been ordered – again thanks to PTO generosity!

SAT will be given at DeBakey on October 27th. Students are asked to arrive at 7:45 a.m. Please make sure your student has a healthy breakfast. Remind students to bring their calculator. There will be no lunch break. Students may bring a snack; however, there will only be one (five minute) break during the timed exam. Plan on students remaining present until close to 2 p.m.. Face to face students will likely be asked to stay at home on SAT day.

Please encourage your students to attend mid-day tutorials. If your child is experiencing stress and/or struggling with any class(es) have them contact one of the school counselors.

Family & Community Engagement Program – DeBakey achieved Platinum status this year. This is only DeBakey's second year participating; the hard work of parent and the community allowed DeBakey to achieve top status.

Dean Sharkey reiterated importance of completing Socio-Economic form. Title 1 money is used to fund the tutorial program. Extremely important to complete and return this form a.s.a.p.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Forgey. This year's approved budget is \$64,000.00 (no change from last year). Total donations received as of October 12th are \$13,139.00 from 58 families. Twelve donations for the Benefactor Wall at  $\geq$  \$500. \$1,059 has been spent on eight (8) webcams.

VP – Communications. Andrea Simon. If you have not already done so, please consider joining and/or donating to the PTO, please go on the DeBakey website and simply click on "Join the PTO." Please also be advised that emails to PTO members must have PTO board and/or administration approval prior to being sent.

VP – Fundraising. Trinh Nguyen & Ziba Mehra. Trinh Nyugen shared information regarding this year's first fundraising event which is dedicated to the Benefactor Wall. Please consider contributing smaller amounts on a monthly basis, as all donations are appreciated. Letters will be mailed to alumni next week. Parents urged to ask your employers about matching programs for school/PTO contributions. Also remember to sign up with Amazon Smile.com. If anyone has a special tie to a company, please let one of the Chairs know; they will share solicitation information with you to encourage support of DeBakey PTO. If you made a donation of \$500 or

more and have not completed the plaque dedication, please contact the school. Silver or Blue plates are available for dedications with up to 25 characters per line (2 line maximum).

Ziba Mehra provided updates on the upcoming Teacher's Appreciation Day. Box lunches will be provided to DeBakey teachers and staff on Thursday, October 22nd.

Uniform Update – Nellie Naidoo announced that, beginning Thursday, October 29, and every Thursday thereafter, uniforms will be available for purchase in the lunchroom during lunch hours.

Grade Level Liaison Updates

9th/10th Grade – Nichole Ake. Encouraged parents to sign up with Amazon Smile.com. Volleyball and Basketball are off to a good start. Cheerleading and Gymnastics. Please complete and submit student health forms. Meet and Greets are being organized.

New Business – Reminder that DeBakey is a polling site on November 3rd. No school! Ms. Goudeau reported several colleges are at DeBakey between 11:15 and 11:40 daily. Interested students can access Naviance via the HUB for more information (including listing of schools that are participating).

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.