

Budget DeBakey HSHP PTO Executive Board – Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Attendance: Nichole Ake, Valerie Barnett, Rachel Carleton, Cindy Forgey, Nellie Naidoo, Trina Nguyen, Vincent Sanders, Andrea Simon, Ghulab Singh

Meeting called to order by President Singh at 6:33 p.m.

General PTO Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Budget – Board agreed in September to re-visit annual PTO budget in January in light of pandemic uncertainties. Updated figures including expenditures to date needed prior to meeting for discussion and full board approval. Ghulab to notify board once budget report with expenditures has been prepared and full board meeting announcement will be sent. PTO expenditures (to date) limited to Teacher Appreciation events during fall semester.

Volleyball Update – Recently received approval for virtual Volleyball on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mr. Salvador will be sending out promotion/invitation this week, open to all DeBakey students – prior experience not required. PTO will be asked to fund/pay trainer who will plan and conduct virtual sessions covering basic skills including ball handling and techniques. Virtual format will allow trainer to give students feedback on their performance. Balls and ball carts also need to be purchased (identified last year but not purchased).

Nichole Ake also reported a few students have inquired about gymnastics. Discussion followed regarding importance of getting information/follow up from the administration concerning rationale for current decision not to allow any sports (besides virtual Volleyball). HISD is the only district that is not participating in gymnastics. However, Lamar, Bellaire, and other HISD schools have some team sports that are played indoors. DeBakey has none. Student activity/extracurricular involvement is an important goal/focus for PTO. Some decisions are left to discretion of the local school principal and depend on Covid protocols; however, it was recommended that PTO inquire and advocate for students who may be negatively impacted by inability to practice and participate in sports. Basketball and Cheerleading must also be part of the conversation.

General discussion followed concerning other activities that have been considered, but no firm plans: Science Fair; Budgeting/Savings Skills; Coding. Many activities are offered on-line, at no cost.

Suggestion made to expand PTO sponsorship of sports activities, as has been done with virtual Volleyball.

Communications – General discussion regarding frequency of email communications. Andie Simon suggested a bi-weekly email with a set deadline for submissions in order to avoid multiple messages that might get overlooked. General agreement that regularly times communications

with tabs for Subject/Group areas would be most useful to parents in receiving relevant information and updates.

Uniforms – Large inventory due to optional uniforms this school year. Uniform sales to date are \$11,000. Recommended no additional purchases be made until current inventory is reduced (which is likely to run into the next school year). No profit margin due to reduced volume of sales. Excel spreadsheet is being prepared that captures sales, inventory, expenditures. This will assist the next Uniform chair.

Fundraising - Donor Wall update: Trina Nguyen reported committee is just six donors shy of goal. Total raised to date is \$32,500. Suggestion made to dedicate a plaque in memory of Mary (please provide last name), who, for several years, worked tirelessly on PTO fundraisers, and passed away last month.

Committee plans to sell aprons for this year's Senior fundraiser. \$2,000 potential yield (200 aprons available for sale at \$15 each). PTO earns \$10 for each apron sold. Senior meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 28. Senior fee (\$100 per student) will be discussed along with plans for apron sale. Cindy Forgey confirmed PTO spent all money budgeted for Class of '20 – no carryover.

Upcoming PSAT Testing Dates:

1/26/21 (Juniors)

1/13/21 (Freshmen)

2/23/21 (Sophomores)

Reminder: General PTO Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

President Singh adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.